

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:30PM – via ZOOM and at
Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:44 p.m. by Walter McNeil, Board Vice Chair

Present: Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Theresa Perron (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Michael Nahmias (Groton); Darrell Martin (Holland); Gaston Bathalon (Jay); Janice Halpin (Newark); John Narowski (Newbury); Gina Vigneault (Norton); Amber Lowell (Peacham); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Adam Bruggeman (Sutton); Jake Thompson (Topsham); Anne Qiron (Troy); Barb Nolan (UTG); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield); Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Albany, Barnet, Cabot, Charleston, Concord, Granby, Guildhall, Irasburg, Kirby, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Marshfield, Morgan, Newport Town, Stannard, Victory.

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

Visitors – Charlie Mabey (Newbury - Attendant)

Updates to Agenda – none

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

BOS Reappointment Process

Chris noted that some Supervisors may not have been officially reappointed by their town Selectboard and requested that they follow up and ask their town to submit documentation to the District office.

Executive Committee Officer Elections

Walter announced the current slate of Officers and noted a vacancy left by Jan Clausing's (Newark) resignation from the Board. No new candidates stepped forward to run for any of the Executive Board positions, including the open at-large position. The group agreed to pass a motion to re-elect the current board, with plans to fill the open at-large board position at a future meeting. The motion was made, 2nd, and passed by the group.

Cardboard Recycling Operations Overview

Chris made a PowerPoint presentation about the processing and economics of cardboard recycling in the District. Highlights: the District processed over 800,000 pounds of cardboard in 2025 representing 15% of the total weight of recyclables; cardboard is baled and shipped by truck (primarily) to Quebec, where it is made into new containers, paper, and toilet tissue; low market prices compared to the price spike during Covid; lowest cardboard box demand/production in 10 years; shipping trends moving towards less cardboard and more

lightweight alternatives; poor outlook for cardboard prices in the short term, which impacts District revenues.

Financial and Operations Update

Financially, March was difficult due to low material volumes and high expenses, with revenues through the 1st quarter at 15% of budget and expenses at 22% of budget. Chris noted anticipated improvements in the summer months, including increased recyclable materials, but highlighted rising diesel fuel prices (>\$5/gallon, >\$500/week), an increase in the cost of goods, and lower than expected trash surcharge income. These developments are not accounted for in the current budget, which is a rising concern as the fiscal year moves on.

Chris responded to Board member questions about operations and recyclable commodity markets: glass disposal is costly due to trucking and lack of local markets and the need to pay for disposal. He explained that several grant programs help offset a portion of the costs for hazardous waste collection and other services, though these programs do not fully cover expenses. Chris mentioned that the District is unique in Vermont for using source separation methods; single stream is the norm in nearly all other Districts statewide. Future legislative changes to the bottle bill could potentially affect recycling economics (valuable aluminum cans diverted, reduction in wine bottles if they get included in the bottle bill). He also provided an update on employee hazardous waste training, with three staff members anticipated to complete certification in preparation for upcoming remote collection events planned for May – September.

Chris updated the Board on hazardous material collection programs, including batteries and paint. Chris explained that the Battery Network program allows safe collection and recycling of various battery types, with manufacturers covering shipping costs (but not District labor costs). The discussion also addressed rising diesel fuel costs exceeding budget expectations, reaching over \$5 per gallon and resulting in weekly expenses of over \$500. Regarding book collections, Chris noted improved sorting compliance from residents and a potential increase in book donations after the school year ends. The proper storage method of damaged (swelling, cracked, leaking, warm) batteries was discussed (pack in a metal bucket with sand, alert the District office for pickup).

Motion made to adjourn, 2nd, passed at 7:52 pm.

Minutes submitted by Chris Thompson, NEKWMD.