

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING**

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

**6:30PM – via ZOOM and Lyndon Public Safety Building,
316 Main Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:46 p.m. by Nicholas Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nicholas Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Marian Cawley and Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Darrell Martin (Holland); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Brian White (Lunenburg); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton); Amber Lowell (Peacham); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Adam Bruggeman (Sutton); Barb Nolan (UTG); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield); Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Brownington, Cabot, Charleston, Concord, Glover, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Jay, Kirby, Morgan, Stannard, Topsham, Troy, Victory.

Staff present- Christian Thompson, Executive Director

Visitors –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk. Paul Tomasi, former Executive Director, Paul Hayes, Caledonian-Record

Updates to Agenda – Gift cards have been purchased (2 x \$100) for Mike and Rick Wheeler and will be delivered soon.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2025, meeting as printed. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

2026 Draft Budget– Executive committee approved the 2026 draft budget. Chris included all major changes from 2025 to 2026 in the notes provided to the board.

Motion to accept budget as prepared and presented. Motion 2nd.

Discussion:

1. Would the NEKWMD consider using a time punch clock?
 - a. Currently hours are tracked on paper timesheets in 2-week increments. These are filled out daily. Michelle and Chris are getting pricing for time clocks and it looks likely that they will be in use by 2026.
2. Right now, the NEKWMD has one broker. In the past, there have been a few that have competed with one another. Suggestion is to have two or three brokers.
 - a. Paul shared that there has always been the ability to work with different brokers, but the district has used only one for numerous years. This seems like putting all eggs in one basket, however broker does shop for competitive prices.

3. For equipment repairs is \$7,500 enough in baler repairs? We spent over \$16,000 last year.
 - a. Last year there were some one-time costs for baler issues, including having hydraulic fluid changed which is only needed every few years, and shimming the ram which is only needed every 8 to 10 years.
4. It was mentioned previously that the program managers' duties would be shifted to other employees. How would this happen?
 - a. The program manager had been working fewer hours over previous months and therefore some tasks have already been allocated to other employees, and some have shown interest in receiving additional training to manage HHW materials.
5. Has the NEKWMD gotten any estimates maintenance to building?
 - a. No, not yet. Chris has started to take notes of all of the issues. The primary repairs are structural brickwork repair and covering broken windows with plexiglass. Waste oil furnace in the warehouse has been serviced and repaired.
6. Question about income coming in from sale of recyclables, compost, electronics, and scrap metal is decreasing. Why?
 - a. Metals and other materials are projected to end year at lower commodity rates, which is carried over into next year's budget. The long-term trend is showing dropping commodity prices and the 2026 budget reflects that trend.
7. Surcharge per ton has not increased yet, it is budgeted to bring in \$26,000 more for 2026.
 - a. Surcharge revenues are stronger than they ever have been, which is unfortunate, but it is a trend that the amount of tonnage increases each year and therefore the total surcharge revenue is expected to increase even without a change in the surcharge rate.
8. Will there be any assessment this year of the condition of the building?
 - a. A thorough evaluation of the building by a structural engineer would need to be built into the 2027 budget at this point. In 1999 or 2000, \$250,000 was put into the building to repair many portions of the building. The biggest concern of the employees and the public is the driveway and parking area of the building and the scrap metal area.

Motion approved.

At final December meeting, after two public comment sessions, there will be a final vote on the approval of the budget.

Policy for Giving Non-Profits Relief for Tire Disposal – After the discussion last month, Chris drafted a policy for the board to consider. This would be used for non-profits who complete clean-ups, for example river clean-ups. In any year, only a certain amount of District revenue can be lost. How many organizations should this revenue loss be split between? Suggestion of 1 or 2, up to 100 tires per year. There are ways to limit the service so that it would not be abused. There was only one organization that requested assistance with tire disposal in the past year, so this could possibly be at the board's discretion for each individual case. There may be a

drawback to this if the board does not meet in time, and it may not provide consistency such as a policy would provide.

There was a concern about the language of the policy that does not specify that tires must be from NEKWMD member-towns, and not only that the organization making the request is from a district town. Should these organizations be taking these tires to the towns for disposal, rather than the NEKWMD? Towns would not be eligible for disposal so this would be in a situation where a local community organization needs disposal assistance.

Motion to approve policy as edited (2 organizations per year, \$1 off per tire, up to 100 tires per year). Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Updates –

Programs – Hauler exemption was submitted to ANR but have not heard back from them yet. Two public SWIP hearings are complete so approval on the hauler exemption is needed to finalize the draft SWIP process.

Foam machine was delivered back to NEKWMD on Friday and arrived in good shape. They could not determine what caused the electrical issue, however Paul suspects it was a brown out that impacted other equipment in the region as well. Round trip shipping of unit and replacement of an electrical component (heater contactor) was covered by insurance. An electrician visited the District to look at the electrical panel to protect against surges or brown outs. For one hour of labor and \$225, electrical work can be completed to protect large equipment from power surges. There is a massive backlog of foam in the warehouse which will take a few weeks to process. Chris will inform towns when they can begin collecting foam again. There will be training for operators of the machine when it is running again.

Financial – District received entire SWIP grant for \$73,093 which is usually received in 2 payments. This year, the entire payment was provided at once. This payment skews outlook of what surplus is through rest of the year. This will also mean that the District will not receive partial payment early in the 2026 calendar year which may skew the financial position then also.

There is currently a shipment of paper ready and other materials will be shipped before the end of the year.

Other Business-

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette