

Executive Committee Report

The NEKWMD finished 2019 by processing less recycling compared to 2018 – 2615 tons in 2019 compared to 2750 tons in 2018. Significant drops in mixed paper, cardboard, and glass were responsible for most of the decline. A few items, including compostable materials, batteries, and metal saw increases in tonnage. E-Waste, tires, and plastics tonnages were approximately the same as 2018. Recycling markets remained low throughout all of 2019.

The District ended 2019 with a deficit of \$16,116.38. The District ended 2018 with a deficit of \$41,069.02. Revenues in 2019 were 1% above projections. While budgeted expenses were 3% above projections. The catastrophic failure of our baler on September 24, 2018 was the largest reason for the deficit. Even though the baler was replaced in February of 2019, we incurred significant costs for the first quarter of 2019 that were directly associated with having limited or no processing capacity.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2019. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3rd in the state behind only Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

The NEKWMD is entering 2020 with a proposed budget of \$794,823 – a decrease of 3.6% compared to 2019. The decrease reflects the continued poor markets for recyclables. The surcharge rate of \$24.75 will remain unchanged for 2020. Our surcharge on trash remains below the State average of \$26.59. The NEKWMD will be raising hauling fees by \$10 for facilities and schools. The new rates for 2020 are \$45 for facilities and \$30 for schools.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and two part-time employees in 2019. Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principal authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly with the District's Executive Director to set the direction of NEKWMD policy. The member Towns are also represented through their ability to vote on the NEKWMD budget at their Town Meeting in March.

Since the surcharge on trash is based on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

We would like to express our appreciation to our able staff for their continuing commitment to our mission. The 57,000 residents of 49 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured that the NEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

NEKWMD Executive Committee