

## Executive Committee Report

The NEKWMD finished 2020 by processing less recycling compared to 2019 – 2,211 tons in 2020 compared to 2,615 tons in 2019. Significant drops in mixed paper and plastic were responsible for most of the decline. A few items, including food scraps, tires, and cardboard saw increases in tonnage. E-Waste, glass, and battery tonnages were approximately the same as 2019. Recycling markets remained stable but low throughout most of 2020.

The District ended 2020 with a deficit of \$8,338.22. Revenues in 2020 were 5% above projections. While budgeted expenses were 6% above projections. The COVID19 pandemic did disrupt our work schedule for several weeks in the spring, but it does not appear to have impacted the District significantly over the course of the entire year. Legal fees and truck repairs were the primary drivers of the deficit in 2020. The pandemic will impact our budget process for 2021. The 2021 budget will be approved by the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors and not a direct vote by District members. This is a temporary one-year change directly related to changes in Town Meeting Day.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2020. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state behind only Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

The NEKWMD is entering 2021 with a proposed budget of \$809,527 – an increase of 1.85% compared to 2020. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the District's 2021 budget will be acted upon by the District Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2021. The District sought and received a one-time legislative remedy in order to act on the budget internally. There will be 2 additional public hearings to receive input on the 2021 proposed budget. These meetings will be held via ZOOM on February 18 and 25, 2021 at 6pm.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and three part-time employees in 2020. 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.

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 47,600 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***