

WCSWMA

(Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 am Friday, November 03, 2023
Portage County Public Library – Pinery Room, Stevens Point, WI

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gerry Neuser (Manitowoc County) via Zoom, Amanda Haffele (Portage County), Vinnie Miresse (Portage County), John Welch (Dane County) via Zoom, Dave Hagenbucher (Marathon County)

ABSENT: Fred Zaug (Waupaca County), Pat O'Brien (Winnebago County)

OTHERS PRESENT: Karin Sieg (Exec. Director), Jennifer Semrau (WDNR), Susan Schuller (Recycling Connections), Allison Birr (Waupaca County)

1. Call to Order and Approval/Modification of Agenda: Meeting called to order by Gerry at 10:08 am. **Amanda / Vinnie motion to approve the agenda as presented.** All in favor, motion carried.
2. Approval of 5/12/2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: **Vinnie / Amanda motion to approve the minutes from 5/12/23 as presented.** All in favor, motion carried.
3. Annual "Conflict of Interest" Policy Update & Signatures: Physical copies were provided at the meeting and completed by Amanda, Dave, and Vinnie. Karin will email the electronic form to the remaining committee members to fill out.
4. Treasurer's Report – Amanda Haffele: Amanda provided and reviewed the YTD Financial Report as of November 1, 2023. We are currently at 86% of the budget, which is aligned well for this time of year. The following are account balances. Checking: \$531.70 Savings: \$49,906.45. **Vinnie / Dave motion to accept the financial report.** All in favor, motion carried.
5. 2024 Budget Presentation and Action on 2024 Budget: Gerry presented the draft budget.
 - a. Budget includes transferring funds from the Savings account to support WCSWMA's contribution towards the SW101 course development, and continued support for Higher Education students to attend some kind of national conference. WCSWMA is considering to not designate that it is just for attending WasteCon, for example they could also attend SWANA's SOAR event. **Amanda / John motion to approve the 2024 budget as presented.** All in favor, motion carried.
6. Legislative / Advocacy / Education Report: John provided updates.
 - a. Pending State Legislation and/or Advocacy Issues:
 - i. Landfill Standards and Solid Waste Fees Rulemaking Advisory Committee
 1. The DNR may be changing their fees on the tipping fees from \$.15 to \$.25 / ton in 2026.
 - ii. LRB 0632/1 – Establishing financial responsibility for SW facilities owned by a municipality

1. Municipalities currently need to save funds in a separate account for the potential closure or long-term care of a landfill. With this Bill they are hoping to allow municipalities do what the private sectors does, which is stating their assets / net worth would be the basis of this funding.
 2. Paul Klose from Marinette County will testify at the hearing on this next week, and has also sent letter to Sen. Mursau's office.
 3. John & Gerry will meet next week to discuss what WCSWMA would write. Dave offered to assist as well.
- iii. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Clean Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants Supplemental Appropriation
 1. Federal funds came to the state (via EPA). Funding available for landfills to develop projects for treatment at their sites. MCSWD has completed an Intent to Apply form (deadline was 10/31/23). If they continue with their application and received funding, the project would begin in 2025. Dave noted that it was mostly meant for WWTFs, but could include landfills too.
 - iv. SW PFAS Group - Update / Informational Website: Updates as below:
 1. WCSWMA was a signatory on letters to US Congress on CERCLA liability exemption as a passive receiver of PFAS
 2. Co-sponsor of May 2023 PFAS Conference for Government Leaders
 3. Joint letter from WI PFAS Coalition on CERCLA exemption for passive receivers
 - a. *Still waiting for John's / Dane County's signature, he'll sign next week.*
- b. Solid Waste 101 Program - in collaboration with AROW and SWANA-BC
 - i. Susan: still gathering the content. Meleesa has pulled back on her involvement because of her new job with Green Fire. RC will be looking for additional writers – Dave offered his assistance. Hoping to start the program in the summer of 2024 with about 10-20 participants.
 - c. WasteCon 2023 Reports: Event was recently held in Boston, MA
 - i. Gerry attended and gave brief overview of his experience. Expressed gratitude for WCSWMA's support since his county won't cover all of the costs.
 - ii. Amanda: This was her first WasteCon. She enjoyed the leadership sessions and the one discussing how non-industry people perceive our industry and whether or not they would consider a career in it.
 - iii. John: Noted possible changes the event may take to get more people to attend.
 - d. AROW initiatives / report – Amanda Haffele
 - i. Trying to get their Strategic Planning process going, will start in late Dec./ early Jan.
 - ii. Communication, Marketing, & Education (CME) committee is planning for America Recycles Day outreach, and working with other committees on campaigns.
 - iii. Product Stewardship: discussing batteries, and plastic film bags
 - iv. Haz & Special Wastes: still looking for new Chair
 - e. SWANA-BC initiatives / report – John Welch
 - i. Nothing new is happening at this time, but do have new board member from WM.
 - f. Joint Initiative - Wisconsin Counties Assoc. Magazine – articles for issue on SW & Recycling
 - i. The whole December issue will be focused on this topic! Amanda did great job organizing everyone that contributed articles.
 - g. WDNR
 - i. Updates (NR 500 and 544) and/or Education Topic – Jennifer Semrau. A PowerPoint report was provided (see report for full details). Some key items include:
 - ii. SWIFR grant: will be hiring a staff member, who will also oversee the subcontracts to implement projects.
 - iii. Recycling Rule Making: NOTE: RUs now have to add information / education about Food Waste (and) Battery management.

