

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:30PM – via ZOOM and
Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:43 p.m. by Nicholas Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nicholas Rivers (Albany & Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Walter McNeil (Danville); Irene Degesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Theresa Perron (Glover); Michael Nahmias (Groton); David Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton); Amber Lowell (Peacham); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Adam Bruggeman (Sutton); Jake Thompson (Topsham); Anne Quiron (Troy); Barb Nolan (UTG); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield); Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Cabot, Charleston, Concord, Corinth, Granby, Greensboro, Groton, Guildhall, Holland, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Peacham, Stannard, Waterford, Victory.

Staff present- Christian Thompson, Executive Director; Marcus Berry, Outreach Coordinator

Visitors – Damian Conley (Glover - new Attendant)

Updates to Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes – Vote to approve minutes from February 10, 2026, as submitted. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Minutes Clerk – Chris updated the Board on the lack of interest in the Minutes Clerk position, and so he will continue in the role until a replacement is found.

Outreach Coordinator Position Update - Marcus Berry was hired in February as the new Outreach Coordinator and will be working part-time (12-15 hours/week). Marcus previously held the position (left in 2017) and is largely familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the role and has extensive knowledge of the town facilities. His initial focus will be completing the remainder of the 2025 SWIP-required outreach to businesses and schools. He will then shift to 2026 SWIP-related outreach activities. Marcus is ready to assist towns and staff with recycling issues as they arise and can be contacted at outreach@nekwmd.org .

Chris suggested that towns notify Marcus of any new businesses so that he can reach out to see if they need assistance meeting state recycling requirements. Miriam Simonds from Westmore requested a visit from Marcus and Chris to update and educate new attendants, discuss planned facility renovations, and improve coordination between attendants and the road crew. Chris emphasized that District Staff are always willing to travel and provide on-site training and technical support for towns.

Annual Report – The 2025 Annual Report was distributed by the District to Supervisors and Town Clerks prior to Town Meeting.

Book Recycling Update - Chris reported a significant development in book recycling, explaining that the District is now working with a company in Rhode Island (Bay State Books) which offers free pickup of hardcover and softcover books. In the past, the District had to pay for book shredding/recycling, as well as the staff time and truck expenses to transport the books. This change will save time and money, and some books will be re-used by being sold and donated to schools and prisons, and the remainder being recycled. Going forward, all bound books (hardcover and softcover) should be placed in the same gaylord/barrel at town facilities. Attendants should watch closely during this transition period to ensure that no town reports, catalogs, or magazines are mixed with the books. Too much contamination (non-book materials) in the book shipments may jeopardize our agreement with the new book vendor.

Financial and Operations Update -

Chris discussed the current financial status, noting that expenses exceeded revenues by over \$13,000 in February due to seasonal trends. He mentioned that recycling volumes were lower compared to previous months, impacting the bottom line.

170 new compost totes were delivered (100 for Keep It Green Compost, 50 for NEKWMD, and 20 for Clouds Path Farm); some parts were missing but the supplier quickly sent replacements.

Chris updated the Board about legislation in the VT House Environment Committee aimed at establishing an Extended Producer Responsibility program for tire disposal; the bill will not move this session, but a DEC rule will likely be implemented which will require all end-of-life tires to be transported by a State-registered hauler. It is hoped that this requirement will reduce the amount of large tire dumps on private property.

Additionally, a bill (H915) was passed out of the House Environment Committee which aims to increase bottle redemption infrastructure, by expanding the number of redemption centers. This infrastructure work would be funded by unclaimed bottle redemption funds, with a goal to increase the current 72% bottle redemption rate.

At the April 2026 meeting, there will be the annual election of the Executive Board. Offices open for election will be Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk, Treasurer, and three Members-at-Large. The newspaper of record will also be determined.

Chris highlighted the recent spike in fuel prices, noting its potential impact on District finances should the situation last for a while.

Chris reviewed the District's recommendations to pack gaylord boxes with as much material as possible, and methods to increase capacity by breaking down cardboard boxes as flat as possible and compressing the material if possible.

Chris mentioned plans to visit towns currently without a Supervisor to educate new Selectboards about the services that the District offers and to encourage towns to find and appoint Supervisors.

Chris advised that basic safety equipment (PPE) should be at each town facility, at a minimum a first aid kit, safety glasses, gloves, fire extinguisher, and eye-wash station. Each Town is responsible for outfitting their facility with the appropriate PPE. VLCT is a good resource for towns that would like a free safety review of their facilities and basic recommendations for employee/public safety.

Motion made to adjourn, 2nd, passed at 7:46 pm.

Minutes submitted by Chris Thompson, NEKWMD.