

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 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 6:41 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany), Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick Maidstone), Bruce Rumball (Brighton), Bety Ritter (Cabot), Bob Sandberg (Corinth), Walter McNeil (Danville), Fran Bachelder (Derby), Ken Johnston (Greensboro), Darrell Martin (Holland), Dustin Sanville (Irasburg), David Sanders (Jay), Janice Halpin (Newark), John Narowski (Newbury), Steve Barrup (Newport Town), Amber Lowell (Peacham), Gene Perkins (Ryegate), Preston Smith (Sheffield/Wheelock), Jake Thompson (Topsham), Anne Quiron (Troy), Barb Nolan (UTG), Richard Stodola (Waterford), Jacques Couture (Westfield).

Absent: Barnet, Brownington, Charleston, Concord, East Haven, Glover, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Marshfield, Morgan, Norton, Stannard, Sutton, Victory, Westmore.

Staff present- Christian Thompson, Executive Director

Visitors –

Updates to Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve minutes from June 9, 2026, with changes to attendance list (added Darrell Martin and Steve Barrup). Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Review of Discussion Items from 8/15/26 Informational Meeting (no quorum)

Chris emphasized the importance of towns advertising their own bulky waste and household hazardous waste events, as many residents were unaware of upcoming events or associated fees. Chris looked at several District town websites and assessed their recycling content: all websites had some incorrect information, including recycling center hours of operation, acceptable/not-acceptable items, fee structures for HHW and freon-containing appliances, dead links, outdated information, etc. Chris requested that Supervisors review their town website and coordinate corrections with whoever handles that for their town, and to link to nekwmd.org when appropriate. Chris reminded towns that are collection freon-containing appliances that towns are responsible for paying the \$7.50/unit freon removal fee, so they should charge residents at least that amount to cover their costs (NEKWMD-Lyndonville is charging \$15 each for those units).

DEC Draft HHW Collection Plan

Chris discussed concerns about a proposed DEC rule that would allow any resident in the state, including Very Small Quantity Generator businesses, to dispose of household and business hazardous waste for free at Solid Waste District facilities. Districts would be reimbursed 41% of the cost to dispose of covered items. Chris detailed concerns about the non-District residents in our area, nearly 20,000 people, that would now have free access to the NEKWMD-Lyndonville facility and remote HHW collection events, potentially increasing their district's responsibility by

40% with uncertain cost implications. He explained that towns outside the district currently offer minimal service and will likely redirect waste to Lyndonville under the new rule, creating financial and operational impacts. Chris explained that this would be unsustainable as the Lyndonville facility is designed to serve our District population only and is already at capacity and cannot handle additional customers without costly upgrades or reductions in service. Chris plans to submit comments for the record to ANR about the impacts of the proposed changes on the NEKWMD and other Districts in Vermont; the Draft Plan and Chris' comments to ANR will be shared with the BOS. These changes to the HHW law are expected to be implemented on 1/1/27. The Board moved to support Chris' comments and their submission to ANR; motion 2nd, motion passed.

August Financial and Operational Report

Chris reported that August surcharge revenue was healthy and overall revenue exceeded expenses by \$11,535, though this amount would have been higher if not for paying off the skid steer early (to save on interest costs), a 75% advance payment for the 2027 audit, and high diesel prices. The District's overall deficit for the fiscal year is just over \$19,000, and they have started repaying money borrowed from the capital fund. Chris also noted that commodity prices remain stable, with cardboard prices increasing to \$100/ton, and they successfully shipped out a full truckload of plastic to clear warehouse space.

Chris reported on several operational updates including a slight drop in recycling volumes due to seasonal changes, the distribution of new compost bins to schools, and improvements in book collection and shipping. Plans are underway to implement a new free program for disposing of fluorescent bulbs.

Facility Inspection and Waste Procedures

Chris discussed that DEC has been visiting town recycling centers over the last few months to conduct inspections and provided guidance on proper labeling and preparation of waste containers, including e-waste Gaylords and light bulb boxes. He clarified that containers must be properly sealed and labeled with facility information and collection start dates, and that NEKWMD drivers cannot accept unprepared containers due to transportation regulations. Proper labeling procedures for batteries and light bulbs were also discussed, along with the necessity to post the Facility Certification in each recycling center.

The meeting concluded with an announcement about an upcoming Executive Committee meeting on September 30th at 5 PM to review the draft budget and conduct Chris' annual performance evaluation.

Motion made to adjourn, 2nd, passed at 8:09 pm.

Minutes submitted by Chris Thompson, NEKWMD.