



**WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 14th, 2025 1:30 P.M. at the DISTRICT OFFICE**

MINUTES

The Wabash County Solid Waste Management District held a Board of Director's Meeting on Monday, April 14th, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the district office located at 1101 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, Indiana.

Attending:

Board Members: Mayor Scott Long – President, Tyler Niccum – Vice President, Cheryl Ross – Secretary, Jeff Dawes – Member, Mitzi Pilgrim – Member, Gary Montel – Member

Absent: Nick Kopkey – Member, Ken Ahlfeld – Controller

Staff Attending: Leann Kooi – Executive Director, Marisa Shrock – Recording Secretary

Others: Doug Lehman – Attorney (via Zoom)

Call to Order: Mayor Long called the meeting to order.

Approval of March 10th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:

Board members reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 10th, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the March 10th Meeting Minutes; Ms. Ross seconded. Motion approved. (5-0)

Financial Report & Claims:

Ms. Kooi delivered unusual claims in Mr. Ahlfeld's absence.

- Ms. Kooi addressed that one higher-than-usual claim comes from repairing one side of the exit gate on the drop site. Kooi noted that the other side was repaired by the same company but was paid for by the party that damaged it.
- Ms. Kooi informed that equipment replacement was necessary for the HHW Warehouse including an aerosol puncture capture system so that WCSWMD may recycle the cans with Metal Source, and some hazardous containment units.
- Ms. Kooi noted that tipping fees continue to hold their increase. Kooi speculates that part of that increase is likely due to the heavy rains lately; reason aside this is beneficial for WCSWMD.

Mr. Dawes motioned to approve the brief financial report; Mr. Niccum seconded. Motion approved. (5-0)

Director's Report:

- Ms. Kooi reported that in March, WCSWMD served 392 residents and took in approximately 13,000lbs of materials which is still low, but it should go up any day now as WCSWMD enters busy season.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the mascot contest winner was Raine the Raccoon, and WCSWMD is in the middle of getting quotes to manufacture the mascot uniform. Kooi noted that she has received a few quotes already and it looks like the project will range from \$4,000 - \$6,000, so she will have to assess if this project is worthwhile.
- Mayor Long suggested Ms. Kooi get in contact with Walmart to discuss possible grant funding; Ms. Kooi informed she has had little luck with correspondence so far.
- Ms. Kooi addressed that WCSWMD had two closures in the past month, one March 28th and the other April 4th due to staff contracting Covid and Noro Virus.





- Ms. Kooi mentioned her participation in the Health Department’s “Walking Wednesdays” on April 9th, and announced they have plans invite her back in August when the participation and weather are better.
- Ms. Kooi announced that the annual Rain Barrel Workshop WCSWMD hosted with Steve Johnson, went very well. Ms. Kooi noted that one participant runs a Master Gardener Classes, and seemed very interested in partnering with WCSWMD in the instance adult focused education segments are created, like Master Recyclers Classes. The Master Recyclers Class is a 2–3-part class to learn the ins and outs of local and national recycling. Kooi noted she would have to get in touch with Hamilton County as they recently held this program.
- Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD will be closed April 23rd for Earth Day; staff will tour Paper Works as Kooi discusses the recycling committee she is trying to start up with their management. Following the Paper Works tour, staff will assist Grow Wabash County in picking up trash and recycling in the community.
- Ms. Kooi announced that the previously discussed Battery Training Program is on hold at this time, while the organizer in Allen County has been faced with the federal grant freeze. Ms. Kooi will update if there are any changes.
- Ms. Kooi informed that she and two employees will be out of office May 7th in Indianapolis to get the employees Haz-whopper Training for hazardous chemical handling. Kooi noted that that training is being offered at a heavily discounted rate, so she jumped on the opportunity as not many entities provide this training anymore. WCSWMD used to be one of those entities, but Kooi noted that she does not have the certification to provide that training.
- Ms. Kooi informed that WCSWMD will be gearing up for the annual Tox Away Days. May 31st will be the first event and will be held at WCSWMD’s facility. June 14th will be the second event and will take place at the North Manchester Street Dept.

New Business:

- None to report.

Old Business:

- Mr. Lehman reminded that Mr. Ahlfeld presented a question March 10th at the last meeting. However, since Mr. Ahlfeld was not present, Mr. Lehman assured he would address it in the upcoming meeting.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Lehman informed of a new requirement starting July 1st that may require WCSWMD board Meetings to be live streamed. He will continue to look into whether WCSWMD will need to adopt this practice.

Adjournment:

Mayor Long motioned to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting

Next Meetings:

- Board of Directors – Monday, May 12th, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Marisa Shrock, Recording Secretary

Mayor Scott Long, Board President

