



**WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, May 12th, 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, May 12th, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the district office located at 1101 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, Indiana.

Attending:

Board Members: Cheryl Ross – Secretary, Jeff Dawes – Member, Gary Montel – Member, Tyler Niccum – Vice President (Via Phone)

Absent: Mayor Scott Long – President, Mitzi Pilgrim – Member, Nick Kopkey – Member

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

Others: Doug Lehman – Attorney, Ken Ahlfeld – Controller

Call to Order: Ms. Kooi called the meeting to order.

Approval of April 14th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:

Board members reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 14th, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Dawes motioned to approve the April 14th Meeting Minutes; Mr. Montel seconded. Mr. Niccum voted to approved the meeting minutes. Motion approved. (4-0)

Financial Report & Claims:

Mr. Ahlfeld took the floor.

- Mr. Ahlfeld delivered the financial report and noted that tipping fees are up \$29,000.00 still.
- Mr. Ahlfeld noted that in 2024 WCSWMD burned through \$30,000.00 of its own money, but the current operating loss is down some.
- Mr. Ahlfeld acknowledged Ms. Kooi's concerns on the loss, but assured that at that rate of loss WCSWMD would be able to operate a projected 20 years still.
- Mr. Ahlfeld noted that WCSWMD is in a better position than the previous year based off the recycling bill going from \$30,000.00/month in 2024 to \$13,000.00/month this year through a different company.
- Ms. Kooi informed that WCSWMD had an expensive month as warehouse materials needed restocked, the newer truck needed the windshield replaced, and weeding and lawncare bills came in for the season.

Ms. Ross motioned to approve the financial report; Mr. Dawes seconded. Mr. Niccum voted to approve via phone. Motion approved. (4-0)

Director's Report:

- Ms. Kooi reported that in April WCSWMD helped 520 residents and took in approximately 21,000lbs of HHW materials.
- Ms. Kooi informed that WCSWMD's collaboration with Visit Wabash County for their Earth Day Clean Up and it was a success. WCSWMD's team took on the roadway near the Rivers of Wabash and Walmart. The success of this event led to an in-office meeting with Kristine Floor and Amy Ford recruiting Ms. Kooi to be an ambassador for an event in 2026 called





Litter is Lame for the whole month of March geared toward monitoring community areas and cleaning up these spotted areas. Republic Services is also partnering with Visit Wabash County providing bins and some monetary responsibilities.

- Ms. Kooi explained that WCSWMD will provide aid to the new Visit Wabash County group by providing the compostable bags, and buckets for recycling and trash collection, and allowing use of the facility trash bin.
- Ms. Kooi informed that Roann's town cleanup has already been taken, and Lagro's town clean up materials will be dropped off this week.
- Ms. Kooi informed that May 7th WCSWMD was closed as two employees completed chemical awareness training. This training was heavily reduced to \$50, so she had to jump on the opportunity.
- Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD had our part-time employee announce his wish to retire, so WCSWMD is currently looking for a part-time materials handler for the warehouse. Kooi announced that she had already held two interviews for the position and has a third scheduled.
- Ms. Kooi announced the Tox Away Day dates and that WCSWMD is working towards these events by getting the new signage and advertisements out in the papers and radio stations. Kooi noted staff have been contacting volunteers.
- Ms. Kooi announced that the IDEM's Tire Grant finalization has gone through.
- Mr. Montel asked if there would be an impact to WCSWMD once the new tire recycling plant is up and running. This question led to open discussion on whether the plant had made any progress toward opening; no further talks are known about at this time.
- Ms. Kooi assured that once the facility in question opens, she will look to establish a contact there to discuss partnership. Outside of Liberty Tire there is not a close tire recycling company, so she is eager to work with the new facility once they are operational.
- Ms. Ross added a brief explanation of the what the tire recycling facility's projected process entails.
- Ms. Kooi reaffirmed her eagerness to possibly work with this new business in the future if they can get up and running.

New Business:

- None to report.

Old Business:

- Ms. Kooi discussed the need for drop site camera system due to the continued contamination issue. WCSWMD originally received a quote through Sound Vision last year for a security system that included HD cameras, extending Wi-Fi, and installing a monitor in the office for approximately \$2,500.00. Kooi noted this as the cheapest professional option. Kooi reached out for a new quote and though they recommend different cameras it should be around the same quoted price.
- Kooi noted that instead of going with Sound Vision, WCSWMD could invest in a Blink system, however, she acknowledged the short comings of this system being maintenance and installation by staff instead of professionals.
- Ms. Ross inquired as to a continual service fee for the security system storage, and also what will be done with the captured information.
- Ms. Kooi addressed Ms. Ross's concerns and inquiry. Kooi noted that she does need to double check with a local judge on what all information needs captured to prosecute.
- Ms. Kooi announced that she found a mascot company to produce the mascot costume for \$3,600.00 which has been the cheapest quote; she intends to move forward with this.

Public Comment:

- No Public Comment.





Adjournment:

Ms. Kooi motioned to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting.

Next Meetings:

- Board of Directors – Monday, June 9th, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Marisa Shrock, Recording Secretary

Mayor Scott Long, Board President

