

# Changes and Initiatives of the Solid Waste Management Bureau

Leah McKenna, Administrator, Solid Waste Management Bureau





# Solid Waste Management Bureau

- Responsible for implementing a permitting system to regulate solid waste facilities pursuant to RSA 149-M (enacted in 1981)
- Activities:
  - Facility design review and permitting
  - Solid Waste Operator Training (SWOT)
  - Rulemaking
  - Compliance Assurance (e.g., Inspections, Audits)
  - Landfill Closure Grants Management
  - Complaint Handling
  - Technical Assistance
  - Planning



# Where we were

- Challenges with staffing and resources
  - Lack of dedicated SW program fund – reliance on general funds
  - Lack of resources due to successive general fund constraints
  - Affects agency's ability to address critical SW challenges
- Challenges with planning and engagement
  - Advancing longer-term initiatives
  - Engaging with stakeholders in a robust manner
  - Interacting with legislature to advance SW management issues



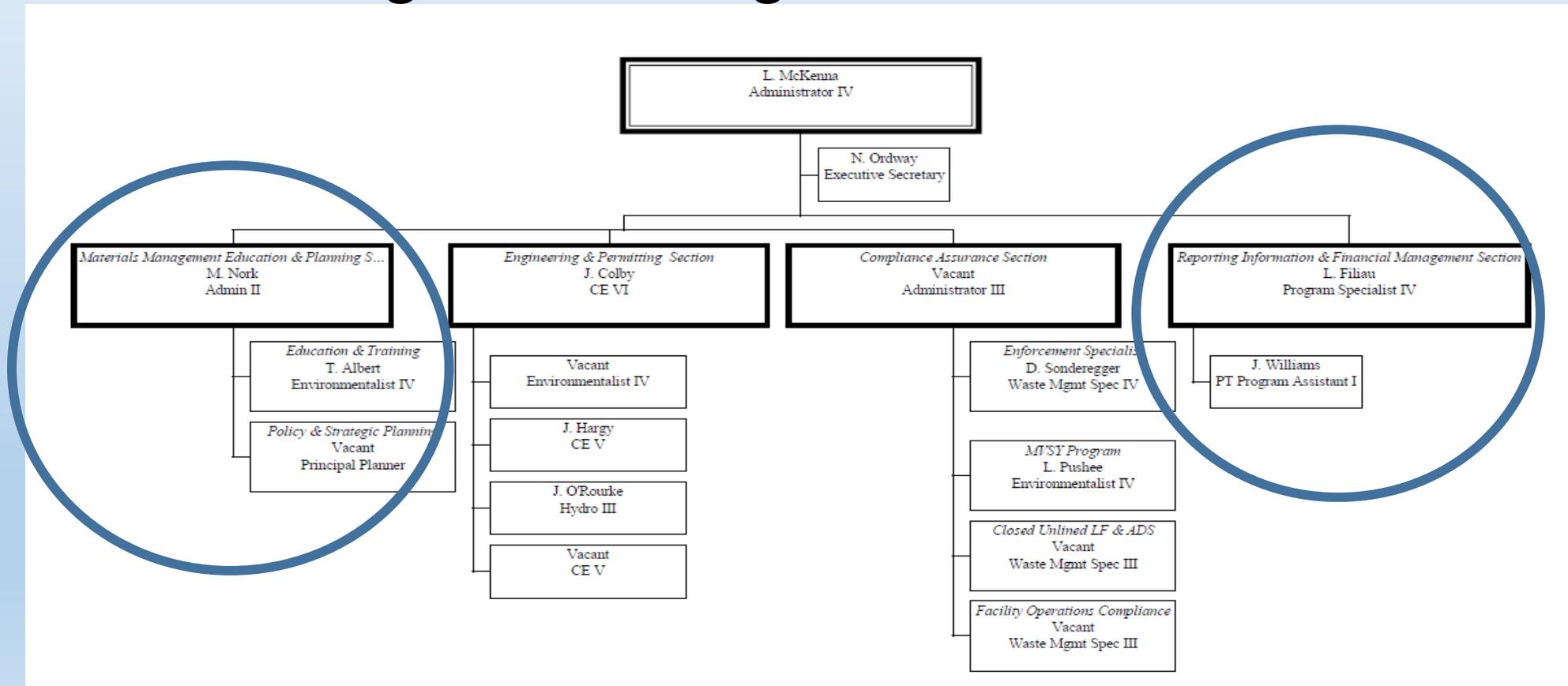
# Where we were

- NH House Bill 617
  - Effective July 2019
  - Established a recycling and solid waste management study committee
  - Committee met multiple times, took stakeholder testimony, and produced a comprehensive report on November 1, 2019
    - Included a number of legislative recommendations, increased funding to ensure NH follows through on its statutory requirements under RSA 149-M, and creation of a solid waste management commission