1. Eliminating the 'collection standard'! Added specifics on 'adequate' recycling at multi-family properties. Added details on residual rate acceptable for 'glass'.
 2. Owner Financial Responsibility (OFR), may be applied to MRFs, just like landfills.
 3. Economic Impact Comment Period (month of October) for the Rule Changes. Only received (1) comment, from NWRA not liking the OFR.
 4. Next Steps: Public Hearing (estimating to occur in mid-January)
 - iv. Landfill Rule Making: Anticipate asking for comments in May 2024.
 1. She gave overview what the WDNR would do with fee increases.
 7. WCSWMA Scholarship Program
 - a. Committee members: Vinnie Miresse, Allison Birr, Sujata Gautam
 - b. Report on 2023 Awardees

New process this year. We had 5 applicants and gave out 3 awards. MaKayla Galecki (UWSP) received the first Meleesa Johnson Leadership Award.
 8. WIRMC - Joint Conference Update (Feb. 28 – March 1, 2024)
 - a. Update / Report from Recycling Connections (Susan) We are at ~\$35,000 raised in sponsorships so far, hoping to still get more. Registration is open, exhibitors are signing up, schedule is posted.
 - b. Working on selecting the 2026+ venues.
 - c. Maybe bring the Dane County Trash Lab to the 2024 event? Susan will talk with the Committee.
 9. Executive Board
 - a. Members coming up for reelection at 2024 Annual Meeting:
 - i. Professionals: Gerry Neuser, John Welch
 - ii. Policymakers: Pat O'Brien, Vinnie Miresse
 1. *New terms end at the 2026 Annual meeting*
 - iii. Potential Nomination Committee: Will need to create this Committee. Gerry will be retiring, so he will not be renewing.
 - b. Current & Future Open seats
 10. Website Update
 - a. A report on website analytics was shared. Discussed idea of sharing WCSWMA's education and outreach information via social media, such as LinkedIn.
 11. Other Matters as Allowed by Law: Dave shared that he attended the Waste Water Operators conference in the Dells last week. He was surprised by the presentations on treatment / destruction techniques for PFAS, and how they stated that 'landfills' don't want their biosolids. This all demonstrated that the solid waste and waste water treatment industries are tied together closely.
 12. Next Meeting Date & Location – WIRMC in Wisconsin Dells, 8:30 a.m., Feb. 28, 2024
 13. Adjourn: Gerry/Amanda motion to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 am
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