



Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance
210 South Street, Suite 6
Bennington, VT 05201
(802) 442-0713 x302

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday Sept. 09, 2026; 4:00 to 5:00 PM

BCRC Office, 210 South St. #6 Bennington, VT 05201 with Remote Option

- 1) Introductions and Review of Meeting Minutes- 4:00 pm (BCRC Staff) p. 2-3
- 2) NOAV Letters and Resolution from State
- 3) FY26 Q4 & End of Fiscal Year Budget Report-4:05 (BCRC Staff) p. 2-3
- 4) HHW Facility Update
 - a. 2026 Cost Saving Measures
 - b. 10/5/26 Season Close
 - c. RFQ for 2027-2028 Waste Collection
- 5) Sharps Disposal Collection Event
- 6) Disaster Debris Planning
- 7) Outreach & Events Update - 4:40 pm (BCRC Staff)
- 8) Zero Waste Committee Recognition by NERC
- 9) Scheduling BCSWA Election of Officers
- 10) Public Comments 4:45 (Exec. Board)
- 11) Upcoming Meetings and Events - 4:50 pm (Exec. Board)



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Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May. 06, 2026; 4:00 to 5:00 PM

BCRC Offices; 210 South Street #6, Bennington VT 05201 with Remote Option

Town Representatives Present: Nancy Bushika, Town of Stamford; Rob Gaiotti, Town of Dorset; Dan Monks, Town of Bennington; Linda Schmidt, Town of Sandgate; Tom Shuey, Town of Pownal; Cynthia Browning, Town of Arlington

BCSWA Staff: Scott Grimm-Lyon, Paula Kamperman

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 PM. The Board reviewed the minutes from Feb. 18, 2026. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dan Monks, seconded by Nancy Bushika, and were approved unanimously.

2. FY26 Q3 Budget

Grimm-Lyon presented the FY26 third-quarter budget report and reviewed the Alliance's current expenditures and anticipated expenses through the end of the fiscal year. See meeting packet for details.

Grimm-Lyon reminded the board that the FY26 Budget was adjusted at the February Board of Directors meeting to reflect cost overruns in the HHW program of approximately \$15,000. While the HHW program was expected to remain over budget, Grimm-Lyon noted that the final overage was not expected to be as significant as previously projected due to a vacancy in the Outreach Manager position which remained unfilled during the third quarter.

Grimm-Lyon explained that remaining advertising and other operating expenses would be incurred during the final quarter and reported that grant income had been received from the Agency of Natural Resources, resulting in lower quarterly billings to member towns.

Grimm-Lyon reported that he had identified a potential source of additional reimbursement from the Department of Agriculture in addition to the expected grant income related to a pesticide used in the manufacture of spray foam material and had applied for additional funding to help offset those costs.

3. FY27 Budget Proposal



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Grimm-Lyon presented the proposed FY27 budget and explained that the proposal was intentionally developed with more conservative revenue and expenditure assumptions in response to the unexpected HHW expenses experienced during FY26. He stated that, although additional cost-control measures were being implemented at the HHW facility, the proposed budget included additional capacity to avoid another significant budget overage. Grimm-Lyon noted that if expenditures ultimately came in below projections, remaining funds could potentially be used for needed facility improvements, including replacement of the roof shingles at the HHW building. Full details are available in the May meeting packet.

The proposed outreach budget remained generally comparable to previous years. Grimm-Lyon explained that the proposed contract amount for the new Outreach Manager was somewhat lower than the previous contract while remaining similar to earlier program budgets. Most other expense categories remained relatively level. Advertising expenses were reduced somewhat, reflecting the Alliance's experience that lower-cost outreach methods, including Front Porch Forum and social media, have been effective in reaching residents.

Following discussion, Dan Monks made a motion to approve the proposed FY27 budget. Rob Gaiotti seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Outreach Manager Contract

Grimm-Lyon presented the proposed contract for the Outreach Manager position and reviewed the proposed terms with the board. The position would continue to be structured as an independent contractor relationship with the Bennington County Regional Commission. Details including contract severability, insurance, and reimbursements for travel, cell phone, equipment, and conference-related expenses were discussed. Grimm-Lyon noted that the structure was similar to the previous contract but that the contract term has been shifted to align with the fiscal year. Grimm-Lyon reported that BCRC had identified John Pitroff as the preferred candidate for the Outreach Manager position. He explained that Pitroff operates a composting business, and has experience with outreach and solid waste management. Grimm-Lyon noted that the proposed arrangement would be a contract between BCRC and Pitroff, but the board's support was preferred before moving forward with the agreement.

