

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE- GREATER NEW BEDFORD  
REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 8:00 AM at the Dartmouth Town Hall - Room 309, Dartmouth Town Hall - Room 309, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747.

**District Committee Members in attendance:** Chairperson John Beauregard, Daniel Patten, Kelley Cabral-Mosher, Caroline Conzatti, and Ed Iacaponi. Michael Gagne was absent.

**Also in attendance:** Anthony Novelli, Executive Director; Lee Ferreira, Executive Assistant; Raphael Wechsler, Project Manager; and Matthew J. Thomas, District Counsel.

**1. Call to order / Salute the flag**

Chairperson Beauregard called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Legal Notices**

Chairperson read the following statement:

“Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, any person may make an audio or video recording of this public meeting or may transmit the meeting through any medium. Attendees are therefore advised that such recordings and transmissions are being made, whether perceived or unperceived, by those present, and are deemed acknowledged and permissible. All legal notices of the meeting were posted in Dartmouth and New Bedford more than 48 hours prior to the meeting.”

**3. Roll call of members**

Chairperson John Beauregard: yes  
Daniel Patten: yes  
Kelley Cabral-Mosher: yes  
Caroline Conzatti: yes  
Michael Gagne: absent  
Ed Iacaponi: yes

**4. Approval of Minutes**

a. Draft Minutes of May 20, 2025, meeting, Regular Session

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to approve the Draft Minutes of the May 20, 2025, meeting, Regular Session. MOTION was made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion passed 4- 0. Mr. Iacaponi abstained from the vote.**

b. Draft Minutes of May 20, 2025, meeting, Executive Session

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to approve the Draft Minutes of the May 20, 2025, meeting, Executive Session. MOTION was made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion passed 4- 0. Mr. Iacaponi abstained from the vote.**

## **5. Warrant Report and Ratification**

a. Warrant 20-25 and 21-25 ratification

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to ratify Warrant 22-25 dated May 20, 2025, and Warrant 23-25 dated June 9, 2025. MOTION was made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5 - 0.**

## **6. Old Business**

a. FY26 Engineering Contract

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to continue discussion on the FY26 Engineering Contract. MOTION made by Ms. Conzatti, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Novelli introduced the updated contract proposal with Brown and Caldwell for engineering services in FY2026. The scope of services includes:

- Bi-monthly submission of two required reports to MassDEP: one focused on operations and maintenance, and the other on waste ban compliance inspections.
- An annual topographic site survey to calculate landfill airspace consumption and remaining capacity, expressed in cubic yards, which also supports regulatory compliance.
- \$50,000 in general engineering and consulting services.
- Construction oversight for the Main Pump Station rehabilitation project, which includes verifying the quality and specifications of the installation.

Mr. Novelli emphasized that the only change from the previously reviewed draft was the removal of a proposed mid-year survey to control costs.

Mr. Iacaponi asked for clarification on the survey's purpose and location. Mr. Novelli and Mr. Thomas clarified that the survey includes the full landfill area and is used to update landfill lifespan projections. Chairperson Beauregard noted that the landfill is currently projected to have 12.5 to 13 years of life remaining, inclusive of the upcoming construction of Cell 7 and that remaining capacity is a frequently asked question.

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to approve and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract with Brown and Caldwell in the amount of \$106,200 for bi-monthly inspections, landfill capacity report, general engineering and completion of the Main Pump Station rebuild for FY2026. MOTION was made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

b. Strategic Land Use Planning

**MOTION to continue discussions on strategic land use planning made by Ms. Conzatti, seconded**

**by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Novelli provided an update on the SRPEDD strategic planning initiative. The previously approved agreement with SRPEDD relied on federal grant funding that has been frozen indefinitely, so the scope has been revisited so that the District can get the project started. He reviewed two options, both with the same total cost but with different time frames for completion:

- A 12-month schedule, costing the District \$50,600
- A 15-month timeline which leverages additional municipal assistance funding in FY2027 from SRPEDD and that would cost the District \$43,100.

The Committee discussed the importance of beginning the project and preferred the longer timeline if a mid-point report (at month 8) identifying high-priority recommendations could be secured. Attorney Thomas recommended formalizing this deliverable. Ms. Cabral-Mosher supported this structure, and Mr. Beauregard emphasized the urgency of identifying alternate revenue sources in light of potential tonnage & revenue loss from the City of Fall River in FY27.

Mr. Novelli acknowledged the potential for solar development and economic reuse of unused parcels, given that there is a comprehensive study on these options. There was consensus on fast-tracking feasibility assessments for solar siting, especially in areas near the existing interconnection in New Bedford Business Park. This can be a long, multi-year process, and he wants to get started on the feasibility.

The Committee agreed with the revised 15-month timeframe and authorized Mr. Novelli to sign, subject to review by legal counsel. Mr. Novelli mentioned that approval to transfer additional funds would be needed at this point to cover the difference in project cost.

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to transfer \$43,100 from the Building and Capital Reserve for the SRPEDD Land Use Study. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## **7. New Business**

a. Vote to award Materials Agreements

**MOTION to review bids received for Various Materials made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti.**

Mr. Novelli reported on the District's annual bid solicitation for various landfill operational materials and reviewed bids received. These materials are used to comply with cover requirements for active and sloped areas of the landfill. Mr. Novelli explained that the District typically relies on reused material for landfill cover but maintains access to purchased materials as a backup. He also explained the importance of intermediate cover for controlling infiltration and runoff. Vendors offering the lowest unit price for each material are awarded a contract, but the District does not make any representation of guaranteed amounts to be purchased. K.R. Rezendes was the lowest qualified bidder for all solicited materials except for Cold mix asphalt, an approved intermediate cover material.

The Committee asked about daily cover usage. Mr. Novelli replied that it depends on the size of the working area for the day, and in the morning the team attempts to remove and reuse as much cover material as possible.

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to award and authorize the Executive Director to sign contracts for various materials as follows:**

- **Ondrick Materials: Cold Mix Asphalt Product at \$8.00 per ton**
- **K.R. Rezendes: 1 1/2" stone at \$22.25 per ton; Asphalt Pavement, Brick and Concrete Rubble at \$15.90 per ton; Gravel at \$15.90 per ton; Landfill daily cover at \$12.65 per ton; Low permeability/Intermediate cover at \$12.65 per ton; Modified Rock at \$30.90 per ton; Processed Gravel at \$21.00 per ton; and Recycled Asphalt base at \$15.90 per ton.**

**MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

**b. Vote to Award Security Services Contract**

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to review bids received for Security Services. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher**

Mr. Novelli reviewed bid results for unarmed, uniformed security services. Seven (7) bids were received, and Best Security Services, Inc. was selected as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder at \$20.87/hour, with an expected annual cost of \$72,586.82. Their responsibilities include bi-hourly rounds, gas monitoring (e.g., hydrogen sulfide), and inspection of access gates, the scale house and other District properties. Holidays are paid at an increased rate. Best Security is the District's current vendor and has performed favorably.

Committee members inquired about recent security issues. Mr. Novelli reported no recent incidents involving trespassing or off-road vehicles.

**MOTION to award and authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract for Insured, Unarmed, Uniformed Security Services with Best Security Service, Inc. for an hourly rate of \$20.87/hour and an expected annual cost of \$72,586.82 made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

**c. Vote to Award Environmental Monitoring Services Contract**

**MOTION to review proposals received for Environmental Monitoring Services made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher.**

The District received three proposals for this solicitation. He described the scope of work, which includes sampling and analysis of leachate, stormwater, groundwater, surface water, and soil gas testing in accordance with various permits from MassDEP, the City of New Bedford, and the EPA.

After review of the technical proposals, Civil & Environmental Consultants (CEC) was rated as the strongest of the three. CEC also submitted the lowest-cost bid for the services. Mr. Novelli mentioned that CEC is the District's existing contractor for these services and he praised the current relationship and reliability of the CEC's team. The initial term covers FY26 and FY27, with two optional two-year renewals, and he recommended that this contract be awarded to CEC. The Committee agreed with the recommendation and there was no further discussion.

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to award and authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract for Environmental Monitoring Services with Civil and Environmental Consultants as outlined in their proposal. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5 – 0.**

d. Vote to appropriate funds from the OPEB Trust

**MOTION to consider an appropriation from the OPEB Trust made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher.**

Mr. Novelli reported the District incurred \$89,485.58 in retiree health insurance costs for FY25. According to the most recent actuarial evaluation, the District's OPEB Trust is over 200% funded, and recent investment returns have outpaced withdrawals which is welcome news. There were no further questions.

**MOTION to appropriate \$89,485.58 from the OPEB Trust to pay for the District's share of the FY 2025 health insurance benefits for retirees of the District and their dependents made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

e. Vote to appropriate funds from the Unemployment Reserve

**MOTION to consider an appropriation from the Unemployment Reserve made by Ms. Conzatti, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Novelli provided details on three unemployment claims received in FY2025 totaling \$21,725.13, including one case still pending adjudication. He noted that the District remains self-insured and that legal protests had been submitted for questionable claims.

Mr. Iacaponi asked if there had been an evaluation of the District being self-insured compared to paying for unemployment insurance. Mr. Novelli was not aware of anything, and Chairperson Beauregard noted that the District has been fortunate not to have a lot of turnover in general. The Committee acknowledged that unemployment claims in Massachusetts can be difficult to protest as an employer.

**MOTION to appropriate \$21,725.13 from the unemployment reserve to pay for unemployment expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2025 made by Ms. Conzatti, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

f. Vote to Carry Forward FY2025 funds into FY2026 (for Main Pump Station Rehab)

**MOTION to discuss a carry forward of funds made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti.**

Mr. Novelli asked the Committee to carry forward up to \$183,000 in unspent FY25 budgeted funds for the Main Pump Station rehabilitation, pending final amounts spent from this budget line. The contract is being executed and the work will begin in FY26. The scope includes epoxy lining of the concrete vault, replacement of corroded pump brackets, installation of variable-frequency pumps, and associated electrical upgrades. The actual amount to be carried forward will be determined after all invoices have been paid for the current year.

This carry forward amount will not cover the full cost of the project, but Mr. Novelli believes that the remainder may fit into the FY2026 budget. If not, the funding mechanism will be revisited.

**MOTION to carry forward up to \$183,000 from the FY2025 "Leachate and Landfill Gas" line item into the FY2026 "Leachate and Landfill Gas" line item made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

g. Staff Report

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to receive the Staff Report. MOTION made by Ms. Conzatti, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Novelli provided updates on key operational and regulatory matters. He began by confirming that there had been no recent odor complaints, and he noted a recent stabilization in landfill gas generation after a period of decline. The previous volatility in gas levels is believed to be linked to the use of high-pH Processed Bottom Ash (PBA) as daily cover. While PBA had proven beneficial as an alternative cover material and source of revenue, its long-term impact on microbial activity in the landfill may have contributed to reduced landfill gas output. The operations team continues to monitor conditions closely and support conditions for consistent gas flow.

Mr. Novelli then discussed the District's assistance to the City of New Bedford during a significant rodent infestation at an E.L. Harvey-owned facility affecting Shawmut Avenue. At the City's request, the District temporarily extended landfill operating hours to accommodate late access by Capitol Waste Services haulers while the City and Harvey got the situation under control. This accommodation, while atypical, helped the city manage the emergency. Mr. Novelli was told that the City would hold Harvey liable for the additional costs incurred, and he has requested reimbursement for the additional costs to the Health Dept. He added that EL Harvey requested to dispose of waste from that facility at Crapo Hill, but the District denied that request.

He continued with an overview of progress on the Cell 7 permitting process and noted that he met with MassDEP staff recently to discuss the project. The meeting was constructive and engineering drawings and permit narratives are nearing completion. Community outreach will be planned and conducted.

The Committee was also updated on several DEP grant applications related to waste reduction and recycling efforts that are being prepared by District staff in coordination with the member communities. The District helped support the establishment of lending libraries in both communities- the goal is to promote reuse and sharing of items instead of purchasing and disposing after limited uses.

Finally, Mr. Novelli described a recent site tour hosted at the landfill for a group of 17 attendees from the City of New Bedford, including summer interns, city staff, and public health and conservation officials. The tour offered participants a guided walkthrough of the landfill and composting areas and highlighted the significant amount of engineering and environmental control systems that are present at the landfill, but are not well-understood. Committee member Caroline Conzatti, who helped coordinate the visit, commented that the tour was well received and expressed appreciation to District staff for their efforts. She noted that the participants' general response from the tour was that the facility is a lot nicer than expected, and that it did not smell as bad as anticipated for a landfill. Chairperson Beauregard commented that this is a common response when people see the facility in person and hopes that tours like this can

continue to combat negative perceptions about Crapo Hill.

**MOTION to accept and place the staff report on file made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

#### **8. Executive Session**

**Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION that the District Committee go into Executive Session pursuant to General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) and General Law Chapter 4, Section 7, Clause Twenty-Sixth(d) to discuss inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters relating to policy positions being developed by the District and then reconvene in Open Session. The minutes of this Executive Session will become public once the policy positions being developed by the District have been fully developed. MOTION was made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor, motion passed 5-0.**

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:56 a.m.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 9:27 a.m.

#### **9. Items that could not be reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance**

There were none.

#### **10. Set Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting is currently scheduled for July 29, 2025, and the following meeting on August 28, 2025.

#### **11. Adjourn**

**MOTION to adjourn was made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

#### **MEMOS**

6A. FY26 Engineering Contract

Attachment: Brown and Caldwell Proposal dated May 27, 2025

6B- Strategic Land Use Planning

Attachment: SRPEDD draft scope of work, 12-month timeline

Attachment: SRPEDD draft scope of work, 15-month timeline

7A- Vote to award Materials Agreements

Attachment: Bid #25-05 opening sheet

7B- Vote to award Security Services Contract

Attachment: Bid #25-06 opening sheet

7C- Vote to award Environmental Monitoring Services Contract

7D- Vote to appropriate funds from the OPEB Trust (for FY2025 retiree health care costs)

7E- Vote to appropriate funds from the Unemployment Reserve

7F- Vote to carry forward FY2025 funds into FY2026 (for Main Pump Station Rehab)

7G- Staff Report

Attachment: Graph of tonnage received from January 2024-May 2025

Attachment: Income statement as of June 12, 2025

Attachment: Graph of landfill gas flow and power plant output

Attachment: Press release dated May 20, 2025 Re: Lending Library

Approved by vote of the District Committee on Tuesday, July 29, 2025.



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Anthony Novelli, Executive Director