



**WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CAC MEETING
MONDAY, August 11th, 2025 1:30 P.M. at the DISTRICT OFFICE**

MINUTES

The Wabash County Solid Waste Management District held a Joint Board of Directors & CAC Meeting on Monday, August 11th, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the district office located at 1101 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, Indiana.

Attending:

Board Members: Mayor Scott Long – President, Cheryl Ross – Secretary, Jeff Dawes – Member, Mitzi Pilgrim – Member

Absent: Nick Kopkey – Member, Gary Montel – Member, Tyler Niccum- Member

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

Others: Doug Lehman – Attorney, Ken Ahlfeld – Controller

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

Approval of July 14th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:

Jeff Dawes motioned to approve the board meeting minutes, Cheryl Ross seconded. Motion carried 4-0

Financial Report & Claims:

- M. Ahlfeld reported that tipping fees are up 12.5% so far for 2025.
- Mr. Ahlfeld reported that the cash balance for the District as of the end of July is \$833,999.
- Mr. Ahlfeld handed the floor to Ms. Kooi for any unusual claims. Ms. Kooi reported that the renewal for insurance, as well as property and liability, had come in, and the District ended up paying close to \$12,000.00.

Cheryl Ross motioned to approve the financial statement, Mitzi Pilgrim seconded. Motion carried 4-0

Director's Report:

- Ms. Kooi reported on the accident that happened on District property when a drunk driver drove through and damaged the old vinyl fencing that marked the lane. The insurance company is asking if we would like to be paid restitution for damages. The board decided to let the insurance company do a damage evaluation instead of the District coming up with a sum based on receipts.
- Ms. Kooi reported that the compliance audit is still ongoing. The Auditor's lawyer has questioned the justification of our education budget, to which Ken Ahlfeld replied, stating all of our mandates via email regarding education and advertising.
- Ms. Kooi stated that the continued disregard of district policies by the public during unloading has resulted in the creation of a liability waiver to be signed by residents who do not wish to follow safety policies. Doug Lehman reported that he will take a look and make any adjustments necessary to the document.
- Ms. Kooi reported that North Manchester has seen increased participation at the drop site located at the Street Barn. Ms. Kooi stated that it is time to decide whether to add additional pickups or additional bins. Ms. Kooi said that she believes adding 2 bins will be more beneficial at this time. Two additional bins will be \$1100 extra per month on our contracted amount. The annual 10% increase in services will start at the beginning of September, so the new bins will be added to September's billing cycle if the board decides to move forward with additional bins. The Board of Directors discussed the new budgeted amount





for the contract for recycling and the need for an additional appropriation in the new year to cover the costs of the increase if we move forward with additional bins. The board decided to add two additional bins starting in September.

- Ms. Kooi discussed two different businesses using the drop site recycling in North Manchester, and how it is adding to the space problem because they drop so much off at once. Doug Lehmen discussed the District's ability to block businesses that pay the user fee, to which Ms. Kooi responded that the District grants a \$24 incentive credit to businesses for the hazardous waste program, since the drop site recycling is residential only. Ms. Kooi stated that she would reach out to these companies to discuss the use of the bins.
- Ms. Kooi reported that OJ Neighbors is starting a new recycling program in the classroom, and that they requested to use the bins to drop off their recycling. Ms. Kooi is allowing the teachers to use the drop site recycling program until OJ Neighbors can supply their own bins to the school.
- Ms. Kooi reported that the new partnership for "The Great March Clean up" is ongoing, and the first meeting will be held on August 25th.

New Business:

- Ms. Kooi reported that the District is asking for a 5% increase in salaries for the 2026 budget.
- Ms. Kooi stated that the increase in Technical Services is to cover a small increase for Ken Ahlfeld's office, bringing the annual budget estimate to \$775,035.00, almost a \$24,000 increase from 2025.

Old Business:

Public Comment:

Adjournment:

Mayor Long motioned to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting.

Next Meetings:

- Board of Directors – Monday September 8th, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Marisa Shrock, Recording Secretary

Mayor Scott Long, Board President

