

**Hendricks County Recycling District
Board of Director’s Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2024**

The Hendricks County Recycling District met at approximately 7:08 a.m. on January 23, 2024, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room at the Hendricks County Government Center.

Mr. Dennis Dawes opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Caleb Brown | Dennis Dawes | Bret Doub |
| Bob Gentry | Ben Lacey | *Phyllis Palmer |
| Robert Pope | Eric Wathen | |

Board Member Dan Bridget was unable to attend.

Mr. Dawes confirmed that a quorum was present.

Others in attendance were:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Lenn Detwiler | Amy Sieferman | Katie Archer |
| Greg Steuerwald | Justin Buster | Ed Gaddie |
| Hunter Kraynale | | |

Introduction of New Board Members

Mr. Detwiler introduced new Board Members, Mr. Bret Doub from the Danville Town Council and Mr. Robert Pope from the Avon Town Council.

Election of Board Officers

Mr. Gentry made a motion to nominate Mr. Dan Bridget as President of the Hendricks County Recycling District Board of Directors. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion. After discussion, Mr. Gentry withdrew his nomination and Mr. Dawes withdrew his second.

Mr. Gentry then nominated Mr. Dennis Dawes as President of the Hendricks County Recycling District Board of Directors. Mr. Lacey seconded the motion. Motion passed, 7-0-0.

Mr. Bob Gentry made a motion to nominate Mrs. Phyllis Palmer as Vice President of the Hendricks County Recycling District Board of Directors. Mr. Wathen seconded the motion. Motion passed, 7-0-0.

Mr. Eric Wathen made a motion to nominate Mr. Ben Lacey as Secretary/Treasurer of the Hendricks County Recycling District Board of Directors. Mr. Bob Gentry seconded the motion. Motion passed, 7-0-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lacey moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented, from the October 24, 2023, Hendricks County Recycling District Board Meeting. Mr. Gentry seconded the motion and the motion passed, 6-0-1, with Mr. Caleb Brown abstaining from the vote as he was not in attendance at that meeting.

Outreach Coordinator's Report

Mrs. Sieferman opened the Outreach Coordinator's report with an update on the annual Recycle Heart and Sole shoe collection. She shared that the District typically partners with Changing Footprints to provide the shoe collection event to schools in February. Mrs. Sieferman reported that this year, Changing Footprints has asked the District to move the shoe collection to a different time of the year. The event will be moved to Earth Day week, and Mrs. Sieferman shared that fifteen schools are already signed up for the event, well before the March 1st deadline.

Mr. Wathen asked where shoes can be dropped off and Mrs. Sieferman shared the names of some of the schools that are already signed up to participate. She confirmed that drop-off for used shoes will be the week of April 22nd.

Mr. Brown asked what needs to be done to get participation at the schools. Mrs. Sieferman shared that in some schools the principals are contacted, and other schools require her to go through their communications department.

Next, Mrs. Sieferman shared that she and Sarah Wolfe from the Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality are working together on a Project Learning Tree Municipal Solid Waste Education Curriculum Training scheduled for this summer. She shared that it is a great curriculum that meets state academic standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

Finally, Mrs. Sieferman publicly acknowledged Plainfield Community Middle School's STEM Lab for a collection they recently hosted. The lab worked with Electronics Recyclers International (ERI) to collect approximately 600 pounds of unwanted Christmas lights. Mrs. Sieferman shared that the collection was so successful that the STEM Lab plans to expand it to all Plainfield schools next year.

Mr. Dawes encouraged the new Board Members to visit with Mrs. Sieferman to learn more about the District's Youth Education programming and noted that she does an excellent job.

Director's Report

Mr. Detwiler opened the Director's Report by highlighting the 2023 Summary Report included in the Board packet. He shared that 2023 was a big year for the District and specifically highlighted the opening of the Lizton Recycling Center. He shared that approximately 16,000 users were through the center in the 35 weeks that the Recycling Center was open in 2023 and 185 tons of clean recyclable material was collected. He further shared that feedback from

residents has been very positive. Mr. Detwiler noted that the face-to-face education that occurs daily at the center is the best way to teach residents how to recycle correctly.

Mr. Detwiler also made note of the challenges District staff overcame with the spikes in activity at the Yard Waste Recycling Centers and Tox-Away Day events in 2023. He shared that there were over 6,000 visitors to the Yard Waste Recycling Centers and that five out of the eight months the sites were open they experienced new all-time highs in the number of visitors. He noted that much of that additional activity can be explained by the changes in the waste hauling structure around Hendricks County. Discussion was held.

Next, Mr. Detwiler reported that the 2023 Tox-Away Days experienced a record-breaking year as well with almost 4,300 visitors through the five events. He noted that the demand was spread much more evenly across the five events than in years past.

Then, Mr. Detwiler highlighted the Youth Education efforts for the year sharing that Mrs. Sieferman dubbed 2023 the “year of science.”

