

Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District
220 South Union Street
Warsaw IN, 46580

August Board Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: August 12, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m.

Present: Sue Ann Mitchell, Bob Conley, Cary Groninger, Dave Wolkins, Jerry Frush, Jeff Grose, Ashley McGinnis, Scott Reust, Alyssa Schmucker, Tom Ganser, Janelle Meyer

Absent: Press

- **Call to order:**
 - Bob Conley called the meeting to order.
- **Approval of July 15th, 2025, Board Minutes.**
 - Bob Conley called for a motion to approve the July 2025 board minutes. Jerry Frush motioned for the approval and Sue Ann Mitchell seconded the motion. The Board members unanimously approved the motion.
- **Claims and Financial Report:** Alyssa Schmucker
 - Bob then asked Alyssa Schmucker for a financial report. Alyssa Schmucker reported July claims were \$18,015.94, and August claims were \$10,501.32. Actual total cash balance is \$1,938,267.50. Alyssa expressed everything is in good shape financially.
 - Sue Ann Mitchell motioned for approval of the financial report, Dave Wolkins seconded, and the motion was approved.
- **New Business:**
 - Tom Ganser informed the board that the notice of cancellation was sent to ERI and KCSWMD is now awaiting the final pickup sometime this week. Greenwave will then send the supplies to start collecting for them under the new contract. Once everything is situated, the process of advertising the ability to take Freon products will start.
 - Note: the ERI pickup arrived during the middle of this meeting.
- **Old Business:**
 - Tom discussed the issue of the phone situation. The Depot is still working with Surf internet to change providers. Once Surf Internet has completed the installation, BrightSpeed will be dropped.

- Paper Shredding event went well. Officially 72 people utilized the service with an average of 3-4 boxes of shredding per car. There was a big push at the very beginning then it slowed down until another push at the end. The board asked if it were mainly businesses or residents and Tom explained this was only offered to residents. The board liked the graphs showing how the event was utilized.
- **Educator Report**
 - Janelle Meyer explained she reached out to all the school principals and heard back from many. Now it is about waiting for them to start making appointments for lessons.
 - Messages were sent to all the community clubs that had listed contacts. Have not received any responses so continuing to pass on Janelle's contact would be appreciated.
 - Continue to post on social media and have received some feedback of people seeing the posts. From surveying the people who attended the shredding event, the most common methods they learned about the event from were those we paid for, indicating a return from the investment.
 - 19 people came to the Depot for the first time to attend the shredding event. More information was able to be given to those who attended. The southern part of the county was not represented at the shred event and most people looked to be retired age. Those who came were very grateful.
- **Director's Report**
 - Tom Ganser reported that the warehouse customers were up with over 800 customers in July and around 139 customers used the reuse room. The amount of paint taken was a ton of paint or 2080lbs.
 - Host fee trends are reported in the physical report sent out. Discussions are still being had between Scott Reust and GFL regarding the contract. Scott feels the current contract is too vague. The current verbiage states "parties will make their best efforts to negotiate in good faith" but does not really define what that means. The Contract is also old (last signed in 2007) and needs updated to reflect a more current market. 9 months ago KCSWMD district met with GFL and expressed there were parts of a proposed contract that our board is unable to agree to so GFL declined the new contract but has not given a counteroffer. Scott is working on getting the discussion going again to hopefully get an updated and more thorough contract signed.

- Tom referenced a conversation with Sue Ann Mitchell and wanted to clarify with the board. When Tom discussed adding money in the 2026 budget to help the different towns in our county pay for roll offs during their town cleanups he believed it would start in 2026. He said there is money still in the budget to start it even this year if the Board votes to do this. Sue Ann referenced seeing in the paper that Leesburg was getting ready to have a cleanup day and that stirred her interest in if KCSWMD was providing the roll off. If it was decided to start it this year the money would come from the "Recycling/HHW" fund in the 2025 budget. Writing the MOU will need to be expedited.

Cary Groninger asked if there was any investment from the towns or if KCSWMD was paying for the dumpsters completely. Cary wanted to ensure it would benefit the whole town and not be used up completely by the town building or one person who was unloading a large amount. Tom explained the bins will get filled, the bigger concern is contamination. He suggests it be very clear in the MOU that the dumpsters should be placed in a location where the town can monitor what is being placed in the dumpsters. Tom will work on getting the MOU drafted and to the board to review so the program can get started yet this year.

The other part of this new program was offer to collect electronics and small appliances which are normally accepted at the Depot on a KCSWMD trailer. Tom asked the Board to approve the purchase of said trailer. Cary Groninger suggested a banner be attached to the trailer/bins explaining where this comes from to give KCSWMD credit and also to advertise.

Cary Groninger motioned to approve Tom moving forward with purchasing a trailer and Dave Wolkins seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- **Comments & Announcements**

- Alyssa Schmucker wanted to ask the Board about how to handle the sales tax issue. Alyssa explained Tom has been working very hard to get BrightSpeed and Microsoft to stop charging taxes. She has seen the email exchanges and believes Tom has done everything he can. Since they continue to charge taxes, Tom has been paying the tax fees out of his personal pocket. Alyssa believes this is unfair and would ask the board to approve for KCSWMD be allowed to pay the taxes to these specific entities until it is able to be fixed.

The board does not believe this is allowed because paying tax is technically like paying yourself since it is a government entity. The Board suggests Alyssa go to the State Board of accounts for assistance.

Sue Ann Mitchell motioned for an email to be sent to the State Board of Accounts for assistance in remedying the issue. Dave Wolkins seconded the motion and the Board unanimously voted in favor.

- Scott Reust wanted to note that there are new rules which require the Board members be listed on the agenda with their terms. Scott pointed out KCSWMD needs to include those terms on the next agenda. Tom voiced he misunderstood that requirement and said they will be included on the next agenda.
- **Adjournment**
 - Cary Groninger motioned to adjourn and Jerry Frush seconded the motion. Board moved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting September 23, 2025, at 11:00AM.