

Hendricks County Recycling District Board of Director's Meeting Minutes July 25, 2023

The Hendricks County Recycling District met at 7:00 a.m. on July 25, 2023, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Hendricks County Government Center.

President Dan Bridget opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken and the Board Members in attendance were:

Dan Bridget	Caleb Brown	Dennis Dawes
Steve Eisenbarth	Bob Gentry	Ben Lacey
Nancy Leavitt	Phyllis Palmer	Eric Wathen

Mr. Bridget confirmed that a quorum was present.

Others in attendance were:

Lenn Detwiler	Amy Siefertman	Ed Gaddie
Greg Steuerwald		

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Eisenbarth moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented, from the April 25, 2023, Hendricks County Recycling District Board Meeting. Mr. Lacey seconded the motion and the motion passed, 9-0-0.

Outreach Coordinator's Report

Mrs. Siefertman opened the Outreach Coordinator's report by sharing that she and Mrs. Archer have been very busy getting ready for the upcoming school year. She noted that Indiana's academic standards have changed and that she has worked to reflect where the District's youth education programs satisfy the new standards. She also shared a little about planning and the popularity around the STEM kit program.

She then highlighted the newsletter that will be distributed to promote the District's programs. Mr. Bridget asked who developed the newsletter. Mr. Siefertman answered that she and Mrs. Archer worked together to create it. Mr. Dawes asked which teachers would be receiving it. She answered that all teachers in kindergarten through sixth grade as well as science teachers in grades seventh through twelfth. Mr. Bridget commented that the piece was very well done.

Mr. Dawes then asked if other recycling districts have education programs like Hendricks County. Mrs. Siefertman commented that some, but not all, districts have education programs. Mr. Dawes shared that he believes this is a good program for what it teaches and that its helpful in how it satisfies some state requirements for the schools and teachers. Mrs. Siefertman agreed and noted that the school systems in Hendricks County are focused on science and

environmental education. Mr. Detwiler added his belief that the youth education work that Mrs. Siefertman and Mrs. Archer do puts the Hendricks County Recycling District's youth education program as the one of the top in the state.

Director's Report

Program Results

Mr. Detwiler opened the Director's Report by sharing the 2023 Program Results and highlighting recent results from the District's Tox-Away Days. He shared that nearly 2,600 users had been through the first three Tox-Away Day events.

Next, he explained that the Yard Waste Recycling Centers had been very busy and had seen 363 more users so far this year as compared to the same time last year. He shared his belief that the additional activity is a result of the recent stormy weather, WM's policy to not pick up yard waste that is set out for trash pickup, and the fact that the Town of Brownsburg is not routinely operating its curbside limb pickup service. He noted that the fees charged at the Yard Waste Recycling Centers do not cover the cost of operating the centers. So, more activity and more material coming to the centers is positive in that it is keeping that material out of the landfill, however, it is costing the District more to operate the centers.

He then noted that the fees the District is paying to clean the centers out when they fill up has also increased. He explained that previously, the District used Ray's Trash Service to perform that work but now, the company is no longer able to provide that service at a reasonable rate. Mr. Detwiler noted that the District has been using a tree service with a grapple truck to keep the yard waste material from overrunning the centers. But, he noted, this was not a long-term solution. He added that he was in conversations with another company that may be able to provide the complete clean out service like Ray's used to do.

Mr. Detwiler then asked the Board for input related to the Brownsburg Community School Corporation bringing material to the Yard Waste Recycling Center, for free. He explained that to better monitor and control the amount and type of material being left at the recycling center, he asked that a representative from the School Corporation contact him to discuss their utilization of the center. Mr. Detwiler asked the Board Members if they wanted the District to begin charging the School Corporation for using the center. Mr. Detwiler noted that the District has enjoyed a good relationship with the School Corporation, especially as it relates to hosting Tox-Away Days. He added that in recent years the School Corporation has begun charging the Recycling District for the time school resource officers direct traffic at Tox-Away Days. Mr. Wathen stated that he believes if the District is being charged for the resource officers' time, then the School Corporation should be charged to dump material at the Yard Waste Recycling Center. After more discussion, the Board's direction was for the District to ask the School Corporation to only use the facility on days when it is normally open so that staff can better track how often their using the center and how much material is being left.