Dan Monks made a motion to endorse BCRC moving forward with the proposed contract with John Pitroff. Linda Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.



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5. Annual Contract with BCRC

Grimm-Lyon presented the proposed annual contract between BCSWA and the Bennington County Regional Commission. He explained that the agreement was substantially similar to contracts used in previous years, with updated dates and budget figures reflecting the approved FY27 budget. The contract continues to outline BCRC's responsibilities for administration and implementation of the Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP). Responding to questions, Grimm-Lyon explained that the contract language refers to the first year of a five-year planning cycle because certain SWIP responsibilities are assigned to specific years within the five-year implementation period. He noted that some requirements will continue from year to year while other responsibilities will change as the implementation schedule progresses.

Dan Monks made a motion to approve the annual contract with BCRC as presented. Linda Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

6. Election of Officers

Members discussed whether to proceed with officer elections at the current meeting or defer the matter until additional board representatives could participate. Members expressed a preference for having broader representation present before conducting formal officer elections. The board agreed to defer the election of officers and to have Tom continue to sign the necessary documents in his capacity as treasurer until the issue could be addressed more fully.

7. Sharps Disposal Collection Terminals

Grimm-Lyon reported that The Collaborative, a local nonprofit that has received grant funding to purchase and initially support the collection of additional sharps disposal terminals. The collaborative is interested in placing 38 Gallon collection boxes (valued at \$5,000 each) at transfer stations and other appropriate locations throughout Bennington County. The grant funding would support the initial installation and a limited period of collection service, but it would not provide long-term funding for collection and disposal. He invited representatives from towns with transfer stations to consider whether they would be interested in hosting a collection terminal and offered to make connections with the collaborative for communities interested in participating.

8. One Drum Battery Collection Program

Grimm-Lyon provided preliminary information about a planned transition in battery collection



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procedures at transfer stations. The proposed system would use a one-drum collection approach with ceramic beads separating the batteries, reducing the amount of individual preparation and handling required by transfer station staff. Grimm-Lyon noted that Battery Network, formerly Call2Recycle, is expected to assist with implementation of the new system.

9. HHW Facility Update

Grimm-Lyon reported that the HHW Facility was scheduled to open for the 2026 season on May 18. The facility was required to operate at least one day during May and would transition to its regular Monday schedule beginning in June. Grimm-Lyon noted that the Alliance had received permission from the State to adjust its schedule around holiday weekends and that the facility would not operate on Memorial Day.

10. Outreach & Events Update

Despite the outreach Manager vacancy during the quarter, the Alliance conducted outreach activities with three classes at Molly Stark Elementary School in Bennington. The activities included a recycling relay and composting workshops. Kelly Timbrick of Casella assisted with the composting activities, and members of the Compost Committee provided worm bins that allowed students to interact directly with worms and learn about composting. Grimm-Lyon also noted that BCSWA planned to participate in the upcoming Manchester Energy Fair on May 16.

11. Public Comments:

No public comments.

12. Next Meeting/Adjournment:

The board agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 4:00PM. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 PM.

