

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

December Board Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: December 16, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m.

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

Absent: None

- **Call to order:**
  - Bob Conley called the meeting to order.
- **Approval of November 18th, 2025, Board Minutes.**
  - Bob Conley called for a motion to approve the November 18, 2025 board minutes. Sue Ann Mitchell motioned for the approval and Cary Groninger seconded the motion. The Board members unanimously approved the motion.
- **Claims and Financial Report: Alyssa Schmucker**
  - **Approval of November Claims.**
    - Alyssa reported that in November and December claims were a total \$40,499.72 and the total cash balance is \$1,988,186.05. Alyssa said everything is settled and looks good. Cary Groninger motioned to approve claims and Sue Ann Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
    - Alyssa asked that claims be submitted on a schedule to ensure they are able to be promptly paid and also for the 2 eyes approval process. She gave Tom a list of the dates she would like claims submitted.
    - Alyssa reported it was time to renew the CD and this lead to discussion on how much should be put into investments. The Board discussed the amount of money sitting in the bank is high and should be invested to gain interest. Tom suggested the available money should be at least \$200,000 or even as low as \$100,000. The current projected income safely covers working expenses. There are currently no big projects being considered which are not already in the budget. Cary Groninger motioned for approval of \$1.8 million to be transferred into a one-year investment. Dave Wolkins seconded the motion and the board approved.

- As a continuation to the investment discussion Sue Ann Mitchell suggested staggering the investments to rotate every six months, and it could be looked at again in June.
- **New Business:**
  - **Vote for 2026 KCSWMD President and Vice President**
  - Bob Conley was nominated to be president for another year. For Vice President Jerry Frush declined a nomination. Dave Wolkins was nominated for vice president and he declined as well stating he travels for several months and would not be available for those months. Ashley McGinnis was nominated but stated Winona Lake is re-approving committees in January and she doesn't know if she will be appointed to this board again. Sue Ann Mitchell was nominated and didn't decline but suggested it would be good to have both county and city representation. Which led to Jeff Grose being nominated by Cary Groninger. A motion to approve Bob Conley as President and Jeff Grose as Vice President for 2026 was approved.
  - **Resolution 25-12-16-001**
  - Tom Ganser asked to transfer \$100 from the Conference/Continued Education account to Building Repair & Maintenance and \$400 to the Meeting Expenses. Ashley McGinnis motioned to approve the total transfer of \$1,400 and Cary Groninger seconded the motion. It was approved.
  - **Request for January 2<sup>nd</sup> Holiday Extension**
  - Tom Ganser asked if the board would approve keeping the building closed on Friday January 2<sup>nd</sup> to extend the New Year Holiday. The Friday after New Year would just be a 4 hour shift and the staff is prepared to use comp/vacation time to cover the day. Jeff Grose motioned to approve the extra day closed and Jerry Frush seconded the motion and it was approved.
- **Old Business:**
  - **Shred day December 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 pm-3:00 pm**
  - Tom Ganser reviewed how the December Shred Day went. There were 64 people who attended. It was a rough day weather wise and everything had to get things plowed out before hand, but it worked out. The hours were later in the day and it seemed to work well. This was our lowest attended event and we probably wouldn't try another event so late in the year. Janelle Meyer again asked how people at the event how they heard of the event and at this time many had seen it on our Facebook page or from coming to the previous events so it would appear the same regulars came to this event. There were fewer people who had never been to the KC Recycling Depot this time.

- **Reports:**

- **Director's Report**

- The tire grant is going to be applied for soon and we should know if got it in Mid-February. Janelle and Tom are working on getting it submitted in January. If we get that grant it will be \$10,000 going toward our tire events this year. The maximum amount granted is \$10,000 and the state has earmarked \$300,000 for this grant. There are maybe 85 solid waste districts in the state so there is like a 1 in 3 chance of getting the grant if everyone applies, which not everyone will. We are hopeful for good success.
- The door out west in the west building needed repairs, so we did put some money into that and Robinson did finish up putting in the new south door. We also got the event trailer back, sandblasted and painted. so we just need to put the decking on it and it's ready to go. That's pretty much it.
- We will be needing to send some stuff out this month or next. The chem cleanup needs to be brought in and there is a load of paint ready to go out. Antifreeze has been ordered for pick up and then the lighting resources are ready. There are probably 5 pallets of mercury that need to go. We would like to get these all out on this year's budget so then it be all clean for next year.
- The last thing is we need a new scale. There has been trouble with the scale jumping and not keeping good numbers. The tech came in to look at it and replaced some wiring. We have been told it's old scale and it's probably time to consider a new one. This scale is one that was moved into the building, so it was purchased in maybe 1995 and then moved here in 2000 or 2002. It's an old scale and there is some dry rot making it hard to repair in a cost-effective manner.
- Tom has received a quote from Animus and a new scale is looking like it will cost \$5,400 for the scale and then another \$1,200 for installation. Cary asked if there was a competing quote and suggested asking Brecht Bueller Scale Company from Ft. Wayne because he has been aware of their good prices. Tom will look into getting a quote from them.
- Tom would like the purchase to be done by the end of the year which means there will not be another board meeting before the purchase needs to be made. A motion was suggested to be for no more than the amount Animus quoted. If a better price is secured Tom will proceed with the lesser amount.

- Jeff Grose motioned for the board to approve \$6,600 or less be approved to purchase a new scale. Cary Groninger seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Educator Report**

- Janelle reported the month has been quiet. The school visits will pick back up in February and there will be a presentation at DePuy in January.

- **Comments & Announcements**

- Cary Groninger just mentioned to keep thinking of ways to deploy more of the money left in the bank. Cary mentioned getting resources to the smaller communities. Tom reported that was already included in the 2026 budget.
- Cary had the idea of somehow recycling asphalt removed from road repair. This is a new idea that Tom would need to look into and ask around the state to see if anyone does anything like that. It is just an idea and Tom will keep exploring it. Board members suggested finding more ways for the community to benefit from the KCSWMD and had the idea to put a survey out on Facebook.

- **Adjournment**

**Next Board Meeting January 27, 2026, at 11:00AM.**