Next, Mr. Detwiler shared the results from the Coatesville and North Salem Recycling Drop-off Centers noting that activity at Coatesville has increased while North Salem has decreased as compared to the same time last year. Mr. Detwiler noted that the District has dealt with some significant struggles getting WM to service the recycling centers per the agreement in place. He noted that recent weeks had been better but added that there simply are not many other companies that can provide recycling service in our area.

Mr. Detwiler then shared some other changes staff is seeing in the local recycling environment that is impacting the District:

- Residents that previously had curbside trash and recycling service with Ray's Trash and are unhappy after the transition, are oftentimes switching to companies that do not offer curbside recycling service. Many of them are now opting to utilize the District's recycling centers.
- Nearly all the Paper Retriever bins that were located at local schools, churches, and shopping centers are being removed since WM has begun charging the organizations that used to host them. As a result, some residents that used to recycle at those locations are now using the District's recycling centers.

Lizton Recycling Center

Mr. Detwiler then highlighted some photos of the new Lizton Recycling Center and said that things are off to a good start and that the center has been very busy. He shared data related to the number of users and how much material has been collected and recycled at the center since its opening.

He explained that the attendants working at the center have done a good job of educating users about what is and is not accepted and noted that many days ten-plus new people are using the center. Mr. Bridget commented on how much he appreciates the work the attendants are doing and how well they are representing the District.

Mr. Dawes asked what the current days and hours of operation are and he asked if more hours might be needed. Mr. Detwiler shared the days and hours of operation and explained that there are times when the center is congested but that he believes users will spend less time on-site as they learn more about the recycling rules and how the center operates.

Mr. Bridget asked how the attendants are handling the weather conditions when the center is open. Mr. Detwiler noted that the attendants had already tolerated some heat and rain but noted that the pending high temperatures and humidity could be a test. He explained that he emailed the attendants the previous day with guidance urging hydration and breaks and he provided water, sports drinks, and more to help them manage the high temperatures. He added that the attendant building is air conditioned but that the center is busy enough that the workers are not in the building much.

Mr. Detwiler then highlighted information related to the materials that have been collected at the center and stressed that it is good and clean, free from trash and contamination. He added that the companies ultimately receiving the recyclables are very happy with the quality of the

material from the recycling center and noted that the quality of the recyclables is a testament to the good work the recycling center attendants are doing at the center.

Mr. Eisenbarth commented that he is encouraged by the weight of clean, dry cardboard being collected. Mr. Detwiler agreed and added that that part of the program was not paying for itself but the market price being paid for recycled corrugated cardboard increased resulting in less cost to the District.

Next, Mr. Detwiler shared that the District did receive the grant funds awarded from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in the amount of nearly \$65,000. He added that representatives from IDEM would be visiting the recycling center the following day as the final step in the grant process.

Lastly, Mr. Detwiler happily shared that the District had not had any incidents of illegal dumping at either the new recycling center or the old recycling center location.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Bridget turned the Board's attention to the upcoming events listed in the Board Packet. Mr. Dawes offered Mrs. Sieferman an early congratulations on her eighteen years of service to the Recycling District.

Financial Report

Financial Facts Summary

Mr. Detwiler opened the Financial Report by presenting the Financial Facts Summary. There were no questions from the Board.

Income Chart

He then moved onto the Income Chart and shared how the current year Final Disposal Fee Income amount compared to the average and 2022 amounts. Mr. Detwiler noted that at the most recent CAC meeting, Justin Buster from WM shared that the landfill was expecting more material from a special project in Indianapolis meaning that the District can expect some higher Final Disposal Fee Income amounts in the second half of the year.

Mr. Detwiler concluded this portion of the Financial Report by noting that income at the Yard Waste Recycling Centers was \$1,900 ahead of the same time last year and \$3,300 ahead of the average.

