

# **Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District**

## **Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Present: Brad Jackson, Jerry Frush, Cary Groninger, Dave Wolkins, Tom Ganser, Rhonda Helser, Leslie Williams, Liz Shepherd – InkFree News

Absent: Joe Thallemer, Bob Conley, Rick Swaim, Scott Ruest

- Call to Order:
  - Brad Jackson called the meeting to order.
- June 2023 Board Minutes
  - Brad Jackson asked for a motion to approve Minutes from the April 2023 Board Meeting. Jerry Frush made a motion to approve as presented. Cary Groninger seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Claims and Financial Report
  - Rhonda Helser presented the claims in the amount of \$21,390.91. The ending checking account balance is \$151,440.56, in addition to the 1.3-million-dollar investment. Cary Groninger asked if the balance is up from the previous month and if the District has had positive cash flow. Rhonda Helser responded by stating that the District has had an increased balance from last month and is in positive cash flow. Cary Groninger made a motion to approve the financial report. Dave Wolkins seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- New Business
  - 2024 Budget Approval – Recommendation
    - Tom Ganser stated that this is the month that the Board will recommend the 2024 Budget to County Council. Tom stated that wage increases are at 10% until Council comes down with their recommendation. Tom also mentioned that office supplies, gasoline, telephone, utilities, meeting expenses, and education services has increased; clothing allowance has stayed the same; and postage, building repairs, publications, recycling services, and HHW has decreased. Brad Jackson asked Tom Ganser if Tom felt comfortable with the 2024 Budget numbers. Tom stated that he feels very comfortable with the 2024 Budget. Discussion briefly continued on the topic. Brad asked if there were any further questions or concerns on the 2024 Budget.

# **Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District**

## **Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Cary Groninger asked if there have been any additional education services or HHW programs added since the closure of the recycling program – being that there is now more room in the budget. Tom Ganser responded by stating that there have been no increases in HHW since 2021. Tom added that if the District hadn't closed the recycling program, then HHW costs would have had to go up. Tom then stated that the District may be able to look at lowering HHW costs by the end of the year (i.e. electronics), or adding in some free HHW days/months. Discussion briefly continued on the topic.

Cary Groninger made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget as presented. Jerry Frush seconded the motion, with the Board approving unanimously.

- Training
  - Tom Ganser stated that he would like to bring HazWoper and DOT training to the District's employees online, instead of in-person. Tom added that it is more convenient with online training. Cary Groninger agreed with Tom on his thinking with online training.
- Old Business
  - Syracuse Site
    - Tom Ganser stated that the District has received a \$5,000 bid on the property; however, the bidder wanted soil to be tested. Tom then stated that the Wawasee School Corporation is also wanting the property, with no soil testing required. Tom added that the School Corporation is willing to pay \$5,000 or more. Brad Jackson stated that the School Corporation has put in the better offer, so they can purchase the site. Cary Groninger made a motion to approve the sale of the Syracuse site to the Wawasee School Corporation at any amount over \$5,000 and no soil testing provided, pending Scott Ruest's (Attorney) approval. Dave Wolkins seconded the motion, with the Board approving the motion unanimously.
  - 2023 Kosciusko County Fair
    - Tom Ganser asked if the Board members have heard any feedback on the County Fair. Dave Wolkins mentioned that he

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heard the merchant tent was not very busy and not many people were walking through it. Tom Ganser agreed with Dave, stating that attendance to the tent was very low. Tom added that many hours were spent out at the Fair by District employees, and not much contact was made with Fair attendees. Cary Groninger mentioned that there should be other considerations made for the booth. Tom added that there are ways that the booth could be unmanned that would still provide attendees with information about the District's services. Discussions and ideas on the fair booth will resume next year around fair time.

- Reports
  - Tom Ganser stated the Director and Educator Reports were included in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions regarding these reports. There were no questions or comments.
- Comments and Questions
  - There were none.
- Adjournment
  - Jerry Frush made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cary Groninger seconded the motion, with the board approving.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 11am.