Expenses by category and income from grants, sales and donations

Expenses	BCRC Chart of Accounts	FY26 Q1	FY26 Q2	FY26 Q3	FY26 Q4	FY26 Total Spending	CORRECTED (Feb. 2025) FY26 Budget	CORRECTED % over Budget
BCRC Management								
Salary & Benefits	4999, 5099	\$ 18,709.23	\$ 12,100.36	\$ 14,872.58	\$ 16,915.79	\$ 62,597.96	\$ 64,000.00	
Indirect Costs	6720	\$ 12,699.89	\$ 8,197.99	\$ 10,076.10	\$ 11,460.45	\$ 42,434.43	\$ 44,000.00	
Total BCRC		\$ 31,409.12	\$ 20,298.35	\$ 24,948.68	\$ 28,376.24	\$ 105,032.39	\$ 108,000.00	-3%
Outreach Program								
Outreach Program Manager	53028	\$ 16,156.00	\$ 11,172.00	\$ -	\$ 6,784.56	\$ 34,112.56	\$ 40,000.00	
Outreach Events & Expenses	53028a	\$ 2,079.84	\$ 1,494.09	\$ -	\$ 972.27	\$ 4,546.20	\$ 3,000.00	
Total Outreach		\$ 18,235.84	\$ 12,666.09	\$ -	\$ 7,756.83	\$ 38,658.76	\$ 43,000.00	-10%
HHW Program*								
Facility Operations	5300, 5301, 52011	\$ 38,575.56	\$ 61,404.05	\$ 26,841.96	\$ 11,730.52	\$ 99,979.61	\$ 150,000.00	
Total HHW		\$ 38,575.56	\$ 61,404.05	\$ 26,841.96	\$ 11,730.52	\$ 99,979.61	\$ 150,000.00	-33%
Compost Program								
Compost Committee		\$ 178.00	\$ 2,226.40	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,404.40	\$ 2,500.00	
Total Compost		\$ 178.00	\$ 2,226.40	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,404.40	\$ 2,500.00	-4%
Operating Expenses								
Advertising	5306	\$ 2,632.50	\$ 109.50	\$ 66.00	\$ 3,464.00	\$ 6,272.00	\$ 7,000.00	
Dues & Memberships	5206	\$ 1,536.00		\$ 2,432.85		\$ 3,968.85	\$ 4,000.00	
Insurance	53071	\$ 512.50		\$ 576.52	\$ 576.53	\$ 1,665.55	\$ 3,000.00	
Software & Computer	5300a, 52095+PayPal Fee	\$ 52.50	\$ 91.96	\$ 251.25	\$ 194.26	\$ 589.97	\$ 500.00	
Supplies & Equipment	52029, 5304	\$ 103.24	\$ 65.84	\$ 84.43	\$ 156.02	\$ 409.53	\$ 500.00	
Travel & Training	5207, 5208	\$ 759.35	\$ 192.00	\$ 444.32		\$ 1,395.67	\$ 500.00	
Website	53003a	\$ 98.99	\$ 108.99		\$ 206.99	\$ 414.97	\$ 500.00	
Total Operating		\$ 5,695.08	\$ 568.29	\$ 3,855.37	\$ 4,597.80	\$ 14,716.54	\$ 16,000.00	-8%
Total Expenses		\$ 94,093.60	\$ 97,163.18	\$ 55,646.01	\$ 52,561.39	\$ 299,464.18	\$ 317,000.00	-6%
Income								
ANR SWIP Grant (HHW)	4201			\$ 31,856.00		\$ 31,856.00	\$ 31,856.00	
Compost	4131	\$ 2,500.00			\$ 419.76	\$ 2,919.76		
Donations	x		\$ 50.00			\$ 50.00		
HHW Facility Fee	53002	\$ 792.00	\$ 775.00	\$ 4,259.28	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,926.28	4,500	
VAAFM Pesticides Grant (HHW)	4201				\$ 15,436.00	\$ 15,436.00	\$ 6,500.00	
Total Income		\$ 3,292.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 36,115.28	\$ 15,955.76	\$ 56,188.04	\$ 42,856.00	31%
Expenses-Income		\$ 90,801.60	\$ 96,338.18	\$ 19,530.73	\$ 36,605.63	\$ 243,276.14	\$ 274,144.00	-11%

Original (June) FY26 Budget \$ 252,144.00

Quarterly allocation of expenses by town									
Town	% of Population	2020 Share	FY26 Quarter 1	FY26 Quarter 2	FY26 Quarter 3	FY26 Quarter 4	FY26 Year Total	Quarterly Budget	Annual Budget
Arlington	7%	0.0707	\$ 6,419.21	\$ 6,810.61	\$ 1,380.72	\$ 2,587.83	\$ 17,198.37	\$ 4,845.14	\$ 19,380.57
Bennington	44%	0.4412	\$ 40,059.30	\$ 42,501.89	\$ 8,616.45	\$ 16,149.45	\$ 107,327.09	\$ 30,236.30	\$ 120,945.19
Dorset	6%	0.0614	\$ 5,572.72	\$ 5,912.51	\$ 1,198.65	\$ 2,246.58	\$ 14,930.46	\$ 4,206.22	\$ 16,824.89
Glastenbury	0%	0.0003	\$ 23.51	\$ 24.95	\$ 5.06	\$ 9.48	\$ 63.00	\$ 17.75	\$ 70.99
Manchester	13%	0.1290	\$ 11,714.99	\$ 12,429.30	\$ 2,519.80	\$ 4,722.76	\$ 31,386.86	\$ 8,842.34	\$ 35,369.35
Pownal	9%	0.0937	\$ 8,511.92	\$ 9,030.92	\$ 1,830.85	\$ 3,431.48	\$ 22,805.17	\$ 6,424.70	\$ 25,698.78
Rupert	2%	0.0201	\$ 1,823.61	\$ 1,934.80	\$ 392.24	\$ 735.17	\$ 4,885.82	\$ 1,376.44	\$ 5,505.75
Sandgate	1%	0.0111	\$ 1,011.08	\$ 1,072.73	\$ 217.48	\$ 407.61	\$ 2,708.90	\$ 763.15	\$ 3,052.62
Searsburg	0%	0.0036	\$ 329.19	\$ 349.26	\$ 70.81	\$ 132.71	\$ 881.97	\$ 248.47	\$ 993.88
Shaftsbury	10%	0.1035	\$ 9,400.21	\$ 9,973.38	\$ 2,021.91	\$ 3,789.59	\$ 25,185.08	\$ 7,095.17	\$ 28,380.67
Stamford	2%	0.0248	\$ 2,249.47	\$ 2,386.63	\$ 483.84	\$ 906.85	\$ 6,026.78	\$ 1,697.87	\$ 6,791.48
Sunderland	3%	0.0304	\$ 2,758.93	\$ 2,927.15	\$ 593.42	\$ 1,112.23	\$ 7,391.73	\$ 2,082.41	\$ 8,329.62
Woodford	1%	0.0102	\$ 927.48	\$ 984.03	\$ 199.49	\$ 373.90	\$ 2,484.91	\$ 700.05	\$ 2,800.20
Total		1.000	\$ 90,801.60	\$ 96,338.18	\$ 19,530.73	\$ 36,605.63	\$ 243,276.14	\$ 68,536.00	\$ 274,144.00
							Amount Remaining in budget:		\$ 30,867.86

INVOICED Amount Sept. 2026

Town	% of Population	2020 Share	FY26 Quarter 4	Expected Credit to FY27 Q1 Invoices
Arlington	7%	0.0707	\$ 3,679.08	\$ 1,091.25
Bennington	44%	0.4412	\$ 22,959.41	\$ 6,809.96
Dorset	6%	0.0614	\$ 3,193.92	\$ 947.35
Glastenbury	0%	0.0003	\$ 13.48	\$ 4.00
Manchester	13%	0.1290	\$ 6,714.28	\$ 1,991.51
Pownal	9%	0.0937	\$ 4,878.48	\$ 1,447.00
Rupert	2%	0.0201	\$ 1,045.18	\$ 310.01
Sandgate	1%	0.0111	\$ 579.49	\$ 171.88
Searsburg	0%	0.0036	\$ 188.67	\$ 55.96
Shaftsbury	10%	0.1035	\$ 5,387.59	\$ 1,598.01
Stamford	2%	0.0248	\$ 1,289.25	\$ 382.40
Sunderland	3%	0.0304	\$ 1,581.24	\$ 469.01
Woodford	1%	0.0102	\$ 531.57	\$ 157.67
Total		1.000	\$ 52,041.63	\$ 15,436.00

A New Voice for Waste Reduction and Composting in Bennington County



Pitroff working at Second Chance Composting in Adams, Mass.

By Scott Grimm-Lyon

For John Pitroff waste reduction isn't just a profession—it's a passion.

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) recently welcomed Pitroff as its new Education & Outreach Coordinator. Serving residents across Bennington County's thirteen member towns, Pitroff will lead outreach efforts focused on waste reduction, recycling, composting, and proper material disposal.