Second Quarter Report

Mr. Detwiler reminded the Board that when the 2023 General Fund Budget was approved, it was expected that funds would need to be transferred as the Lizton Recycling Center project was completed. He noted that he will likely bring a budget transfer request to the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Brown then asked if the current tipping fee rate of one dollar per ton imposed by the Recycling District could be adjusted. Mr. Detwiler answered that yes, the Board can decide to impose a fee of up to \$2.50 per ton. Mr. Brown then asked if the rate had ever been changed. Mr. Lacey answered that the current rate has not changed since it was first established in 1992 and expressed his desire to revisit the issue. Others agreed. Mr. Bridget reminded the Board that a committee had previously studied the issue and developed a recommendation for the Board's consideration. Mr. Brown stated that the current rate is not sustainable and that perhaps the rate should be modified in a fashion that allows it to annually adjust as the economy adjusts. He added that prices have increased dramatically in recent years.

Mr. Lacey agreed and added that the previous analysis supported an increase in the rate but the timing of when the issue was being considered was difficult as the COVID pandemic was ending and there were a number of unknowns making the decision difficult. At that time, the Board opted to forgo the increase. He asked Mr. Detwiler to redistribute the committee's analysis to the Board. Mr. Bridget expressed his support for doing so and asked Mr. Detwiler to also send the Historical Financial Information packet that was included in the most recent Board Packet. Mr. Detwiler agreed to do so.

Register of Claims – General Fund

Mr. Detwiler then presented the Registers of Claims for the General Fund included in the Board Packet as follows:

- May 23, 2023, in the amount of \$133,871.49
- June 27, 2023, in the amount of \$147,408.03
- July 25, 2023, in the amount of \$132,290.19

With questions noted from the Board, Mr. Lacey moved to accept the Registers of Claims as presented. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0-0.

New Business

Citizens Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Detwiler shared that the District's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met July 10th to review the proposed budget as required by Indiana Code. He explained that the notes from the meeting were included in the Board Packet and added that it was a good meeting and well attended. He explained that during the meeting, he shared similar updates related to the District programs as he had earlier with the Board. The group reviewed and discussed the proposed budget figures and ultimately agreed to recommend the Board's approval of the budget, as presented.

2024 Budgets - General Fund and Hendricks County Special Projects Fund

Mr. Detwiler explained that since the vast majority of the District's income is generated via the tipping fee assessed at the landfill, the District's annual revenue is difficult to predict. He noted that the figure of \$800,000 included in the proposed budget for final disposal fee income seemed to be reasonable and added that Justin Buster from WM agreed. Mr. Detwiler stated

that if the current tipping fee was simply adjusted for inflation since its establishment in 1992, it would be over two dollars per ton today.

Regarding proposed expenses for 2024, Mr. Detwiler noted that the budget was developed with the expectation that it would be a typical year of operations with no large capital expenditures or unusual operational expenses expected. He did note, however, that there are still many unknowns related to ongoing operations of the new Lizton Recycling Center, inflationary pressures and the changing waste management marketplace as was discussed previously in the meeting.

Mr. Detwiler reminded the members that the Board's position in recent years has been to mirror whatever wage changes are approved by the County. He noted that he reached out to Nancy Marsh, Hendricks County Auditor, regarding initial discussions at the County. She shared that an increase of five percent was being discussed. Mr. Brown and Mr. Wathen, both members of the Hendricks County Council, agreed that the figure Mr. Detwiler used was reasonable.

Mr. Bridget then asked for discussion or a motion related to the proposed budget. Mr. Dawes highlighted the fact that the District is showing a budget deficit for 2024 and that fact should encourage the Board to reconsider the tipping fee rate. Mr. Bridget agreed. Mr. Dawes then made a motion to accept the budgets as presented. Mr. Lacey seconded, and the motion passed, 9-0-0.

Public Comments

No public comments noted.

Board of Directors' Comments, Concerns and Questions

Mr. Eisenbarth asked Mr. Detwiler if staff was focused on acquiring more grant funds in the future. Mr. Detwiler explained that the grants he is aware of generally support new or expanded programs, not ongoing operational needs and so would not be a good match at this time.

Adjournment

Mr. Brown moved for adjournment. Mr. Lacey seconded the motion. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 a.m.

Daniel Bridget, President