

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 6:30PM – via ZOOM and at
Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Walter McNeil, Board Vice Chair

Present: Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil (Danville); Fran Batchelder (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Michael Nahmias (Groton); David Sanders (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); Barb Nolan (UTG); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield).

Absent: Albany, Barnet, Cabot, Charleston, Concord, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Kirby, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Marshfield, Morgan, Stannard, Troy, Westmore, Victory.

Staff present- Christian Thompson, Executive Director

Visitors – Kathy Bales, Paul Hayes (Caledonian-Record), Gabby Gervais (Barton Chronicle)

Updates to Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve minutes from May 12, 2026, as submitted. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Fee and Operational Change Proposals

Chris provided background for the discussion by reporting that surcharge income, which makes up two-thirds of district revenues, had decreased significantly in late 2025 and into 2026. The Board approved fee increases at the May meeting: fee for freon appliance disposal, and increased stop fees for town recycling facilities and schools. Chris and the Executive Board met on 5/26 to refine additional proposals to increase revenue and reduce expenses; those proposals were introduced to the entire Board at the meeting.

Surcharge Fee Increase Proposal

The board discussed a proposed \$2 increase to the surcharge fee from \$29.50 to \$31.50 per ton, with an implementation date of July 1. Chris explained that the last increase was in January 2025 and was \$2.75/ton. This increase is projected to generate \$3,000 in additional monthly revenue without being overly burdensome to haulers or residents. The current surcharge fee of \$29.50 is in the middle range compared to surrounding districts, with Lamoille at \$23 and Chittenden at \$40 per ton. There was discussion about the possibility of haulers trying to avoid higher fees by transporting trash to neighboring districts, and the Board's recognition of the need to stabilize the

District's finances. Motion was made to raise the trash surcharge \$2/ton beginning on July 1, 2026; motion seconded, motion passed.

Household Hazardous Waste Fee Proposal

Chris proposed implementing fees for Household Hazardous Waste disposal starting June 15th, with \$10 per recycling bin for general items and \$1 per gallon for flammable liquids. He detailed the high cost of running the hazardous waste program, including high disposal fees, staff time, and materials costs. The fees would apply to remote events and appointments at the Lyndonville facility, and are structured to keep pricing simple and consistent for the ease of District employees and customers alike. Motion was made to approve the HHW fee proposal, motion seconded, motion passed.

Regional Hazardous Waste Event Redesign

Chris proposed switching to a regionalized approach for remote Household Hazardous Waste collection events starting in 2027, reducing the number of events overall. The current system, where 8 events are held (often in small remote towns with low attendance), incurs significant costs due to employee overtime and vehicle expenses, and is not cost effective. Chris suggested holding fewer events in more central locations, with Lyndonville maintaining regular Tuesday and Thursday collections from May to October. The annual Derby event has the highest participation and will be continued, and then another event in the southern part of the District. 2-4 remote events will be held in 2027. Motion was made to regionalize HHW remote events motion seconded, motion passed.

Hazardous Waste Volume Reduction

Chris also proposed lowering the Household Hazardous Waste disposal limit from 25 gallons to 15 gallons of flammable liquids per person per season, due to limited storage capacity and high disposal costs for these materials. The Board agree to the proposed disposal limit with implementation scheduled for June 15, 2026.

Bulky Waste Fee Approval

Chris proposed that beginning in 2027, Towns can decide whether they would like to have District staff at their Bulky Day event. The District can provide an employee and truck 'at cost' to divert landfill-banned items from the bulky containers. This would ensure that towns comply with State solid waste rules and would reduce the cost of disposal by lightening the containers. Attendance at Bulky Day events incurs overtime pay and fuel costs in the District and there are usually 10 events per year. A motion was made to have towns cover the District's cost to attend Bulky Day events, motion seconded, motion passed.

Financial and Operations Update

There was a short discussion about Chris' request for towns to divert 5-cent returnable glass bottles from the glass barrels. This effort will save the District money by reducing the amount of glass that the District is charged with disposing of. The District pays approximately \$1,600/month to ship glass out. Greensboro and Westfield representatives detailed how their 5-cent bottles are redeemed and benefit student activities. Chris mentioned that wine bottles contribute significantly to disposal costs (\$54/ton plus trucking) but unfortunately don't have a deposit on them. The group discussed potentially drafting a letter to local legislators before the next session, with support from all 49 towns, to address the lack of funding for recycling costs.

Chris provided financial and operational updates, reporting a net loss of \$1,900 for May and noting a slight increase in surcharge income (likely due to construction season and summer population increases). He explained that declining prices for recycled materials such as plastic are due to excess domestic supply following China's closure to recycled imports and manufacturers preferring cheaper "virgin resin" over recycled plastic. Chris mentioned a 25% loss in Northeast US plastic manufacturing capacity from facility closures and some states landfilling recyclable materials due to high processing costs, low demand and poor market conditions.

Motion made to adjourn, 2nd, passed at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Chris Thompson, NEKWMD.