



**WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF FINANCE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, February 9th, 2026 1:30 P.M. at the DISTRICT OFFICE**

MINUTES

The Wabash County Solid Waste Management District held a Board of Finance & Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, February 9th, 2026, 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, Gary Montel – Member

Absent: Mitzi Pilgrim – Member, Nick Kopkey – Member, Ken Ahlfeld – Controller

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

Others: Doug Lehman – Attorney, John Haney – Public

Call to Order: Mayor Long called the Board of Finance meeting to order.

Board of Finance:

Ms. Kooi presented members with copies of the required financial report that Mr. Ahlfeld assembled ahead of his absence.

- Ms. Kooi reported that WCSWMD had an end of year cash balance of \$762,568.00; the interest earned was \$4,222.00.
- Ms. Kooi noted \$30,435.00 in Capital Expenditures for fixed assets.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the cash and investment percentage, which does not include the \$300,000.00 CD as it has not reached maturity, currently is 0.548%.
- Ms. Kooi shared that the total operating disbursement was \$13,042.00. Ms. Kooi noted that, should interest earned be taken into account, the total loss would be \$8,820.00, which is better than in the last three to four years, when WCSWMD has seen \$30,000.00-\$40,000.00 in losses.
- Ms. Kooi reported that the special assessment fee totaled \$282,325.00, without which WCSWMD's total losses would have totaled \$291,145.00.
- Ms. Kooi informed that with the current amount of cash and operating losses, WCSWMD's operation could be sustained for 58.4 years. Kooi notes that if WCSWMD were to lose landfill tipping fees, operations could be sustained for only approximately 2.5 years.
- Ms. Kooi relayed that members who have any questions or want any additional information should reach out to Mr. Ahlfeld directly. Kooi noted that, if Mr. Ahlfeld finds something was missed, he will bring it forth at the next meeting.

Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the Board of Finance Report. Mr. Dawes seconded; motion approved. (4-0)

Adjournment: Mayor Long adjourned the Board of Finance meeting.

Called to Order: Mayor Long called the Board of Directors meeting to order.

Approval of January 12th, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes:

Board members reviewed the meeting minutes from the January 12th, 2026 meeting.





- Mr. Haney noted a correction needed. Ms. Shrock acknowledged and marked for amendment.

Ms. Ross motioned to approve the January 12th, 2026 meeting minutes with corrections; Mr. Montel seconded. Motion approved. (4-0)

Financial Report & Claims:

- Ms. Kooi reported that there has been an issue receiving the landfill tipping fee checks from Republic Services. Kooi notes that the company has claimed personnel changes as the catalyst for the issues.
- Ms. Kooi informed that Republic Services used to send an employee to hand deliver the checks and receive their receipt. Kooi notes that since discontinuing the practice, there have been several extended delays in receiving the payments. Kooi added that should the delay of payment continue past the 10th of each month, contractual accountability will need enforced in the form of late fees.
- Ms. Kooi reported a large claim from Environmental Enterprise Inc. (EEI), as the annual chemical pick-up was completed.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the claim for Park-U-Load was necessary waste removal from the recent roof replacement.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the American Eagle landscaping claim comes from a failure to send WCSWMD a bill from October.

Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the financial report and claims; Mr. Dawes seconded. Motion approved. (4-0)

Director's Report:

- Ms. Kooi reported that on January 13th she did a lithium-ion battery presentation for Wabash Middle School & High School that covered grades 5th – 12th. Kooi counts the event as a great success as it has led to further collaborations.
- Ms. Kooi informed that after January 13th presentation, she was approached by Sam Hipskind who had interest in having a presentation at St. Bernards School. Kooi noted that nothing is scheduled yet, but she is excited about the opportunity.
- Ms. Kooi reported that Huntington University environmental students came for a tour of WCSWMDs facility.
- Ms. Kooi informed that she received an email from Kathryn Lisinicchia, chairwoman of the Mayor's Advisory Council for Environmental Stewardship (M.A.C.E.S) for the city of Huntington. Ms. Lisinicchia requested a presentation on WCSWMD programs for Wabash County. Ms. Lisinicchia informed Ms. Kooi that the council she serves is focusing on reducing residential waste within their county in 2026; the presentation is scheduled for February 19th.
- Ms. Kooi reported that The Great March Clean Up organized by Destination Wabash County is now accepting volunteers. WCSWMD already ordered and delivered the compostable bags for the month long clean up initiative. Additionally, event organizers and Ms. Kooi have been working closely with Republic Services to establish drop off locations for any hazardous items volunteers may discover. Kooi noted that Republic Services will supply 6 roll off bins in different locations across the county, and will provide two additional roll-away bins for salvageable recycle items that WCSWMD will collect.
- Mr. Haney inquired as to whom would be overseeing the recycling collection for each group.
- Ms. Kooi informed she would provide handouts for volunteer groups explaining what can and cannot be recycled.
- Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD employees will participate on March 18th in the same spot as last year. Kooi added that board member, Mitzi Pilgrim, joined the WCSWMD team and offered the same opportunity for any other members to join the team. Mr. Haney agreed to be tentatively added to the WCSWMD team.
- Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD's focus will be on developing the curriculum for the new Master Recycler Course for adults. Classes to be held every Thursday in April, with April 30th being the graduation ceremony. Kooi shared that the goal of offering this course is not only to educate but to create residential advocates. She explained that the Master Recycler Course will dive deep into not only recycling or the WCSWMD operations, but also where the funding comes from.
- Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD has a new partnership developing with the Wabash City Schools PCAP group. Kooi noted that this future partnership will not be like the partnership established with Manchester Schools PCAP students. Science teacher, Mr. Ryan Evans, would like to collaborate on topics like composting or the different types of chemicals





found when scrapping electronics like TVs, so that students may apply what they've learned in science in a real-world application.

- Ms. Kooi informed that bay doors #2, 6, and 9 are all back in full operation. Kooi noted her intent not to use Fairmount Door for future projects as there were several severe lapses in communication that resulted in the company believing the project had been finished when WCSWMD still had bay doors inoperable. Kooi added that work that was scheduled for 1-2 days has turned into a month-long venture.
- Mr. Niccum suggested a contractor out of Kokomo that the city used when the new Street Department building went up, that he would look up and pass along to Ms. Kooi.
- Mayor Long inquired as to whether WCSWMD had posted about the coming closure for February 10th, due to lack of staff available; Ms. Kooi confirmed.

New Business:

Old Business:

Public Comment:

- Mr. Dawes inquired as to if WCSWMD would be able to request direct deposit to receive the landfill tipping fee checks from Republic Services.
- Mayor Long seconded asking Republic Services if they would be willing to establish ACH payment for the landfill tipping fees WCSWMD receives each month to avoid further delays.
- Ms. Kooi inquired if a resolution would need created to accept ACH payments from Republic services should they agree; Mr. Lehman clarified that if WCSWMD was trying to make ACH payments then a resolution would be necessary, however, he did not believe one necessary to accept payment.

Adjournment:

Mayor Long motioned to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting

Next Meetings:

- Board of Directors – Monday, March 9th, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Marisa Shrock, Recording Secretary

Mayor Scott Long, Board President

Tyler Niccum, Board Vice President

Cheryl Ross, Board Secretary

