



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: APRIL 21, 2026

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU, CHAIR; LEO CHOQUETTE; BRIAN GOMES (7:05); JAMES ROY

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR PEREIRA

Councillor Abreu called the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed. The Clerk read a Communication into the record from Councillor Pereira explaining his absence from the meeting. The Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Roy and seconded by Councillor Choquette.

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Choquette, requesting that Wendy Morrill and Tracy Wallace of South Coast Neighbors United appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to present community-based waste solutions for Greater New Bedford. (Matter ID #0429) (Referred – March 26, 2024.) (February 19, 2026 – tabled) (February 19, 2026 – next time this matter is placed on an agenda invite Anthony Novelli, Executive Director for the GNB Regional Refuse Management District, and Matthew Thomas, Legal Counsel for the GNB Regional Refuse Management District; tabled)

On motion by Councillor Roy and seconded by Councillor Choquette, the Committee VOTED: To remove the matter from the table.

The Chair recognized Mr. Anthony Novelli, Executive Director of the GNB Regional Refuse Management District (GNBRRMD). Mr. Novelli provided an overview of the remaining lifespan of the Crapo Hill Refuse Facility. He explained that the GNBRRMD is taking steps to reduce waste while also exploring ways to expand operations within the existing property. The site currently consists of two phases for waste disposal: the first phase has reached capacity, and plans are underway to cap that area. The second phase, which is currently in operation, includes six disposal cells, and they are planning to permit an additional one.

GNBRRMD is actively working to extend the life of the facility. One step they've taken is launching a program to cut down on the amount of out-of-district trash that has been brought in over the years. He also noted that the current disposal cells have about five years of capacity left, and if the new cell is approved, it would add approximately another seven years of use.

Councillor Roy asked what steps were being taken to extend the life of the site. Mr. Novelli explained that they're cutting back on waste coming in from other municipalities and working with the Department of Fleet and Facilities Management (DFFM) on outreach efforts, using social media and community events to better educate residents about recycling. He added that they're also exploring organic disposal options and looking to expand food waste programs. He pointed out that about half of the State's waste is shipped out of Massachusetts for disposal, but New Bedford does not do that.

Councillor Abreu asked how the City compared to other municipalities, including in comparison to state or federal standards. Mr. Novelli said he wasn't sure of the exact percentages, but noted that the City's curbside pickup program has been working quite well.

On motion by Councillor Choquette and seconded by Councillor Roy, the Committee VOTED: To table the matter at this time.

Councillor Roy made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Choquette.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of Committees