Pitroff brings a unique blend of technical expertise, educational experience, and community engagement to the role. He is the Founder and CEO of Second Chance Composting in Adams, Massachusetts, and serves as the Town of Adams Alternate Commissioner to the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District. His work has earned recognition including the 2023 MassRecycle Individual Award and being named Berkshire Trendsetter's 2024 "Visionary of the Year."

A graduate of the Vermont Compost Operator Certification Program, Pitroff also holds composting certifications from

universities, MassDEP, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Since 2022, he has delivered more than 100 workshops, presentations, and community programs throughout Berkshire County focused on waste reduction and composting.

Now, he's bringing that experience across the state line.

Pitroff's composting expertise makes him uniquely qualified to support one of Vermont's most important waste reduction initiatives: keeping food scraps out of landfills. Under Vermont's Universal Recycling Law, food scraps have been banned from disposal in landfills since 2020.

Food scraps make up a significant portion of household trash. When buried in landfills, they generate methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Composting, by contrast, transforms those same materials into nutrient-rich compost that improves soil health and supports local agriculture and gardening.

"Instead of wasting food scraps in a landfill, where they create pollution, we can be part of a beautiful natural cycle that has existed since the beginning of time," Pitroff said. "Composting returns valuable nutrients to the soil, creating compost

that can be used locally to grow more food, flowers, and trees. By turning waste into a resource, we benefit our communities, our environment, and future generations."

Beyond helping residents start backyard composting systems, Pitroff will assist businesses and institutions in understanding food scrap collection options and connecting them with existing haulers and composting services. John will also be working closely with Bennington's Zero Waste committee, a group of local volunteers who have worked to make sure food scraps are being collected and composted from Bennington events including Garlic Town, the Food Truck Festival and Mayfest.

"Vermont has become a national leader in composting, and its residents deserve credit for making food scrap diversion a priority," Pitroff said. "I am excited to help continue that success by promoting a clean food scrap stream that produces high-quality compost. Contamination from items like produce stickers, wax-coated materials, and certain products labeled 'biodegradable' remains a challenge, but composting is simpler than most people realize. By encouraging good habits, we can build on Vermont's success and create even greater success in the future."



Pitroff staff's a booth at the Manchester Energy Fair.

While composting is his specialty, Pitroff is also becoming familiar with Vermont's broader recycling and stewardship programs, including battery recycling, electronics collection, paint recycling, household hazardous waste disposal, and plastic film recycling.

"One thing that surprised me was how many plastic film products can be recycled," Pitroff remarked. "Wood pellet bags, bubble wrap, and other clean plastic films can usually be taken to the same supermarket drop-off locations that accept plastic shopping bags."

As summer gets underway, residents can expect to see Pitroff at farmers markets, community festivals, school events, and outreach programs throughout Bennington County.

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance was established in 2015 by the towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford to help communities reduce waste and comply with Vermont's recycling laws.

For residents with questions about recycling, composting, hazardous waste disposal, or other waste reduction programs, Pitroff is ready to help—and eager to get started

A complete list of disposal resources and information about BCSWA programs can be found at BenningtonCountyWaste.org.

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*Ron Sadler,
Bennington*

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*Rick Burgoon,
Bennington*

'Compostable' certification makes a difference

To the Editor: Thank you for sharing the article about how plastic forks and other plastic items listed as disposable are shedding harmful microplastics into our environment ("Traditional plastic forks shed harmful microplastics," Bennington Banner, Aug. 14).

The article made a compelling case for switching to compostable products made from corn or sugar cane during your next picnic or BBQ. I'd like to encourage people in this community to make the switch, but to also be aware of greenwashing (the deceptive practice of making a product, service, or company look more environmentally friendly than it actually is). Many products are sold using the term "biodegradable" that still contain plastics, carcinogens or fluorinated chemicals. That's why consumers should look for "compostable" products instead, specifically items that have a BPI Certification label and/or are made by trusted brands like Eco Products and World Centric. These compostable products have been approved by most of our local commercial composting companies (including Casella) so you can drop them off with your food scraps at your local transfer station and feel safe mixing them into your home compost pile.

*Scott Grimm-Lyon,
program manager, Bennington
County Solid Waste Alliance*