

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 6:30PM – via ZOOM and
Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:35 p.m. by Nicholas Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nicholas Rivers (Albany & Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Betty Ritter (Cabot); Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil (Danville); Fran Bachelder and Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Therea Perron (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Darrell Martin (Holland); David Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Amber Lowell (Peacham); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Adam Bruggeman (Sutton); Anne Quirion (Troy); Barb Nolan (UTG); Jacques Couture (Westfield); Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Brownington, Charleston, Concord, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Norton, Ryegate, Stannard, Topsham, Waterford, Victory.

Staff present- Christian Thompson, Executive Director, Michael R. Dalton (baler/warehouse)

Visitors –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk.

Updates to Agenda – Update on Casella (St. J) and waste district surcharge.

Approval of Minutes – Vote to approve minutes from December 9, 2025, as submitted. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Tire Price Discussion – Chris did some research of tire disposal costs at other Solid Waste Management Districts and nearby municipalities. NEKWMD has the lowest cost for tire disposal amongst any solid waste district or municipality. In 2025, \$15,000 was budgeted for tire income and disposal expenses. The actual income was around \$12,500, and expenses were just over \$18,200, which means the district is operating at a loss of approximately \$5,700. The district has fallen behind over the years on pricing and is not covering all costs; the current price structure was implemented in January 2022. Current cost is \$3 for tires 18 inches and smaller, \$9 for tires 19-25 inches, and \$20 for tires over 25 inches. Most tires brought in are smaller than 20 inches. Tires which are brought in bulk are priced at \$180/ton. Tires are hauled and processed by BDS Tire Recycling from Maine for \$180/ton.

Chris suggests an adjustment is needed. One suggestion is for \$5 per tire, and \$200 per ton. The cost should also cover the cost of staff time and equipment costs to manage tires. Other communities which charge more do not see more roadside littered tires.

Chris will propose a new pricing structure at the February Board of Supervisors meeting that would more closely align the District's tire revenue with its actual costs.

Minutes Clerk Discussion – As this is Shannon’s last meeting, the District is looking to hire a new Minutes Clerk. The position pays \$50 per meeting.

Updates -

Financial – December ended with expenses exceeding revenues by \$19,000. Fiscal Year 2025 ended with a deficit of 17,728.96. For the entire year, revenues were higher than budgeted, but expenses were also higher. In December, many significant expenses were paid.

Foam – With the foam collection restarting, there has been a lot of contamination in the foam. Attendants should be vigilant in ensuring residents are only bringing in expanded polystyrene foam (no flexible foam). Michelle has sent out a flyer which can be posted at the Town facilities near the foam collection bags to remind residents and attendants what can and cannot be accepted. Tape, labels, wet, or dirty foam should not be collected. Irasburg/Albany will begin to add foam in late January. Towns should contact the District if they would like to begin collecting foam from residents.

Agricultural Film – The CT River Watershed Association wanted to begin bailing agricultural film, but there have been no updates within a few weeks. Chris will check in to see if their plans have changed.

Compost – Black Dirt farm has scaled back their business and ended compost collection to most St. Johnsbury and Lyndonville customers in early January. The District received some calls from larger customers, and the District had discussions with DEC, Nick Rivers, Keep It Green Compost, Clouds Path Farm, and Tamarlane Farm to ensure the continuation of compost collection services to affected customers. Both Clouds Path Farm and Keep It Green will be stepping up efforts to take on new customers. Thanks to Nick Rivers for his efforts in helping to find a solution.

District will be ordering totes for Keep It Green (100), NEKWMD (50), and Clouds Path Farm (20). Totes are about \$62 each, including shipping. Combining orders from three entities lowered the per unit cost for the totes and shipping.

Meeting with DEC Staff – Chris and Michelle met with DEC staff (Josh Kelley and Alyssa Eiklor) to review SWIP requirements and get an update on DEC support offered to Waste Districts.

Facility – A window on the baler broke and had to be replaced. One of the forklifts needed a sensor adjusted to account for extreme cold. One of the Ryder box trucks had preventative maintenance completed in White River Junction. The skid steer front window broke while loading scrap metal.

Other Business – Two haulers came to the office and informed the District that the Casella-St. Johnsbury transfer station began collecting the NEKWMD surcharge from customers at the beginning of 2026. Casella did not provide any advance notice of this change to the District or the numerous haulers that use the facility. In the past, haulers had reported tonnage and paid

District surcharge fees monthly directly to NEKWMD monthly. Nick Rivers reached out to Casella and learned that Central Vermont Solid Waste District is pushing for Casella to collect all surcharge revenue for what they collect and disperse to Districts. Casella has been informed about the required tonnage and surcharge reporting to the District. Casella is asking all customers where they are from and charging District surcharge fee from all District residents. Casella has agreed to stop charging the larger haulers the District fee and will refund the District fees already collected in January to the haulers that were affected.

Outreach coordinator – Two people reached out to the District to inquire about the Outreach position. Chris will be following up with them before advertising the position.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette