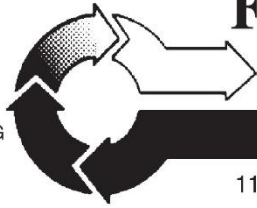


REDUCTION
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Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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DISTRICT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING MINUTES January 15, 2025

Representatives and Alternates Present: Andrea Donlon – Buckland; Lynn Rubinstein – Conway; Bryan Smith – Erving; Vicky Jenkins – Gill; Chris Boutwell – Montague; Bob MacEwen – Northfield; Priscilla Curtis – Orange; Dan Poplawski – Rowe; Terry Narkewicz – Shelburne; Asa de Roode – Wendell; Larry Kuttner – Whately

Representatives Absent: Marti Ferguson – Buckland; Valentine Reid – Charlemont; Benjamin Eastman – Colrain; MA Swedlund – Deerfield; Will Cosby – Hawley; Elissa Viarengo – Heath; Annette Herda – Leverett; Michael Mankowsky – Warwick;

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

This was a virtual meeting via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Hearing: Chris Boutwell opened the FY26 budget public hearing at 6:07. Jan discussed the proposed FY26 budget. There were no public comments or questions. A motion was made by Bryan Smith to close the public hearing and this was seconded by Larry Kuttner. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Approve minutes of November 20, 2024 meeting: A motion was made by Terry Narkewicz and seconded by Larry Kuttner to approve the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes. There was one abstention. Motion passed by majority.

II. FY26 Budget Review and Adopt: A motion was made by Terry Narkewicz to adopt the FY26 budget as presented and seconded by Bryan Smith. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPEB Retiree Health Insurance: Details from the cost study conducted by KMS Actuaries on retiree health insurance benefits for the District were shared and discussed. Bryan Smith recommended that a working group be formed to further research before moving forward. The majority agreed and it will be discussed at a later date. Jan will work with Bryan and anyone else who would like to join the group. The District will share any information received prior to the next meeting in May.

IV. Executive Director's Report: Jan shared a report of the total Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) grant funds earned by each town. Jan also shared some examples of ways towns can use these grant funds. Jan is currently working on the MassDEP data survey which is also a requirement to participate in the RDP program. The compiled data includes everything that runs through all District transfer stations and curbside pickup. Another requirement for RDP program participation is that the town agree to buy recycled products whenever possible. Jan is working on resolving an issue with the Colrain Sewer District. Jan has been working with Justin Lawrence at Franklin County Tech School to set up a repair clinic possibly in March. More detailed information can be found in the Executive Director's Report.

V. Program Director's Report: Martin's Farm composting business is for sale, but still operating. A previous buyer's agreement fell through but Adam Martin is still working with other potential buyers. At this time, there are no changes to the current compost programs at District transfer stations and the District will be sure to notify the towns of any changes in the future. Currently some of our organics loads go to a local anaerobic digester via Casella Waste. The e-waste picked up at District transfer stations in 2024 totaled almost 17 tons. The total pick-ups for rechargeable batteries was 1,323 pounds. Greenfield Recorder ran our holiday recycling article on December 24, 2024. More information can be found in the Program Director's Report.

VI. Informational Topic: Sharps Collection Program: Jan gave an overview of the District's regional sharps collection program. State law prohibits disposal of sharps in household trash. The District has set up and manages collection sites located throughout the county, including at the Greenfield Health Department office. Franklin County residents can bring their sharps for disposal and receive an empty quart or gallon sharps box free of charge. Each location has varied hours. In addition to our program, Baystate Franklin Medical Center offers a kiosk in their lobby for disposal only. More information can be found on our website.

VII. Other Business / Next Meeting: Next meeting May 21, 2025.

VII. Items not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting: None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Andrea Donlon and was seconded by Asa de Roode. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

The following written materials were used at the meeting:

- FY26 Budget
- KMS Actuaries OPEB Cost Study