Next, Mr. Detwiler highlighted the Grant Awards for 2023 by sharing that sixteen requests were received, totaling more than \$54,000. He reported the District was able to fund nine of those requests, totaling \$20,000.

Finally, Mr. Detwiler highlighted the District’s community partners including local law enforcement agencies noting that between the Tox-Away Day collections and medication drop boxes, almost 6,000 pounds of medications were collected and safely disposed of in 2023. He then highlighted the District’s partnership with the Hendricks County Health Department to provide the community with the Safe Sharps Disposal Program, noting that 587 sharps containers were distributed through the Safe Sharps program in 2023.

*Mrs. Palmer entered the Board Meeting at this time.

Mr. Detwiler thanked the Board for their support in 2023, noting it was a good year. No further questions were received from the Board. Mr. Detwiler reported that a copy of the 2023 Summary Report will be sent to State Legislators. He also offered additional copies to the Board Members if they would like to share them.

Ongoing Program Results

Mr. Detwiler went on to highlight the Ongoing Program Results report in the Board Packet and noted that the last Tox-Away Day of 2023 was in Plainfield and was, unusually, the busiest of the five events. He added that the 2024 Tox-Away Day dates and locations are set and that sticky notes featuring that information were given to the Board Members and more are available, if needed.

Next, Mr. Detwiler highlighted the activity for the Lizton Recycling Center on the report noting that the center was very busy around Christmastime. The busiest week of the year was the

week before Christmas when 561 people visited the center. He noted that in the fourth quarter, the site was averaging over 500 visitors per week and added that residents continue to be appreciative of the site. He noted that the cold weather is affecting activity at the Lizton site and shared that the site was closed one day the previous week due to the dangerously cold temperatures at the time.

Plainfield Yard Waste Recycling Center

Mr. Detwiler shared that he received a phone call on January 7, 2023, from Mr. Jason Castetter with Plainfield Department of Public Works. Mr. Castetter reported that someone reported that the window air conditioner in the Yard Waste building was missing. Mr. Detwiler met a Plainfield police officer at the site and requested a police report be generated for the incident. The front door of the building was forced open and the window air conditioner, space heater, mini-fridge, and a partial bottle of herbicide were all taken. Mr. Detwiler noted that he would ensure repairs are made and the items that were taken were replaced before the center reopens in April.

Next, Mr. Detwiler shared that in November, Jason Castetter with the Town of Plainfield contacted him and explained that the town had reached an agreement with a developer to exchange property that includes the land where the Plainfield Yard Waste Recycling Center is currently located. Mr. Castetter noted that it is the intention of the Town to have the center relocated before it opens in the spring. Mr. Detwiler explained to the Board that the location identified by the Town is four-tenths of a mile south of the current location. He noted that the agreement between the Town and developer stipulates that the developer will be responsible for providing power to the site as well as a gate and fencing, gravel lot, and relocation of the attendant building. He went on to explain that discussions he had with Mr. Castetter also included how all parties would benefit from the center's lot being a hard surface rather than gravel and that a barrier wall would make managing the yard waste much easier as it accumulates. Mr. Castetter agreed to approach the Plainfield Town Council early in February to request funds to make those improvements to the center. Mr. Detwiler explained that he did not need any immediate action from the Board but would keep them updated via email and would request a special meeting, if necessary.

State Board of Accounts Examination Update

Mr. Detwiler reported that he was contacted in November regarding the District's routine audit by the Indiana State Board of Accounts. He shared that the audit is covering years 2019 through 2022 and is being handled remotely which has required staff to scan and upload many documents. Mr. Detwiler shared that the last update he received from the auditor is that the case has gone for review, and they would be contacting the District for an exit interview at the appropriate time.

Financial Facts Summary

Financial Facts Summary

Mr. Detwiler shared the Financial Facts Summary that reflects the last quarter of 2023. He reported that three CDs would be maturing at the end of February and the first of March. He shared that the District would reinvest the interest earned and may add some cash to investment held by the Hendricks County Special Projects Fund.

Income Charts

Next, Mr. Detwiler presented the Income Chart for 2023 and reported that the total amount of Final Disposal Fee Income for the year was about \$98,000 less than in 2022 but approximately \$300,000 more than the District had budgeted for the year. He highlighted the Yard Waste Recycling Center income, noting it was \$9,500 more than in 2022.

Fourth Quarter Reports

Mr. Detwiler then moved to the Fourth Quarter Reports for 2023 and noted that the District had realized a little over \$1,000,000 in income for the year. He highlighted the total expense amounts by category and noted that the District underspent the 2023 budget by around \$355,000 but that total expenditures exceeded revenues by approximately \$234,000 due to finishing the construction of the Lizton Recycling Center. The Board had no questions or comments.

Registers of Claims

Finally, Mr. Detwiler presented the following Registers of Claims:

- November 28, 2023, in the amount of \$91,947.31
- December 26, 2023, in the amount of \$55,074.35
- January 23, 2024, in the amount of \$67,990.98

Mr. Detwiler reported that the November and December Registers of Claims had been reviewed and checks were signed by Mr. Bridget. Mr. Bob Gentry moved to approve the Registers of Claims as presented. Mr. Ben Lacey seconded the motion. Motioned passed, 8-0-0.

