

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6:30PM – via ZOOM and at
Lyndon Public Safety Building, 316 Main Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:42 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); 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); Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

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

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

Visitors – Kathy Bales

Updates to Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve minutes from April 14, 2026, as submitted. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Executive Committee Officer Elections

There was an At-Large position available on the Executive Board after the April meeting. Janice Halpin (Newark) announced her interest in serving on the Board. Motion made to appoint Ms. Halpin as an At-Large member of the Executive Board for a 1-year term. Motion 2nd, motion passed.

Approve Newspaper of Record and Meeting Time

The District must select a newspaper of record for required public announcements and set a standard meeting date/time. Motion was made to designate the Caledonian-Record as the newspaper of record, and to hold Board of Supervisor meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. Motion 2nd, motion approved.

Financial Status Discussion and Fee Change Proposals

Chris detailed the current financial status of the District, including a 45% reduction in trash surcharge revenue in the first four months of 2026, amounting to approximately \$100,000 lost revenue. Nearly 2/3 of the District's revenue is generated through the trash surcharge, leaving the District too vulnerable to downturns in this revenue stream. A broader based revenue model that generates income from the various programs/services that the District provides is likely the economic model that will stabilize the District financially in the long-term. The decline in

surcharge revenue, combined with lower material sales, decreased commodity prices, and high fuel prices, has created significant financial challenges for the district. To address these issues, the District has been transferring money from its capital fund to cover expenses, though the \$40,000 line of credit has not been used yet. The district has also reduced spending by putting off purchases and maintenance while employing 3 fewer full-time employees than 2025. Decreased trash volume is not something that the District predicted when formulating the 2026 budget, so corrective action is necessary to stabilize the District's financial outlook for the remainder of the year and beyond.

Chris presented proposals to increase revenue by establishing a new fee for Freon appliance disposal (\$15 for refrigerators/freezers, \$5 for air conditioners), increasing stop fees (\$10 increase for towns, \$5 for schools), and increasing compost tote pickup fees (increase from \$11.50 to \$15 per tote). NEKWMD is the only waste district in Vermont that does not charge for accepting freon containing appliances. A sharp increase in the cost of diesel fuel necessitates an increase in the stop fees to pick up recyclables. Increased labor costs and the need to set aside funds for future compost tote purchases justify the request for compost pickup fee increases. Motion made to approve all three of the fee changes, motion 2nd, motion approved. These fee changes will tentatively have a June 1st implementation date, anticipating some feedback from town Selectboards and residents. Chris will send a letter to all District towns detailing the new fees. Towns can decide whether they will charge the \$15 appliance fee to residents disposing of the item, or whether to accept them for free and the District will bill the town for freon removal related expenses.

Chris discussed other District programs that have high costs yet are provided free of charge to District towns and residents. Two examples are remote Household Hazardous Waste collection events (8 scheduled in 2026), with Chris explaining that a single 4-hour event in Maidstone serving 20 residents cost \$1,165 (labor, fuel, materials disposal) and would likely cost \$7,000-10,000 in larger towns like Derby (scheduled for June 6). The primary cost drivers for these events are overtime pay for District staff and the high cost of hazardous waste disposal. Motion was made to temporarily suspend remote events to control costs, motion 2nd; discussion of concerns about the impact on towns that have already planned for these events and the potential negative publicity for the District, motion failed. Discussion also involved the possibility of consolidating events or charging fees to towns or residents to maintain service availability and recover some of the costs incurred by the District. Chris confirmed with ANR/DEC that because the Lyndonville facility is categorized as a Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility and is open over 40 days to the public annually, there is not a requirement to conduct remote events. Chris will prepare additional fee and program change proposals for the June meeting to address remote Hazardous Waste events.

Bulky Day events are also costly to the District, as overtime wages and fuel costs are incurred to assist towns manage those events. The District is not required to staff these events, and participation should be reconsidered in the future to reduce costs.

At the June meeting, Chris will present updated financial information and additional cost saving and revenue generating proposals to the Board.

Motion made to adjourn, 2nd, passed at 8:49 pm.

Minutes submitted by Chris Thompson, NEKWMD.