# Where we are

- Restructuring & Re-staffing Bureau





# Where we are

- NH House Bill 413
  - Effective August 2021
  - Establishes a solid waste working group on solid waste management planning.
  - Requires NHDES to make certain rules regarding compost.
  - Requires NHDES to update the state plan by October 1, 2022.
  - Establishes a statewide solid waste disposal reduction goal.



# Where we are

- HB 413: Participate in Solid Waste Working Group
  - Established to assist DES in planning our state's solid waste future.
  - “To adequately prepare the state for future solid waste challenges, New Hampshire must review and update its solid waste management laws and policies and its solid waste management plan, engage in vigorous long-range planning, and develop creative, effective solutions.”



# Where we are

- HB 413: Revise and Update Compost Rules
  - Rule revisions in-process for several years; Stakeholder workgroup convened 2017-2018.
  - Expecting to release proposed rules for public comment in coming weeks.
  - Clarify requirements and remove impediments to development of additional composting infrastructure.



# Where we're going

- HB 413: Update State Solid Waste Management Plan
  - NHDES working on update to State SW Management Plan
  - Provide a vision for SW management
    - Encourage preferential waste management practices
    - Ensure capacity for management & disposal of NH's waste
    - Identify challenges and potential solutions



# Where we're going

- HB 413: New Solid Waste Disposal Reduction Goal

RSA 149-M:2 – Waste Reduction Goal

~~I. The general court declares that the goal of the state, by the year 2000, is to achieve a 40 percent minimum weight diversion of solid waste landfilled or incinerated on a per capita basis. Diversion shall be measured with respect to changes in waste generated and subsequently landfilled or incinerated in New Hampshire. The goal of weight diversion may be achieved through source reduction, recycling, reuse, and composting, or any combination of such methods.]~~

~~II. [In exercising any and all powers conferred upon the department under this chapter, the department shall use and consider criteria relevant to the waste reduction goal and disposal hierarchy established in RSA 149-M:2 and 149-M:3. The department shall not take any action relative to the 40 percent weight reduction goal which causes the municipalities organized under RSA 53-A and 1986, 139 or RSA 53-B to violate or incur penalties under legal obligations existing on June 26, 1990.]~~ ***The general court further declares a goal to reduce the quantity by weight of solid waste disposed by 25 percent by the year 2030, and by 45 percent by the year 2050. For the purposes of this goal, disposal reduction targets shall apply, on a combined basis, to disposal of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris, and shall be measured against baseline quantities of these wastes disposed of in the year 2018. For the purposes of this goal only, municipal solid waste means solid waste generated at residences, commercial or industrial establishments, and institutions, but excludes automobile scrap and other motor vehicle waste, infectious waste, asbestos waste, contaminated soil and other absorbent media, sludge, industrial process waste, and ash other than ash from household stoves. Disposal reduction may be achieved through source reduction as well as diversion including but not limited to reuse, recycling, and composting. For the purposes of this section "goal" shall not establish a mandate.***



# Where we're going

- Establish General Permit Rules for certain sectors:
  - Motor Vehicle Salvage Yards & Crushers
  - Scrap metal facilities
  - Publicly owned transfer stations
- Wide-scale rule re-adoption in 2024



# Where we're going

- Rebuild Compliance Assurance Program
  - Hire a Compliance Assurance Section Manager and inspection staff
  - Build a culture of self-administered compliance assurance among all regulated facilities
  - Assure that all SW Facilities are operated and closed in compliance with permit requirements, Solid Waste Rules, and NH Statute
  - Conduct facility inspections and review annual facility reports



Leah McKenna

[leah.l.mckenna@des.nh.gov](mailto:leah.l.mckenna@des.nh.gov)

(603) 271-2945