New Business

2024 Rainy Day Fund Contribution

Mr. Dawes opened the New Business portion of the meeting by addressing the 2024 Rainy Day Fund. Mr. Detwiler shared that prior to January 2023, the resolution in place required the District to make an annual contribution to its Rainy Day Fund. In January 2023, the Board opted to approve a resolution giving the Board the option to choose whether to make that annual contribution. Mr. Detwiler shared that since the cash reserves held by the General Fund are lower than desired, he recommends forgoing the 2024 contribution. It was the consensus of the Board to not contribute in 2024.

Resolution 2024-01: Establishing the Final Disposal Fee Rate Structure

Next, Mr. Detwiler turned the Board's attention to Resolution 2024-01 and explained that the resolution reflects the suggestion presented by Mr. Justin Buster with WM in October. He noted the rate would increase to \$1.25 per ton for all waste deposited in any final disposal facility in Hendricks County, noting that there is currently only one – Twin Bridges Landfill in Danville. He shared that the effective date of change would be April 1, 2024. He reminded the Board that the resolution the Board considered in October included a tiered structure which would have assessed a fee of \$1.25 per ton for waste generated inside Hendricks County and a fee of \$1.50 per ton for waste outside of Hendricks County.

Mr. Detwiler noted that the resolution currently under consideration does not address adjusting the fee to \$1.40 per ton in 2025 as suggested by Mr. Buster in October. Mr. Detwiler stated that he intends to bring that question to the Board this fall.

Mr. Dawes asked if Mr. Buster had any comments. Mr. Buster said that he did not have anything to add.

Mr. Lacey asked if Mr. Detwiler could provide background information on the issue to the new Board Members. Mr. Detwiler explained that he met with both new Board Members the previous week and covered this issue with them as part of those meetings.

Mr. Lacey commented that the Twin Bridges Landfill is not a renewable resource and Hendricks County only has it for a finite period. He further noted that he is most concerned with out-of-county waste coming in and is concerned that the District is limiting itself with a flat rate of \$1.25 per ton. He noted that he believes the \$1.25 rate is acceptable for in-county waste but would like to start the dialogue regarding fees for out-of-county waste.

Mrs. Palmer shared that she believes the change to \$1.25 demonstrates a spirit of cooperation with the landfill and it is a good starting point. She shared that additional adjustments can be revisited in the future. Mrs. Plamer then moved to approve Resolution 2024-01. Mr. Gentry seconded the motion.

Mr. Brown asked what WM's argument against a tiered fee structure is. Mr. Detwiler explained that as he understands it, in addition to the burden of paying more, WM's concern with a tiered fee system deals with the complexity of tracking where waste originates. But, he noted, that landfills are already required to report that waste generation information to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Mr. Brown then shared his feeling that the Final Disposal Fee rate should be tied to an economic measure like PPI (Producer Price Index) so rate changes are automatic and Board action is not required as Board membership is ever-changing.

Mr. Lacey shared he believes adopting the resolution under consideration is a step in the right direction, but he does not want the District to wait another thirty years before the rate is

reviewed again. He agreed with Mr. Brown's point that tying the rate to an economic measure would be helpful and added that the rate should be reviewed annually. Further discussion was held. Mr. Detwiler noted that Section 11 of the resolution stipulates that an annual review of the rate is to be conducted by the Board.

Mr. Pope asked what triggered the increase in the tipping fee rate. Discussion was held.

Mr. Brown shared that he does agree with Mrs. Palmer that this is a step in the right direction and called for the question. Mr. Dawes called for the vote and the motion passed, 8-0-0.

Resolution 2024-02: CAC Appointments

Mr. Detwiler shared the resolution makes appointments to the District's Citizens Advisory Committee for 2024. He noted that there were no changes in the members of the CAC and reminded the Board that the committee reviews the applications to the District's Community Grants Program and the annual budget. Mr. Wathen moved to approve Resolution 2024-02 appointing members to the Citizens Advisory Committee for 2024. Mr. Gentry seconded the motion. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

Resolution 2024-03: Payment of Designated Claims

Mr. Detwiler presented Resolution 2024-03 and explained that the resolution allows for claims to be paid during months when the Board does not meet. Mr. Gentry moved to approve Resolution 2024-03. Mr. Lacey seconded the motion. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

Anti-Nepotism Certifications

Next, Mr. Dawes asked the Board members to complete and return the Anti-Nepotism Certifications that were passed out.

Public Comment

No public comments noted.

Board of Directors Comments and Questions

Mr. Doub shared that he is happy to be a part of the Board.

Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Detwiler shared that the next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 23rd and that he would notify the Board if a special meeting was needed to address the relocation of the Plainfield Yard Waste Recycling Center.

Mr. Gentry moved for adjournment. Mrs. Palmer seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:48 a.m.

Dennis Dawes, President