



**WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
JOINT BOARD OF CAC/BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MONDAY, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 1:30 P.M. at the DISTRICT OFFICE**

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**MINUTES**

The Wabash County Solid Waste Management District held a joint Board of Finance/CAC/Board of Director's Meeting on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the district office located at 1101 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, Indiana.

**Attending:**

**Board Members:** Mayor Scott Long – Member, Jeff Dawes – Member, Cheryl Ross – Member, Tyler Niccum – Member, Mitzi Pilgrim – Member

**Absent:** Nick Kopkey – Member, Gary Montel – Member, Amber White – Grow Wabash Co. Rep., Alex Downard – Grow Wabash County Rep.

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

**CAC Member** – John Haney – Ford Meter Box, Matt Stone – Wabash City Schools

**Others:** Ken Ahlfeld – Controller via Zoom, Doug Lehman - Attorney

**Call to Order:** Ms. Kooi called the Board of Directors meeting to order.

**Election of Officers:**

Ms. Kooi called for nomination of officers.

*Mr. Niccum placed vote for Mayor Scott Long as Board President; seconded by Mr. Dawes. Motioned approved. (5-0)*

*Mayor Scott Long placed vote for Mr. Tyler Niccum as Board Vice President; Mr. Dawes seconded. Motion approved. (5-0)*

*Mr. Niccum placed vote for Cheryl Ross as Board Secretary; seconded by Mayor Long. Motion approved. (5-0)*

**Designation of Recording Secretary:**

*Ms. Kooi placed vote for Marisa Shrock to retain title of Recording Secretary; seconded by Mayor Long. Motion approved. (5-0)*

**Approval of December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes:**

Board members reviewed the meeting minutes from December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.

*Mr. Dawes motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Mayor Long seconded. Motion carried (5-0)*

**Financial Report & Claims:**

- Mr. Ahlfeld reported the Board of Finance meeting will take place in February, but he would provide what was prepared.
- Mr. Ahlfeld discussed current cash balances and stated WCSWMD has approx. 11 ½ years of operating funds left.
- Mr. Ahlfeld discussed the difference in Republic tipping fees going from \$370,000.00 in 2023 to \$312,000.00. Mr. Ahlfeld noted that he would continue to monitor and the board will continue to discuss the tipping fee rate and passed floor to Ms. Kooi to deliver unusual claims.
- Ms. Kooi reported two large claims. WCSWMD discovered a possible health and air quality hazard with the middle building vent system, and Air Quality Solutions came in to perform air and surface contamination testing for \$1,200.00. The issue was





confirmed and Paul Davis Remediation professionals were called in to remove damage and clean the affected area and venting systems; the work lasted two full work days and cost \$6,500.00.

- Ms. Kooi also reminded the board that the Republic Services waste & recycling bill was unusually large because it encompassed December 2024 with January 2025.
- Ms. Kooi informed of a substantial tree limb that fell on the storage barn; American Eagle removed the hazard with heavy equipment.
- Ms. Kooi mentioned lastly that the WCSWMD credit card balance was higher than usual due to new tires for the district truck.
- Mr. Ahlfeld wrapped up the financial report by reminding all that the newly elected officers would need to be added to the bank signatory card as soon as possible.

*Mr. Dawes motioned to approve the financial report and claims; Ms. Ross seconded. Motion approved. (5-0)*

#### **Director's Report:**

- Ms. Kooi reported WCSWMD saw 6,779 residents and 97 businesses & NFPs in 2024.
- Ms. Kooi reported WCSWMD took in 331,051 lbs. of household hazardous waste, lower than usual due to having to limit non-residential drop offs to 220lbs a month per regulations from the state.
- Ms. Kooi reported 978,000 lbs. of recycling taken in 2024
- Ms. Kooi shared an update on the exit gate repair stating that the project has been pushed to Spring due to weather constraints. Ms. Kooi added that Brainard Snow Removal just hit the other exit gate causing damage. They will be out this week to assess the damage and have offered to help pay for the restoration. Ms. Kooi stated she would like to install some sort of blockade inside the drop site to protect the post in the future.
- Mr. Niccum suggested using dense metal post blockades as opposed to concrete
- Ms. Kooi announced the annual Tox Away events have been scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> in Wabash and June 14<sup>th</sup> for North Manchester. Kooi extended invitations to present company to volunteer their time for the events.
- Ms. Kooi announced that IDEM will be awarding their tire amnesty grant again this year; WCSWMD has applied again and news should arrive in February of grantees.
- Ms. Kooi reported that WCSWMD hosted 22 education presentations, participated in 6 community events, and that she went to 3 conferences in 2024.
- Ms. Kooi shared that WCSWMD will be looking into getting a mascot as a tool for education; the mascot will be chosen through means of contest.
- Ms. Kooi announced WCSWMD will be getting a YouTube channel to publish board meeting recordings as well as host educational videos.
- Ms. Kooi discussed her intentions to establish more community-oriented partnerships in 2025 starting with the Lithium Battery Disposal Program. Ms. Kooi was enlightened to the serious hazard lithium batteries pose to public safety during her last conference in 2024. Ms. Kooi reported that even in Allen County, the safety officials were ill-prepared to handle lithium battery combustion instances when they were faced with several building burnings due to these batteries. Ms. Kooi stated that Allen County's Director has been awarded a \$1.7 million grant to provide training for these such instances and that WCSWMD will be the first to participate and become a training facility in their program.
- Ms. Kooi presented her knowledge and concern to the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee), and will now be working with Fire Chief Oswalt to get Wabash safety personnel into the lithium training program

#### **Public Comment:**





- Mr. Haney brought anonymous public comment forth about getting curbside recycling in Wabash and if that discussion was current. Ms. Kooi stated that curbside recycling would need to be enacted by the city itself as it would be out of WCSWMD's scope physically and financially. Mayor Long added that unfortunately the market for recycling has become almost non-existent and inferred the costs are too great at this time.

**Adjournment:**

*Mayor Long motioned to adjourn the Joint Board/CAC meeting; Mr. Dawes seconded. Motion carried (5-0)*

**Next Meetings:**

- Board of Directors & Board of Finance – Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

Marisa Shrock, Recording Secretary

Mayor Scott Long, Board President

