



**WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, April 13th, 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, April 13th, 2026, 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, Gary Montel – Member

Absent: Tyler Niccum – Vice President, Nick Kopkey – 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 Board of Directors meeting to order.

Approval of March 9th, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes:

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

Mr. Dawes motioned to approve the March 9th, 2026 meeting minutes; Ms. Pilgrim seconded. Motion approved. (4-0)

Financial Report & Claims:

- Mr. Ahlfeld stated that landfill tipping fees appear to be two months behind so he would refrain from projecting out to the end of year numbers.
- Mr. Ahlfeld informed that there was \$55,000.00 more in expenses this year through the first three months for materials management, and then with repairs and improvements that would put WCSWMD at \$56,000.00 more in expenses.
- Mr. Ahlfeld stated that the approximate amount WCSWMD is behind in landfill tipping fees is \$58,000.00.
- Mr. Ahlfeld stressed that with the \$56,000.00 in extra expenses and the tipping fees behind about \$58,000.00, that makes WCSWMD \$114,000 in the negative so far this year which is not sustainable.
- Mr. Ahlfeld informed that if the first quarter sees \$173,000.00 loss the projection for four quarters with the same circumstances would put WCSWMD at a loss of approximately \$720,000, which is more than WCSWMD has in capital.
- Mr. Ahlfeld declared that all of the filings for the State Board of Accounts have been submitted and are up to date.
- Mr. Ahlfeld informed that WCSWMD does have a CD account that will soon reach maturity, so he will call the bank on his way back to the office to make sure the sum gets cashed.
- Mr. Ahlfeld stated that it can be decided at the next meeting on what to do with the CD funds, though he acknowledged that putting back the \$300,000.00 is not advisable at this time.
- Mr. Ahlfeld gave the floor to Ms. Kooi to present any unusual or large claims.
- Ms. Kooi relayed that there are no unusual claims to address, and stated her hope that WCSWMD would not see more large expenses outside of the upcoming Tox Away Days.
- Mr. Ahlfeld added that WCSWMD is down to \$590,000.00 in cash where last year he recalled being closer to \$790,000.00.
- Ms. Kooi stressed that the Special Assessment User Fee arrival is critical.





- Ms. Ross inquired as to why WCSWMD is not receiving the landfill tipping fees, to which Ms. Kooi noted the postal issue as discussed last meeting. Kooi expanded on her answer stating that WCSWMD is still waiting to hear back from Republic on the matter of ACH payments to and from in regards to the contract.
 - Mr. Ahlfeld inquired as to if Wabash Valley Landfill and Republic Services are separate, to which Ms. Kooi stated her uncertainty especially in regard to what is being done in house at the landfill and what is being done at the corporate level.
 - Mr. Ahlfeld stated that he would try one of his contacts believed to work for Republic Services to find additional information.
 - Mr. Dawes added that he would be interested to know if other districts have been facing the same issues.
 - Mr. Ahlfeld stressed that the last check able to be deposited from Republic Services was February 13th, to which Ms. Kooi added that there was a new check just received but was awaiting deposit.
 - Ms. Kooi readdressed the possibility of enforcing a late fee, to which Mr. Lehman stated he was attempting to look into whether a late fee was applicable, however, he was unsure if he held the current contract.
 - Mr. Lehman confirmed that a late fee was in a previous contract and he recalled a deadline of the 10th of each month.
- Ms. Ross motioned to approve the financial report and claims; Mr. Dawes seconded. Motion approved. (4-0)*

Director's Report:

- Ms. Kooi reported that WCSWMD has been busy with the focus on education.
- Ms. Kooi informed that The Great March Clean Up (GMC) organized by Visit Wabash County was a success. Kooi noted over 536 bags of trash, 8-9 tires, and two TVs from the riverwalk were collected.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the GMC will likely become an annual event for the county as Republic Services has interest in keeping the event going.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the annual Rain Barrel Workshop went very well. Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD hosted 16 participants and resulted in the creation of 13 rain barrels. Kooi reminded that Wabash River Defenders had utilized their 319 (h) IDEM grant to sponsor residents first rain barrels allowing WCSWMD to only charge \$15 per first rain barrel. Additional rain barrels were sold at the workshop price of \$65.00 plus tax.
- Ms. Kooi announced that WCSWMD anticipates the invoices from the event to come in shortly.
- Ms. Kooi informed that the first ever WCSWMD Master Recyclers Course has commenced and has three class sessions until complete. Kooi noted that participants are very engaged and asking lots of great questions. Kooi informed that should the public interest be there, she would like to offer this course twice a year and possibly even start a Junior Master Recycler Course through the schools if possible.
- Ms. Kooi informed that she has been working with the Winchester Center to develop a consistent educational segment for their "80s+" group. Kooi presented to the group last week and the activity director wanted her back on a monthly basis. Ms. Kooi informed that she would consider visiting every other month with educational presentations or activities.
- Ms. Kooi announced that Tox Away prep has begun. Kooi noted that supplies are being ordered; we have 12-13 volunteers scheduled to work Wabash Tox Away Day as well as some of our vendors. Kooi reminded that the Wabash Tox Away Day is Saturday, May 9th from 8am-1pm at WCSWMD. She added that North Manchester's Tox Away Day is set for Saturday, June 13th from 8am-1pm and materials have already been delivered to the Street Dept. Kooi informed that the event ads should start appearing in the papers and on the radio stations soon.

New Business:

Old Business:

Public Comment:





Adjournment:

Mayor Long motioned to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting

Next Meetings:

- Board of Directors – Monday, May 11th, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Marisa Shrock, Recording Secretary

Mayor Scott Long, Board President

Tyler Niccum, Board Vice President

Cheryl Ross, Board Secretary

