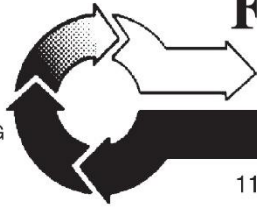


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Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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 September 17, 2025

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

Representatives Absent: Andrea Donlon – Buckland; Wilder Sparks – Charlemont; Will Cosby – Hawley; Elissa Viarengo – Heath; 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 6:03 p.m.

I. Review and Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Bryan Smith to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes and seconded by Terry Narkewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Election of Officers: Bryan Smith made a motion to keep the existing slate of officers. Chris Boutwell as Chair, Terry Narkewicz as Vice-Chair, M.A. Swedlund as Treasurer, and Stephanie Meehleder as Clerk. Lynn Rubinstein seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion to retain the current slate of officers passed unanimously.

III. FY25 Budget Final: Jan discussed final findings of the FY25 budget vs actual report. The sludge numbers were higher than planned due to vendor increases that are not usually presented until after the budget is approved.

IV. OPEB Retiree Health Insurance: The District discussed adopting OPEB Retiree Health Insurance, reviewing cost estimates and funding options from KMS Actuaries. Further updates will be provided at the November meeting.

V. May 2025 Repair Event and Upcoming Collections:

The District held its first Repair Event at Franklin County Tech School in May, with Justin Lawrence involved in coordinating. About 66 residents attended, and 83 items were repaired by students and community fixers skilled in gluing, electrical work, woodwork, knife sharpening

and mending. More events are planned. The District received a \$7,500 MassDEP micro-grant to hire a community organizer for expanding repair events across the county. Hazardous Waste Day is Saturday, September 20th. There are 140 residents registered in Orange and 272 at GCC.

VI. Executive Director's Report: Jan noted health insurance costs will rise by 20% in October. The Salvation Army will stop textile collections at town transfer stations and remove their boxes; CMRK will be the new vendor. The towns will receive \$7 dollars per ton. The District acknowledges that the compost vendor has missed pickups in the east county towns. Some towns have switched to Compost Co-op. Gill's composting program has been successfully operating for a year now. There are a total of 72 residents using this program. AMV markets have declined sharply, which will raise costs for towns. More details can be found in the Executive Director's Report.

VII. Program Director's Report: Amy reports issues with Veolia, the vendor collecting fluorescent bulbs and ballasts, so we switched to NLR, the vendor who manages our battery collections. She acknowledges that while our new vendor gets up to speed, some backlog will persist. Martin's Farm remains for sale but continues its operations. For larger events needing compost dumpsters, we partnered with Windham Solid Waste District in Brattleboro, Vermont, to support festival needs. We just completed the Franklin County Fair, marking our 19th year managing the recycling program there, with 31 recycling/compost stations and 30 extra recycling bins across the fairgrounds. Amy trained a new attendant at the Shelburne transfer station and plans another larger in-person training in early December. Outreach efforts included columns titled "Ask the Recycling Maven" in both summer and fall issues of Going Green. The Springfield MRF Advisory Board is preparing a new educational campaign, aiming for a rollout by January or February, which will include updated transfer station signage and updated postcards to be distributed. The Clean Sweep event will take place on October 18th at three sites: Whately Transfer Station, Mohawk High School, and Erving Highway Garage. A grant has been secured to offset e-waste disposal costs. Social media promotion continues for ongoing District projects. More details are available in the Program Director's Report.

VIII. Other Business / Next Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 which will be in-person and virtual meeting.

IX. Items not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting. N/A

M.A. Swedlund moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bryan Smith. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.