

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 6:30PM via ZOOM
Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main St., Lyndonville**

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

Present: Nicholas Rivers (Albany); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Betty Ritter (Cabot); Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Fran Bachelder (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Mike Nahmias (Groton); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Bobbi Brimblecombe (Marshfield); Jan Clausing (Newark); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton); Amber Lowell (Peacham); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Adam Bruggeman (Sutton); Jake Thompson (Topsham); Barb Nolan (UTG); Jacques Couture (Westfield); Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Brighton, Charleston, Concord, Danville, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Jay, Kirby, Lunenburg, Morgan, Newbury, Troy, Victory, Waterford.

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director. Christian Thompson, incoming Executive Director, Michelle Trottier, NEKWMD Admin Asst.

Visitors –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk. Paul Hayes, Caledonian-Record.

Updates to Agenda – Surcharge. Pre-approval SWIP public comment meeting dates.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2025, meeting as written. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Introducing New Executive Director – Christian Thompson, the new Executive Director, introduced himself and shared a little about his professional experience managing the Newark Fish Hatchery and on the Lyndon Selectboard. Chris is looking forward to building upon what Paul has built at the NEKWMD. Chris hopes people will find him approachable and open to new ideas. His first official day will be September 3.

ED Gathering – Michelle has communicated with Board of Supervisors about Paul's retirement celebration.

A question was raised to whether District money can be spent on such a celebration, including meals for Supervisors and employees? Yes, this is allowed at the discretion of the board.

Motion to approve the funds of up to \$1780 (including \$780 surplus from executive director search budget) towards Paul's retirement celebration and gift. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Board members may also pay for themselves; please email Michelle to let her know you plan to attend and if you'd like to contribute.

Signing Authority for Passumpsic Bank- Approval of Chris Thompson as signing authority for Passumpsic Bank upon his starting the position.

Motion to add Christian Thompson to be put on as a signing authority for all Passumpsic bank accounts, relinquishing Paul's authority, starting September 3, 2025. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Administrative Rules – Administrative Rules have been updated to reflect legislation which has passed in the last decade. Some definitions have been updated, including the definition of full-time employee. Executive committee reviewed the Administrative Rules before legal counsel review. Administrative Rules should be reviewed and revised every few years.

Motion to accept the most recent Administrative Rules as written. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Updates –

Financial Update –

Paul will apply for SWIP Grant when Chris starts as the Executive Director.

Truck lease is currently budgeted as \$0. There have been billing difficulties with Ryder due to being billed for charges that NEKWMD did not incur (toll fees from West Virginia, flat tire charge.) This is being cleared up and payments will resume once charges are removed.

Program Updates –

Foam densifier experienced a brown-out. The company who sold the densifier put NEKWMD in touch with manufacturer who suggested trucking the densifier down to NJ where it can be troubleshot and fixed. Paul reached out to insurance company (VLCT) who suggested contacting local electrician. Sutton River, who installed electricity for machine, visited today and said there is a circuit being tripped within the foam densifier. There is no timeline for when the densifier could be fixed. Towns should not accept foam currently until densifier is fixed. When the densifier is fixed, they will need to work on backlog of foam before collecting more from facilities.

A question was raised whether this would be an opportunity to get a densifier with greater capacity. The size of the machine is not the current barrier to foam processing capacity; it is more so staff time and labor as the machine takes two people to run.

Does the company have a loaner machine which could be borrowed while this one is being fixed? This could be explored but is doubtful given the transportation costs associated with this.

Could the District drive the densifier to NJ? Paul suggests this be completed by a common carrier to ensure it gets down and back without issue. Paul is more comfortable letting the insurance company figure out the details.

Other Business –

Surcharge-A proposal was raised to the Board to consider lowering the surcharge, from \$29.50-\$28.00 per ton of waste generated within the NEKWMD.

The NEKWMD surcharge is roughly in the middle of the range of solid waste management entity surcharges. Paul suggests if an adjustment is made to the surcharge, it should be during next year's budget process, which starts in September. Recycling markets are starting to soften so there may be less revenue.

Tariffs – Has there been any impact on commodity shipments due to tariffs? Paul does not believe so, however says the strength of the US dollar may be impacting revenues from shipments to Canada.

SWIP Pre-Approval Public Comment Meetings – September 9th and October 14th during the regular Board of Supervisors meeting.

Hauler Recycling Exemption – Due to Act 148, haulers are required to offer collection of mandated recyclables since 2014. NEKWMD approved an exemption for haulers to provide recycling services for 2015 SWIP and 2020 SWIP, which was subsequently approved by ANR. If the District wants to extend the exemption, need to let ANR know by September 15, 2025. It will be on the agenda for next month's meeting to discuss whether haulers should provide the parallel collection services they were required to offer as of July 1, 2014. The same language of the exemption used for past SWIPs could be used again.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette