Minutes approved August 27, 2026

DISTRICT COMMITTEE- GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2026

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 309, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA.

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

Also in attendance: Anthony Novelli, Executive Director; Raphael Wechsler, Project Manager; Lee Ferreira, Executive Assistant; 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 a salute to the flag.

2. Legal Notices

Mr. Beauregard noted that legal notices of the meeting were posted in Dartmouth and New Bedford more than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Chairperson Beauregard 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."

3. Roll call of members

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

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Draft Minutes of May 18, 2026, Meeting, Regular Session

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the May 18, 2026, meeting, regular session. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor- MOTION passed 6 – 0.

b. Draft Minutes of May 18, 2026, Executive Session

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the May 18, 2026, meeting, executive session. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor- MOTION passed 6 – 0.

5. Warrant Report and Ratification

a. Warrant 20-25 and 21-25 ratification

Chairperson Beauregard requested a MOTION to ratify Warrant 22-26 dated May 19, 2026, and Warrant 23-26 dated June 3, 2026. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6- 0.

6. New Business

a. Vote to Appropriate Funds from OPEB Trust (for FY2026 retiree health care costs)

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to consider an appropriation from the OPEB Trust. MOTION made by Ms. Conzatti, seconded by Mr. Patten.

Mr. Novelli described how the District's share of retiree health insurance benefits had a nominal decline year over year. He indicated that the account is over 100% funded, and that the interest earned in the account exceeded the expense for FY2026. The District is not contributing nor expected to contribute additional funds to this account at this time. These expenses incurred in FY2026 totaled $85,400.14, and the District appropriates funds from the OPEB Trust to cover this cost for retirees and their dependents.

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to appropriate $85,400.14 from the OPEB trust to pay for the District's share of the FY 2026 health insurance benefits for retirees of the District and their dependents. MOTION made by Ms. Conzatti, seconded by Mr. Gagne. All voted in favor- MOTION passed 6- 0.

b. Vote to Appropriate Funds from the Unemployment Reserve

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to consider an appropriation from the Unemployment Reserve. MOTION made by Mr. Iacaponi, seconded by Mr. Patten.

Mr. Novelli stated that the total unemployment expenses for FY2026 were $5,636.56. He is not aware of any outstanding claims, and the request is to appropriate this amount from the District's unemployment reserve.

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to appropriate $5,636.56 from the District's Unemployment Reserve to pay for unemployment expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2026. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor- Motion passed 6- 0.

c. Vote to Approve Various Contracts for FY2027

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to discuss various FY2027 Contract Proposals. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti.

Mr. Novelli described how most of the District's contracts run on a fiscal year basis, ending June 30. He presented the following items for discussion:

1. He presented Brown and Caldwell's proposal for consulting and engineering services totaling $82,300 and briefly explained the tasks involved. Despite increases in hourly billing rates, the total contract value is less than the previous year. Mr. Novelli expressed satisfaction with the work conducted by Brown and Caldwell.

1. **Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract between Brown and Caldwell and the District in the amount of $82,300 for landfill inspections, landfill capacity report,**

and general engineering for FY2027. MOTION made by Mr. Iacaponi, seconded by Ms. Cabral Mosher. Motion passed 6- 0.

2. Mr. Novelli presented a change order and additional costs associated with Brown and Caldwell's separate contract associated with the permitting and design of Cell 7. updated pay schedule. Roughly half of the expenses are for work completed to date that was outside of the original scope of work, including responses to some of DEP's technical comments. The other expenses are to apply an updated rate schedule for work that has yet to be completed, primarily construction oversight.

2. Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to approve the proposed budget changes to the contract for Cell 7 Services with Brown and Caldwell, and authorize the transfer of an additional $61,860 from the Phase 2 Design and Construction Reserve for engineering work on Cell 7. MOTION made by Mr. Gagne, seconded by Ms. Cabral Mosher. Motion passed 6- 0.

3. Mr. Novelli reviewed agreements to purchase various materials involved in landfill operations, such as cover materials. These were awarded through a competitive bidding process the previous year and the District has the option to renew agreements for another year for an increase tied to CPI. The agreements establish unit pricing, provided on an as-need basis to the District. The District does not guarantee any quantities to be purchased, and some are used more than others.

3. Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to authorize the Executive Director to renew the Agreements to Provide Materials used in landfill operations with K.R. Rezendes, Inc. and Ondrick Materials & Recycling, LLC for fiscal year 2027. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Conzatti. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6- 0.

4. Mr. Novelli raised the contract for security services at the landfill, which was also awarded after a competitive bidding process a year prior with an option to renew tied to CPI. He briefly described the services and hours worked. Chairperson Beauregard inquired if there had been any security issues. Mr. Novelli was not aware of any. Attorney Thomas noted that there had been issues with ATVs entering the landfill property in the past, but nothing recently.

4. Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to authorize the Executive Director to review the agreement for Security Services with Best Security Service, Inc. for fiscal year 2027. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Iacaponi. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6- 0.

5. Mr. Novelli then raised the contract for legal services. Attorney Thomas left the room at 8:15 a.m.

   Mr. Novelli explained that this contract has come up for vote annually, and the current proposal is for an open-ended term that stays in effect until terminated by the District. Mr. Novelli highlighted that the first 25 hours of services are billed at an hourly rate of $200/hour, and subsequent hours are billed at $250/hour. These are the same prices as the current agreement. Mr. Gagne highlighted the exceptional value Mr. Thomas provides, especially considering some comparable firms he has worked with charge $375/hour, and bill for every minute spent on the phone. Mr. Novelli attested that Attorney Thomas is generous with his time and does not bill for every phone call. He values Attorney Thomas's services and recommended that the Committee approve.

   Chairperson Beauregard noted Attorney Thomas's many years of service to the District and that he had no objection to the proposed contract structure.

Mr. Patten raised a question about if the rate of $200/hour for the first 25 hours would reset annually with the new structure and this was confirmed.

5. **Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to approve and authorize the Executive Director to sign both the yearly retainer and the hourly rate agreements with Attorney Thomas for Legal Services, as presented. MOTION made by Mr. Gagne, seconded by Mr. Iacaponi. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6- 0.**

Attorney Thomas returned to the meeting at 8:21 am and confirmed that the discounted billing rate for the first 25 hours of service would reset annually.

There was no further discussion on this item.

d. Vote to Approve Updated FY2027 Salaries & Wages

Chairperson Beauregard deferred discussion of the item. No discussion or vote occurred.

e. Staff Report

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to receive the staff report. MOTION made by Mr. Gagne, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher.

With the end of the fiscal year approaching, Mr. Novelli informed the Committee that the City of Fall River is on pace to exceed their maximum contracted tonnage limit by approximately 300-400 tons. Given the fact that this agreement with Fall River ends as of July 1, and that they pay a higher tip fee than other customers, it was his recommendation to accept this additional tonnage. There was discussion about where their waste would be going after this contract ends- it is expected to be transported to either SEMASS in Rochester or delivered to a transfer station to be transported to Ohio by rail. It was noted that SEMASS often has 4-hour wait times for trucks to dump in the summer. Attorney Thomas noted that tipping fees in the area appear to be in the $120-126 per ton range for municipalities, escalating annually. Mr. Novelli highlighted that this is an accurate comparison of what District members could be paying if the landfill were not open, compared to their current rate of approximately $28/ton. He expects the tipping fees in this area to continue increasing, given the lack of other available disposal options in Massachusetts and the increasing cost of transporting waste long distances to other facilities. The group highlighted the amazing deal that Crapo Hill provides its member communities and the cost savings that continue to be provided for waste disposal. Mr. Novelli noted that the agreement with Fall River was beneficial for the District overall and described it as a win-win for both sides. The timing was good given some shift in the District's customers, and it generated a significant amount of revenue. There was no objection from the Committee to accepting the additional tonnage.

Mr. Novelli then highlighted a recent trip to the Bourne landfill with Mr. Ferry and Mr. Wechsler to both see their operation and to discuss their use of drone and GPS technology to maximize use of available capacity. Mr. Novelli shared how the Bourne team heaped praise for the GPS system in landfill machinery- they believe it paid for itself in a year (estimated cost of $100,000 to equip two machines). He discussed potential applications for the District's operations and his plans to pursue the purchase of similar equipment further. Mr. Gagne asked about the tidiness of the site and Mr. Novelli shared that despite extensive construction and the operation of a residential drop-off area; the operation was well-maintained. He also noted plans for some of the team to visit the landfill in Johnston RI for a better understanding of their operations.

Mr. Novelli mentioned that he was asked to give a brief presentation and update on the District's operations at an upcoming Dartmouth Select Board meeting on July 13.

Mr. Novelli then provided an update on Cell 7 permitting, with a DEP decision on a draft permit expected soon, followed by a 45-day comment period. Following the comment period and responses to comments, the permit would become final. The group commented on how long the process has

taken and how long permitting in general can take for solid waste projects. Mr. Novelli estimated that the District is 2-3 months away from receiving the final permit.

Mr. Novelli then reviewed FY2026 financials ahead of the fiscal year's end, including $724,784 budgeted for deposit into the Phase 2 Reserve. He noted that Phase 2 reserve currently has ample funding to cover Cell 7 construction expenses, and suggested that these funds be deposited into the Future Solid Waste Management Fund instead, which is currently being used to conduct long-term planning and to help subsidize rate increases for the member communities. He clarified that this deposit was included with the budgeted FY2026 expenses and is expected to occur before June 30. Additional funds will be available for deposit into the District's reserve accounts after the audit and reconciliation have been completed. Chairperson confirmed that these funds could be moved into a different reserve account if needed in the future.

MOTION to deposit the $724,784 intended for the Phase 2 Construction Reserve in the FY2026 operating expenses into the Future Solid Waste Management Reserve instead. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Iacaponi. All voted in favor. MOTION passed 6 – 0.

The group discussed timing of Cell 7 permitting and construction. The District has not yet received its permit from MassDEP, and is expecting to advertise the bid for construction in fall 2026, with construction expected to begin in the Spring of 2027. Mr. Novelli said that the District would have a better idea of the total cost of Cell 7 after bids have been received around December. The strategic planning efforts conducted by Geosyntec a few years back estimated $10 million for this Cell construction. Mr. Novelli believes this is conservative and hopes that the actual cost will be less.

Mr. Novelli provided an update on some site paving work that was anticipated to occur on the landfill access roads in FY2026 but has not yet been completed. He received an estimate for approximately $100,000 and is looking into less expensive alternatives, but suggested that $100,000 from the Site Maintenance line be carried forward into FY2027. There was some discussion about the District's ability to carry forward funds across fiscal years. Mr. Novelli mentioned that this had been completed in the past, but he would confirm the most appropriate way to handle this with the auditors.

Mr. Gagne made a MOTION to encumber $100,000 from Crapo Hill Site maintenance line item for the purposes of paving the access roads within the landfill. MOTION seconded by Mr. Patten. All voted in favor. MOTION passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Patten suggested that Mr. Novelli check with the City of New Bedford regarding the paving work, as they advertise a bid for paving work annually and the District may be able to use their negotiated rate.

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to accept the staff report and place it on file. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral Mosher. All voted in favor. MOTION passed 6 – 0.

7. Executive Session

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a MOTION to go into Executive Session pursuant to General Law chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 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 also pursuant to G.L.c 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, and then reconvene in Open Session. The minutes of this Executive Session will become public once the policy positions and negotiations being developed by the District have been fully developed. MOTION made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. Cabral Mosher. MOTION passed 6 – 0.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:51 a.m.
The Committee returned to Open Session at 9:40 a.m.

8. Items That Could Not Be Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

None

9. Set Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is set for July 9, 2026. August 27th was scheduled for the subsequent meeting.

10. Adjourn

Chairperson Beauregard requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. MOTION to adjourn made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Gagne. All voted in favor. MOTION passed 6 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Novelli
Executive Director

MEMOS

6A. Vote to Appropriate Funds from OPEB Trust (for FY2026 retiree health care costs)

6B. Vote to Appropriate Funds from the Unemployment Reserve

6C. Vote to Approve Various Contracts for FY2027

Attachment: Proposal for FY2027 General Engineering Services from Brown and Caldwell, dated 6/4/2026

Attachment: Proposal for Additional Services and Proposed Budget Changes, Cell 7 Services Project from Brown and Caldwell dated 5/22/2026.

Attachment: Client Fee Agreement and Individual Work Orders for Legal Services (yearly retainer and hourly rate) from Matthew J. Thomas, Esq.

6E. Staff Report

Attachment: Income statement as of 6/8/2026.

Approved by vote of the District Committee on August 27, 2026.



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Anthony Novelli, Executive Director