

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:30PM via ZOOM  
Video Conference Contact the Waste District for Meeting Code  
In-Person Location – District Office 224 Church Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:37 p.m. by Nicholas Rivers, Board Chair

**Present:** Nicholas Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven), Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark, in person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gene Perkins (Ryegate, in person); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock, in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Anne Quirion (Troy); and Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield); and Miriam Simmonds (Westmore)

**Absent:** Barnet, Cabot, Charleston, Concord, Glover, Granby, Greensboro, Guildhall, Holland, Jay, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Norton, Peacham, Topsham, UTG, and Victory

**Staff present-** Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

**Visitors** –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair, Nick Rivers at approximately 6:37pm.

**Updates to Agenda** – none

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve minutes of February 13, 2024, meeting as written. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

ANR Organics Grant – Friday, March 1, 2024 was the deadline for grantees to submit final payment requests. Only two projects are outstanding. No request for funding was received from Clouds Path Farm. We received a request from Black Dirt Farm. Eric Paris submitted a request for funding for cost overruns, which he had submitted a few months ago. The entire grant was \$250,000, requests for reimbursement were submitted for approx. \$223,000. \$27,143.05 was left unspent, roughly 11% of grant funds. I reached out to those who did submit requests, and Eric Paris and Black Dirt Farm are seeking additional funding around \$5,000 each.

After additional requests, there will still be \$27,000 in grant funds that was not allocated to projects. I will share the final report with the Board, which will explain how this grant has expanded organics processing capacity in the NEK.

Black Dirt Farm – Requests additional \$5,177.11 for additional expenses incurred for tasks in their previously approved scope of work. They have documents for all expenses incurred.

Motion to approve additional funds, in the amount of \$5,177.11, for Black Dirt Farm, pending the approval of ANR. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

Tamarlane Farm – Eric Paris – At the beginning of this process, the manufacturer was quoted shipment of the equipment from Ohio. When the equipment was shipped, it was sent from Washington state, which greatly increased the cost of shipping. He is requesting an additional \$5,321.84 to cover costs incurred from shipping. Motion to approve \$5,321,84 of ANR Organics grant to Eric Paris of Tamarlane Farm pending ANR approval. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

Updates –

Financial – District is currently running a small deficit. We will highlight this on our monthly budget comparisons. We are seeing positive movement in commodity prices. Cardboard is \$115 per ton; newspaper is up to \$150/ton. We are moving loads of both materials. Capital improvement fund update - funds from the Foam Densifier grant (\$36,000) were moved back into the Capital Improvement Fund (\$20,000) and checking account (\$16,000). Health insurance – District's portion is \$3,000 per month. We budgeted more than this assuming more employees would use employer-provided insurance. We will address this again during the next budgeting season and make adjustments to per capita assessment, which we may be able to lower if situation allows.

Question regarding foam densifier funds – Were all the funds originally taken from the capital improvement fund? Should the reimbursed funds be moved back into the checking account or capital improvement fund? Should the densifier payment be shown in the expenses?

At this point, we do not have the funds to put into the capital improvement fund, so we would borrow from the capital improvement fund to pay for operating expenses. When the District receives more money in the middle of the year, we could move funds back into the capital improvement fund. The expenses for the densifier were in 2023, so it would not be highlighted in the 2024 budget. However, will need to double check 2023 budget to ensure it is highlighted as an expense.

Paul will research this and provide more details for Board to determine how to move forward.

Question regarding \$20,000 which was reallocated in the budget last April –was it all paid back? This will be looked into as well.

Question regarding where can people find salaries of employees? If residents wish to know, they can call Paul at the District.

Grants – Received second part of SWIP Grant, \$37,000 payment. SWIP Grant Application was submitted in for fiscal year 2024. No large grants on the horizon at this point, but we will be looking for more opportunities.

Programs- Corey Raynor will be offering individual “How to Recycle” training courses for residents. We’ve discussed doing How-To videos and making printed materials which could be used in any District community.

The State of Vermont, Materials Management Plan will be completed in the coming year or so, and after we will be rewriting our Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) accordingly.

We still have not sent a shipment of foam but plan to see this shipment very soon.

The 2017 international box truck was towed to Hinesburg today, and the ‘new-to-us’ box is due to arrive in Hinesburg this week for installation. We hope to get the truck back in 5-7 days.

Next month’s meeting is the annual meeting, and will be in person at the Lyndon Training Center across the street.

Question– when will the district accept soft plastics again?

The district hopes to collect it during annual collection event where the material is delivered by farmers directly to the district, rather than having collection sites and pick up services at recycling centers. There is a market for this material when it is not heavily contaminated because it is a homogeneous material. We probably will not consider collecting other consumer soft plastics due to contamination.

Other Business – none

Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved @ 7:21pm

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette