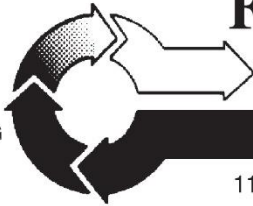


REDUCTION
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Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

117 Main Street., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301 • (413) 772-2438 • Fax: (413) 772-3786
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org • info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

DISTRICT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING MINUTES November 20, 2024

Representatives and Alternates Present: Andrea Donlon – Buckland; Valentine Reid – Charlemont; Benjamin Eastman – Colrain; MA Swedlund – Deerfield; Bryan Smith – Erving; Vicky Jenkins – Gill; Will Cosby – Hawley; Chris Boutwell – Montague; Bob MacEwen – Northfield; Priscilla Curtis – Orange; Terry Narkewicz – Shelburne; Larry Kuttner – Whately

Representatives Absent: Marti Ferguson – Buckland; Lynn Rubinstein – Conway; Elissa Viarengo – Heath; Annette Herda – Leverett; Dan Poplawski – Rowe; Asa de Roode – Wendell; Michael Mankowsky – Warwick

Others Present: Jan Ameen, Executive Director; Amy Donovan, Program Director; Stephanie Meehleder, Administrative Assistant; John Franc, Deerfield resident.

This meeting was held at the Olver Transportation Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield with a virtual option via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. Review and Accept Minutes: A motion was made by Andrea Donlon and seconded by Will Cosby to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

II. FY24 Financial Audit – Review and approval: An independent financial audit for FY24 was conducted by Roselli, Clark & Associates. The report was discussed. Motion was made to accept the FY24 financial audit by Terry Narkewicz and seconded by Andrea Donlon. Motion passed unanimously. A copy will be sent to all Selectboards and Finance Committees.

III. FY26 Proposed Budget – Review and approve proposed budget: The FY26 budget proposal was presented and discussed. A motion was made by M.A. Swedlund to increase the cost-of-living adjustment from 3.5 % to 5% and was seconded by Larry Kuttner. Motion passed unanimously. Motion was made by Terry Narkewicz to accept the proposed budget as amended. Motion was seconded by Bryan Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Executive Director’s Report: The District is encouraging towns to sign the 5-year contract extension for recycling processing at the Springfield MRF. Signed contracts need to be submitted to Waste Management by December 31. The District is requesting pricing for trash disposal. This will be used to send towns FY26 budget estimates. Jan assisted a few towns to secure funding through MIIA’s safety grant program. Approximately \$18,000 in safety grants were approved. Wendell acquired funds for guardrails. Conway and Charlemont were able to

install electrical disconnect boxes at compactors. New Salem received funding for guardrails for their trash compactor area. MIIA has appreciated our OSHA training programs and has been using our program as a model for training across the state. Further information can be found in the Executive Director's report.

V. Program Director's Report: In the current edition of Going Green, Amy's column "Ask the Recycling Maven" features how to safely recycle batteries and encourages readers to recycle aluminum pie pans and roasting pans this holiday season. Of particular concern are lithium-ion batteries and the potential dangers and fire hazards. Residents can hand these batteries to the transfer station attendants rather than throw them in the trash where they can pose a fire danger. Also, Staples accepts all batteries for recycling for free. Amy's holiday article is coming out in the December West County Shopper. This same article will be submitted to the Greenfield Recorder and the Montague Reporter. Also, the Montague Reporter recently published Amy's article on backyard composting. Amy has been coordinating pick-ups for light bulbs and ballasts, freon, e-waste, tires, propane tanks, and more. After the Franklin County Fair, Amy arranged for some very special (FC Fair) volunteers to take a tour of Springfield MRF. Amy is looking into a grant that provides funding for businesses that would like to start composting. The focus is in District-served communities, such as Buckland, Charlemont, and Shelburne Falls. We are hoping to expand the composting routes to include other businesses and towns. A more detailed report can be found in the Program Director's report.

VI. Informational Topic: Sharps Collection Program: Tabled until the January meeting.

VII. Items not anticipated: OPEB: Jan shared a summary of the results of the cost study from KMS Actuaries on retiree health insurance benefits. A full report will be provided at a later time.

VIII. Town Reports / New Business / Schedule Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is January 15, 2025.

M.A. Swedlund moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Bryan Smith. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The following written materials were used at the meeting:

- FY26 proposed budget
- FY24 Independent Auditors' Report