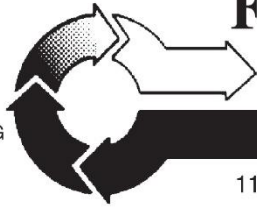


REDUCTION  
RECYCLING  
COMPOSTING  
DISPOSAL



# Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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## DISTRICT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING MINUTES September 18, 2024

**Representatives and Alternates Present:** Andrea Donlon – Buckland; Marti Ferguson – Buckland; Benjamin Eastman – Colrain; Lynn Rubinstein – Conway; MA Swedlund – Deerfield; Bryan Smith – Erving; Vicky Jenkins – Gill; Will Cosby – Hawley; Elissa Viarengo – Heath; Chris Boutwell – Montague; Bob MacEwen – Northfield; Priscilla Curtis – Orange; Dan Poplawski – Rowe; Terry Narkewicz – Shelburne; Larry Kuttner – Whately

**Representatives Absent:** Valentine Reid – Charlemont; Annette Herda – Leverett; Michael Mankowsky – Warwick; Asa de Roode – Wendell

**Others Present:** Jan Ameen – Executive Director; Amy Donovan – Program Director; Stephanie Meehleder – Administrative Assistant

This was a hybrid meeting. It was held in-person at the Olver Transportation Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield. There was also a virtual component via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Welcome new members:** Benjamin Eastman of Colrain.

**I. Review and Approve Minutes:** A motion was made by Andrea Donlon to approve the May 15, 2024 meeting minutes and seconded by Will Cosby. Motion passed unanimously.

**II. Election of Officers:** Vicky Jenkins nominated the current slate of officers: Chris Boutwell, Chair; Terry Narkewicz, Vice-Chair; M.A. Swedlund, Treasurer; Stephanie Meehleder, Clerk. This motion was seconded by Will Cosby. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. FY24 Budget vs Actual Update:** Jan discussed the FY24 budget vs actual report. There is a \$3200 deficit in FY24. Most of that amount is due to the purchase of OSHA supplies in May for the two-day in-person attendant trainings.

**IV. OPEB Retiree Health Insurance:** Jan shared information regarding OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) This option is available for retirees in most participating towns, but has not been available to District employees. According to our legal counsel, Donna MacNicol, there are some nuances and state regulations in implementing this policy. At the moment, the projected costs are unclear. Jan reviewed a proposal KMS, an actuary firm. KMS was recommended by the District auditor. For approximately \$3,000, KMS will provide projected costs for offering OPEB to employees. A recommendation was made to contact a personnel lawyer for additional advice.

A motion was made by M.A. Swedlund to move forward with the first phase of the actuary report. The motion was seconded by Vicky Jenkins. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. Executive Director's Report:** HHW day is Sept 21. At this time, there are 150 residents registered for the Orange site and 310 registered at the Greenfield site. Buckland and Shelburne share a small wastewater treatment plant using reed beds. The reed beds need to be cleaned out to allow for new capacity. Jan served as the bidding agent seeking vendors for this project. The hazardous waste shed located in Bernardston is currently being rented to the Northfield Food Pantry. Ownership of the shed will remain with the District. Jan and Amy have been working with a regional group discussing and planning repair clinics. Colrain and Northfield have already hosted a few. Jan is currently collaborating with Justin Lawrence of the Franklin County Tech School to possibly integrate students and instructors into the program. Other options are also being explored with Rachel Stoler with FRCOG's Mass in Motion to pair senior citizens with students. As of September 1st, Gill residents can bring their food waste to a locked container at the Riverside Municipal Building. The Compost Cooperative will transport the material to Martin's Farm on a weekly basis. So far, 47 residents have signed up for the program and it seems to be going well. The MRF contract expires this year. Jan and the MRF Advisory Board have been working on a contract extension. There is a 3.5% increase on the base fee. Jan will have more information at the next meeting. More information can be found in the Executive Director's Report.

**VI. Program Director's Report:** Amy reported that last week was the 175<sup>th</sup> Franklin County Fair and the recycling program was a big success. There were 40 recycle/compost/trash stations set up throughout the fairgrounds and about 60 volunteers from the community and local high schools helping out. The fairgrounds received a grant this year for recycling barrels to be used at year-round events. Some of the grant funds were used for a sign educating the public on why waste diversion is important. The District loaned event recycle/compost bins and signs to about 30 events in 2024. This program significantly reduces trash and at the same time, educates the public about recycling and organics. The Fall Edition of Going Green was released on August 21st. There is a link in Amy's report. Amy has been overseeing the Deerfield Transfer station swap shed and is working to coordinate and train volunteers to take on some shifts. The next Clean Sweep collection is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Erving site has been changed to the Erving highway garage due to construction at the senior center. Amy gave presentations on worm composting at both the Deerfield and Conway libraries. More information can be found in the Program Director's Report.

**VII. Informational Topic: Super Sites and Regional Transfer Stations** - Jan presented information regarding our regional super sites and information on the Greenfield transfer station, which is available to non-residents for a \$5 host fee plus individual fees for various items including bulky waste items.

**VIII. Other Business / Next Meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024

M.A. Swedlund moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Andrea Donlon. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The following written materials were used at the meeting: KMS Actuaries proposal; FY24 Budget vs. Actual report; September AMV Report