



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

MINUTES

The Wabash County Solid Waste Management District held a Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, March 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, Mitzi Pilgrim – Member, Cheryl Ross – Secretary, Jeff Dawes – Member, Gary Montel – Member, Nick Kopkey – Member

Absent: Tyler Niccum – Vice President, Ken Ahlfeld – Controller

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

Others: Doug Lehman – Attorney

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

Approval of February 9th, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes:

Board members reviewed the meeting minutes from the February 9th, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Dawes motioned to approve the February 9th, 2026 meeting minute; Mr. Montel seconded. Motion approved. (5-0)

Financial Report & Claims:

- Mr. Ahlfeld wrote the financial report for Ms. Kooi to deliver in preparation for his absence.
- Ms. Kooi delivered Mr. Ahlfeld's report with particular notes on landfill tipping fees for January and February being 32% lower than 2025 an approximate difference of \$18,000.00 for 2026.
- Ms. Kooi relayed that Mr. Ahlfeld noted reason for concern should the shortfall continue with tipping fees as it is one of two main sources of operating income for WCSWMD.
- Ms. Kooi relayed that the operating income for January and February was a deficit of \$118,952.00 which is \$36,000.00 more than the 2025 deficit.
- Ms. Kooi illustrated that should that deficit trend continue, it would translate to a 12-month loss of \$713,000.00.
- Ms. Kooi explained that the loss does include an unusually large claim from the recent roof replacement of \$29,950.00 and an increase of approximately \$6,000.00 for Materials Management.
- Ms. Kooi informed that had the roof replacement and the \$6,000.00 extra expense in Materials Management not occurred, this year's loss would have been nearly identical last year's numbers.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the annual reporting required by the State Board of Accounts was submitted February 26th.
- Ms. Kooi relayed that after numerous payroll preparation issues through ADP and several QuickBooks glitches with reconciliation difficulties, this year's bank reconciliation was nearly accurate to the exact penny.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the cash balance came in at \$643,787.00 as of February 25th 2026.
- Ms. Kooi addressed WCSWMD will have to resend the check for the EEI claim from last month due to continued postal issues.

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





Director's Report:

- Ms. Kooi reported that the Annual Rain Barrel Workshop sign up is almost full; the event will be held March 28th at WCSWMD from 10am-Noon as a partnership with the Wabash River Defenders (WRD). Kooi informed that WRD will be sponsoring participant's first barrel with their 319 (h) IDEM grant, taking the cost from \$65 to \$15, which has had major impact on the event participation.
- Ms. Kooi explained that in addition to WRD sponsoring barrels, Treasurer, Steve Johnson would be presenting and assisting her in holding the work shop as he has done for years.
- Ms. Kooi informed that The Great March Clean Up set forth by Destination Wabash County is officially underway. Kooi noted that she would be leaving after the meeting to collect a pile of hazardous items the first group had already gathered.
- Ms. Kooi informed that WCSWMD's team is set to go out and participate in The Great March Clean Up March 18th at 10am. Kooi extended an invitation to join the WCSWMD team to those in attendance.
- Ms. Kooi relayed that the Master Recycler Course has begun to fill up. Kooi noted intention to increase advertisement efforts in the next two weeks before the March 20th deadline. In regards to the Master Recycler Course, Ms. Kooi, added that Living Well has offered to let WCSWMD use their space across from the museum for a few of the classes. Depending on the interest in the course, Ms. Kooi will determine if WCSWMD will need to host another round in the Fall.
- Ms. Kooi announced the 2026 Tox Away dates are currently scheduled for Saturday, May 9th for Wabash and Saturday, June 13th for North Manchester. Kooi noted that the event for Wabash is a bit earlier than usual due to vendor availability.
- Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD won the IDEM Waste Tire Grant of \$10,000.00 for the third year in a row.
- Ms. Kooi stated that Fairmount Door finished the installation of new lift units for doors 2, 6, and 9; payment can be sent.
- Ms. Kooi informed that WCSWMD has experienced recurrent plumbing issues in the last 3 weeks to the extent of complete loss of facilities for WCSWMD and our tenants up at Central Dispatch. Since the discovery, two outside cleanouts have been installed for better access to the main line. Two cleanouts were deemed necessary due to the length of the main line and the fact that the original cleanout at the left of the warehouse was stated as a directional access in the opposite direction to the main sewage line. The company sent to help restore the facilities did eventually open the line after the cleanout were installed, however, Kooi noted that the WCSWMD office toilet started presenting issue again before today's meeting. Ms. Kooi explained that the next steps will include running a drain camera through the main line to assess the state of the cast iron pipe as heavy scale was noted during the jetting service performed.
- Ms. Kooi informed that looking to the future, WCSWMD will need to do a minor remodel of the warehouse bathroom facilities. Kooi stressed the damage to the floor due to the excessive water from all the plumbing issues as well as the building's degraded original shop sink that throws most of the water over the basin completely. Kooi noted that all the lighting fixtures and ballasts need to be replaced as most no longer function to the point Ms. Kooi had to purchase a standing lamp from Walmart.
- Ms. Kooi explained that in addition to the plumbing issues and needed bathroom remodel, the back outside access door needs replaced in full as every rainfall floods the hallway to the warehouse to the extent that absorbent mats cannot always keep up and creates serious hazard.
- Ms. Kooi informed that last on the list of need repairs is Central Dispatch's exterior air conditioning unit that maintains temperature control for the radio room electronics; the unit is sinking into the ground and will need to be addressed.

New Business:

- Ms. Kooi readdressed the recurrent issues with the postal service and its strain on Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable. Ms. Kooi added that landfill tipping fees have been over a month late regularly, our checks have not been reaching their destination either.





- Ms. Kooi inquired as if ACH payments may be an option going forward particularly in regards to Republic Services.
- Ms. Ross inquired if checks have needed to be stopped because of the USPS issues and brought concern for the cost to WCSWMD.
- Ms. Kooi confirmed that several checks have need stop payments, and new checks were issued due to the original being lost in the postal system.
- Mr. Kopkey inquired as to what platform WCSWMD is proposing to pay Republic Services to which Ms. Kooi explained that using Republic's online bill portal would be the easiest, however, she is unsure if the contract would allow such transaction.
- Ms. Ross inquired if WCSWMD could use priority mail services until a decision is made regarding ACH payments; Ms. Kooi confirmed it possible, but noted that Republic has been sending the tipping fees first-class with Fed-Ex without much change in time delivered.

Old Business:

Public Comment:

Adjournment:

Mayor Long motioned to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting

Next Meetings:

- Board of Directors – Monday, April 13th, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Marisa Shrock, Recording Secretary

Mayor Scott Long, Board President

Tyler Niccum, Board Vice President

Cheryl Ross, Board Secretary

