

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

May 10, 2022

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and

The District Office at 224 Church Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:38 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Timothy Dailey, Sr. (Groton); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg in person); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausung (Newark in person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Sue & Calvin Atland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); and Jacques Couture (Westfield)

Absent: Barnet, Brownington, Charleston, Corinth, Cabot, Concord, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Jay, Kirby, Lunenburg, Maidstone, Marshfield, Morgan, Peacham, Ryegate, Stannard, Victory, and Westmore

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors – Amy Ash -Nixon, Caledonian-Record; Eliza Perrault, Cloud’s Path Farm

Updates to the Agenda – None.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of April 12, 2022, 2nd, approved.

Compost Contamination Discussion – Eliza Perrault of Cloud’s Path Farm gave an overview of their contamination policy and answered questions from the Board. Cloud’s Path stated they have seen a significant reduction in contaminants from our collection sites. She said the biggest issue they still see involves residents’ use of Ziplock bags for their food scraps and PLU stickers. Question: what are micro plastics? Answer: No clear definition, but are those pieces of plastic that cannot be seen with the naked eye. Question: Any movement towards compostable PLU stickers? Answer: Yes, some manufacturers considering stamps (sprayed on). Some manufacturers are converting to paper – bananas. Question: Suggestions for going through to look for contaminants? Answer: Education – Attendants are not required to go through containers. New signs are on the way. Eliza is available to go out during the week to facilities. Question: Are any towns paying higher rate? Answer: No, next warning would not go out until end of June 2022. Question: Will a continued decrease avoid penalties? Answer: Not necessarily. Question: Hold to target summer residents? Answer: Outreach during summer.

Expanded Polystyrene Collection Plan – The trial period for collection would be such that it allows for collection and processing through the 2022-23 holiday season. Staff are looking for potential grant sources in order to purchase the equipment at the end of the trial period. Motion made and 2nd to move forward with 6-month free trial for polystyrene collection and processing. Motion Approved

SWIP Amendment – District staff recently discovered that the Village of North Troy has a waste water treatment facility (WWTF), which needs to be included in our Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP). In digging a little deeper, staff realized the new facilities in Danville and Greensboro also need to be included in our SWIP. The SWIP amendment process calls for us to warn a public hearing to recent comments, which will be combined with the next Supervisors meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022. No action required at this evening’s meeting.

Charter Amendment Process – Paul explained the 3 options for budget District budget approval (1) status quo – voters vote by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day; (2) allow the Board of Supervisors to approve the budget following a public hearing. This is the method used by most Districts in the State except Chittenden, and (3) use the Chittenden Solid Waste District charter language, which sends the proposed budget to the member towns and allow them (the Selectboard) to cast one vote for or against the budget. This was the method outlined in a recent email from the Secretary of State’s office. This method is only used in Chittenden County. Motion made and 2nd to have the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors approve the budget (option 2). Motion approved.

Updates –

Financial – Staff discovered an error in the March budget comparison. The error was in our favor. The Board was provided with the updated version of the March budget comparison and the April budget comparison. The District is currently operating at a deficit of \$11,796.16. Question: How is the increased cost in diesel fuel impacting the budget? Answer: Right now, the increase in diesel costs is being offset by high commodity prices. We have spent a little over 50% of our budgeted figure even though we are only 33% through the year. The line of credit has been paid and is available, if necessary.

Organics Grant – Contracts are in place with Black Dirt Farm (Stannard) and Tamarlane Farm (Lyndon). Cloud’s Path and Mar-Jo Acres are in receipt of contracts and are reviewing them.

Other Business – Should we make an additional, early truck payment? It would save about \$230 in interest. No action taken.

How do towns handle Green-Up Day bags – specifically the large amount of green bags that residents claim are from green-up? It was mentioned that towns may bring green-up day wastes directly to the Coventry landfill for disposal at no cost. Paul was not aware of that as were many others and suggested that towns confirm that with Casella prior to next year.

Why do people need to make an appointment for hazardous waste? To ensure we have someone available who can handle the incoming materials and put them in the proper place. It allows us the ability to manage the flow into the facility. People don’t have to wait.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the May 10, 2022 meeting. It is available upon request.