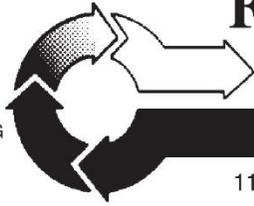


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Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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DISTRICT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING MINUTES January 28, 2026

Representatives and Alternates Present: Andrea Donlon – Buckland; Lynn Rubinstein – Conway; M.A. Swedlund – Deerfield; Bryan Smith – Erving; Will Cosby – Hawley; Elissa Viarengo – Heath; Chris Boutwell – Montague; Bob MacEwen – Northfield; Priscilla Curtis – Orange; Dan Poplawski – Rowe; Terry Narkewicz – Shelburne;

Representatives Absent: Wilder Sparks – Charlemont; Benjamin Eastman – Colrain; Vicky Jenkins – Gill; Annette Herda – Leverett; Asa de Roode – Wendell; Michael Mankowsky – Warwick; Larry Kuttner – Whately

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.

I. FY27 Budget - Amended: Chris Boutwell opened the budget public hearing at 6:28 p.m. Jan discussed amendments made to the proposed FY27 budget. The budget was reduced after health insurance premiums were lower than expected. There were also other expenses trimmed in order to decrease assessments. There were no public comments or questions. A motion was made by Bryan Smith to close the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by M.A. Swedlund. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was then made by M.A. Swedlund to adopt the FY27 budget as amended. The motion was seconded by Andrea Donlon. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Approve Minutes of November 19, 2025 Meeting: A motion was made by Terry Narkewicz to approve the November 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Bryan Smith. There was one abstention. The motion passed by majority.

III. FY25 Financial Audit – motion will remain tabled: Jan anticipated that the audit would be completed mid-February. A special board meeting will be called in mid-March to discuss the completed audit. The motion remains tabled until further notice.

IV. Executive Director's Report: Jan reported an increase in compactor repairs due to the extreme cold weather. Jan assisted Gill-Montague Regional School District with going out to bid for waste hauling services for trash, recycling and compost. The lowest bidder was Casella and will start in March. This is expected to save the school district approximately \$9,400 per school year. Jan is working on the data survey for each town as required by MassDEP. This includes the tonnage of trash, recycling, electronics, textiles, mattresses from towns that recycle them, scrap metal, bulky waste, as well as how many permits are sold by each town. Jan is also working with the accountants of the towns which participate in the RDP program to provide an itemized detail of all RDP related expenses for the year as required by MassDEP. This is also a way to make towns aware of unused RDP funds. The point value has increased from \$300 to \$600 this year, so the funds may build up more quickly. The District received a \$7,500 grant from the state to coordinate local repair events in three groups of towns. The District held the first repair event last year at the Franklin County Tech School and will be scheduling another event for May 30, 2026. Warwick has a new assistant town coordinator and Heath has a new administrator. Jan usually conducts an informational meeting with any new town administrators to answer any questions they may have about the District. Jan is working with the state to identify ways to collect used vape devices without classifying them as hazardous waste. At this time, nicotine is considered an acute hazardous waste which raises disposal costs considerably. More detailed information can be found in the Executive Director's Report.

V. Program Director's Report: Amy reported year-end totals for special waste pick-ups. This included electronic waste, tires, tanks, freon from appliances, fluorescent light bulbs, ballasts, and batteries. In 2025, a total of 18 tons of electronic waste was collected by 10 transfer stations and from the District's bulky waste day events. There were 1,559 tires collected from 8 transfer stations and bulky waste events. Refrigerant was removed from 820 appliances. Approximately 1,400 pounds of rechargeable button and single-use lithium batteries came from 17 district transfer stations. Fluorescent bulbs and ballasts were picked up at 23 sites including transfer stations and school districts. Amy gave school presentations about composting and recycling at Whately Elementary School and Mohawk High School. The presentations were instructional to both students and staff and provided new signage to the schools. The 2026 date for household hazardous waste day has been set for September 19th and our bulky waste events are set for May 16th and October 17th. More information can be found in the Program Director's Report.

VI. Presentation: RDP grant funds program – This presentation will be given at the next regular board meeting.

VII. Other Business / Next Meeting: Next meeting TBD.

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

A motion was made by M.A. Swedlund to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Terry Narkewicz. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The following written materials were used at the meeting:

-FY27 amended Budget