

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

May 11, 2021

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order @ 6:28 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield & Brunswick); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Pat Austin (Charleston); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Joe Noble (Holland, Morgan); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark); John Narowski (Newbury); Gina Vigneault (Norton, UTGs at approximately 6:50pm); Jack Smith (Sheffield, Wheelock); Emily Cayer (Stannard left at 7:00pm), Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford), and Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Brighton, Cabot, Concord, Corinth, East Haven, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Maidstone, Marshfield, Newport Town, Peacham, Ryegate, Topsham, Victory, Westfield.

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Updates to the Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of April 13, 2021, 2nd. Minutes approved.

ANR Infrastructure Grant (Truck) – Paul explained to the Board the grant language is standard and is very similar to what is contained in the annual SWIP grant we receive from VT ANR. Paul is still working on the bid specification to purchase a new truck. The grant amount is a not-to-exceed figure of \$60,000. The District has 2 years to spend the funds. A motion to accept the grant award from the State of Vermont in the amount of up to \$60,000 was made and 2nd. Motion approved.

NEKWMD Organics Infrastructure Grant – This grant also has a 2-year period in which to spend the funds. Some projects will be easier to review/approve than others. We will need to work on the specific terms of the individual agreements. Motion was made to accept the grant award from the State of Vermont in the amount of \$250,000, 2nd. Motion approved.

Plastic Film Update – Paul informed the Board that we may be able to move our plastic film through a vendor identified by the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA). The potential outlet is in Pennsylvania. Paul is hoping to hear back from NRRA within the next week or so. The District is hoping to be able to move 2-3 loads of the estimated 4 loads of material. This would allow us to continue collecting plastic film; however, we would still not accept ag-film until we know we can find an acceptable outlet for it. Paul explained markets for film are directly related to the price of oil and since oil prices have been on the rise, there may be more markets opening for this material. We have not noticed a significant decline in the volume of plastic film since the plastic bag ban was implemented a year ago. Paul explained that although we don't see as many plastic grocery/retail bags, there are a number of other plastic films we continue to accept like pellet bags, bread bags, etc. A decision on whether or not to continue accepting plastic film will be delayed until the June 2021 meeting.

Updates:

Financial – April’s deficit is due primarily to a 3rd payroll in April (2 months each year have 3 pay periods). The District recently submitted a grant reimbursement request for the SWIP grant for \$33,000. We should see this income in May and that should improve our financial position.

CSWD Glass Settlement/SEP – Paul explained to the Board he had reached out to VT ANR regarding the proposed SEP. CSWD has gained approval for 2 projects: (1) approximately \$60,000 for Green-Up activities, and (2) approximately \$65,000 to purchase and place refrigeration units in 3 Vermont counties – one of which is destined for the Northeast Kingdom. The exact location is yet to be determined. Salvation Farms of Morrisville, VT will be working on finding the best location for the unit. The District has been working closely with Salvation Farms on this project. Paul will be seeking more detailed information on the specifics of the approved SEP projects for the next Board meeting.

Ordinance – The issue of amending our Ordinance came up at the April Board meeting. The State of Vermont currently oversees facility compliance while our Ordinance focuses on hauler compliance. Paul explained that our Ordinance could be amended to require District facilities to report tonnages they receive from District Towns. The Board has actually removed facility compliance language from previous version of the Ordinance. Paul will look into reviving that language for the Board’s future consideration.

Monthly Meeting Time Change Request – There has been a request by a Board member to change the start time of the monthly meetings from the current start time of 6:00pm to 6:30pm. There was also some discussion about sending an email reminder to Board members prior to the meeting. Paul agreed to send out a reminder the day before the meeting. Those without emails will receive a phone call. Motion to change the meeting start time to 6:30pm was made, 2nd. Motion approved.

Other Business

Bottle Bill – Paul believes the proposed bottle bill amendment was stalled in the State Senate. Paul will confirm at the next meeting.

Organics Infrastructure Grant – There was some discussion regarding the grant process and a request for more detailed information. Full versions of all proposals will be provided to the Board prior to the next meeting. Paul explained the Board’s role would be to carefully review the contractual language for all projects. All projects will be required to accept materials from within our region – including non-District Towns - as long as the material meets the facilities requirements for limiting contaminants. Paul will review the minutes where the committee was formed to determine the exact charge of the committee. Bidders will need to follow our purchasing policy and any other stipulations we may want to impose. There were questions raised regarding funding amounts and the amount of increased throughput and the relationship between the two. Paul will try to provide detailed information regarding the entire process in advance of the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:51pm
Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

Note: There is an audio/video recording of the May 11, 2021 meeting. It is available upon request.