

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

July Board Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: July 15th, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m.

Present: Sue Ann Mitchell, Bob Conley, Cary Groninger, Dave Wolkins, Jerry Frush, Ashley McGinnis, Alyssa Schmucker, Tom Ganser, Janelle Meyer, Leah Sander (Ink Free)

Absent: Jeff Grose, Scott Reust

- **Call to order:**
 - Bob Conley called the meeting to order.
- **Approval of June 17th, 2025, Board Minutes.**
 - Bob Conley called for a motion to approve the June 2025 board minutes. Sue Ann Mitchell motioned for the approval and Cary Groninger seconded the motion, and the Board members present unanimously approved the motion.
- **Claims and Financial Report:** Alyssa Schmucker
 - Bob then asked Alyssa Schmucker for a financial report. Alyssa Schmucker expressed all the financial information is included in the board meeting packet. July claims were \$25,508.29. The ending balance was \$418,851 and the total cash balance is 1,918,851.48. Alyssa went on to explain Tom has been working on getting things situated with some of the vendors and is not giving up, no real updates on that. June settlement is listed for the June distribution. It was \$5,289.29 in tax revenue dispersed for June in the settlement.
 - With no questions Cary Groninger motioned to approve the Financial report and Sue Ann Mitchell seconded the motion. Present board members unanimously approved.
- **New Business:**
 - Tom Ganser first discussed the issue of phone service. Brightspeed has made things difficult and the service has not been good. They continue to charge tax. Tom spent 4 hours on the phone and Brightspeed has given a \$130 credit but is still charging taxes. Bob Conley asked how much that ends up being and Tom reported approximately \$10 a month but said that isn't the point. We are a government agency and shouldn't be paying taxes and it needs to be fixed so he is still working on it. He is also working on looking into a new provider with Surfnet or Comcast.

Surfnet quoted around \$200 a month which is a \$70 saving. There may be an initial setup fee since it is fiberoptic but we are waiting on the engineers to come out and look at it. Tom said he will keep working on the phone situation until it is resolved.

- Tom moved on to talk about a Paper Shredding Event. As he is always looking for value added services, paper shredding is something we get calls about. Tom has looked into Speedy Shred (which is Barker), as well as Integra.

Integra, out of Elkhart, charges \$225/hr plus a \$50 set up fee. Their process is they bring the shredding truck and shred everything on location. At present they have no more Saturdays in 2025 and likely will soon not have any available in 2026. They are available to come on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

Barker Archives, which is local, has a different process. They would send over totes for us to fill and then they would come back and pick them up to take back to their facility to shred. While they are less expensive, Tom is concerned by the appearance of us keeping the documents. We would have to take on that responsibility before it moves on to Barkers. This makes him uncomfortable and he does not believe the cost outweighs the risk.

If Integra is used it would be a one day event for 3-4 hours. A one time event would end up costing about \$950. This could be a one time thing or we could offer it multiple times, it would be up to the board. Another county has actually opened it up to another non-profit to come and work the event, charge a donation and then take the proceeds.

Bob Conley asked if we would be taking away from any local business by offering the event. Tom said Barker Archives, Staples, and UPS currently offer the service for a fee. Jerry Frush expressed he feels this is something we are called to do and it fits in the reduce, reuse, recycle model. He asked what Barker's cost would be. Tom reported it would be \$.20/lb and they would just leave totes at our warehouse. Tom reiterated that he is uncomfortable with optics of people leaving private documents in our facility. Discussion was had about whether it is considered competing if they do not meet our criteria.

If the board would like to go with Barkers service then it could be something offered all the time and a system would need to be established to secure the totes left at the warehouse. People would be able to drop papers off anytime and then when the toter was full we would call Barkers to come and get them. This is much like what Staples and UPS does.

Cary Groninger voiced he is uneasy with the liability of having these documents at our facility and the accusations that could come against KC Recycling if something would happen. He would like to have Barkers do the service because it would keep it local, but if they don't have the capabilities it seems unavoidable. Other organizations have done events in the past and they have gone both ways. Alderfer Bergen used Barker and the Warsaw Parks Dept. used Integra. There was also possibly somewhere that had people bring it directly to Barker.

The consensus of the board discussion was to use Integra with the traveling shred truck. Offering the event every other month for the rest of the year. Tom believes it will be well received. Cary Groninger would like to try and quantify the benefit of the event. The Board discussed believing that doing an event for August, October, and December would be a good starting place. Sue Ann Mitchell motioned to approve the plan of having 3 shredding events through Integra and Jerry Frush seconded the motion. Present board members unanimously approved.

- Tom moved on to talk about a new Electronics Proposal for Green Wave. Green Wave submitted a proposal which would be pay us \$.16 for each PC, \$.20/lb for laptops and then charge us \$.25 for TVs (we currently pay \$.24) and then \$.05/lb for all other electronics (we currently pay \$.24). There would be a \$249 service/transportation fee (we currently pay \$375 plus a \$300/month rental fee for the trailer).

The most exciting difference is that Greenwave accepts small Freon bearing appliances. This would be dehumidifiers, water coolers, small dorm size refrigerators. This is currently only offered in our county by the HVAC providers and residents have to pay for the service.

If the board approves changing the contract ERI requires 30 day notice. Tom will have Scott Reust look at the contract before we would officially move forward. Tom is excited by the possibility of offering this service to our community at no cost to the resident. Solid Waste District of Kosciusko will pay \$.25/lb.

This new contract will likely increase the number of trailer loads we fill each year. Currently KC Recycling fills about 6-8 trailer/year and with adding the freon appliances Tom predicts the trailer loads will increase to 10-12 loads. Although Greewave pays slightly more and charges less on Electronics, Tom believe the increase of taking more items and needing more transports with outweigh this increase. There will be an item we will no longer be able to take with Greenwave, and that is VHS and cassettes tapes and cds/dvds. Generally this is not one of the bigger products and typically only a half of a gaylord a year comes in.

The Board consensus is taking Freon is much more important for the environment and worth the loss of not being able to take those materials. Tom expressed that we get many calls about Freon appliances so it will definitely be a useful service.

Cary Groninger motioned to approve Tom pursuing the contract with Greenwave and changing providers. Dave Wolkins seconded the motion and all board members who were present voted in favor.

- Tom moved on to the budget adjustments. He pointed out the only changes were adding the expenses of offering the recycling services to the towns outside of Warsaw, which was talked about in the last meeting. Tom will work on writing up the MOUs to keep that moving forward. Becky tweaked the salaries and is still waiting for the approval of the council. Insurance was also increased by \$1,500 to accommodate the expected increase. Revenue was also updated to reflect a predicted revenue of \$500,000.

Cary Groninger motioned to approve the budget adjustments and Jerry Frush seconded the motion. Present board members unanimously approved.

- **Old Business:**

- No old Business

- **Reports**

- Janelle Meyer briefly discussed the Educator report and her progress toward getting back into the schools. She will be sending out the flyer to principals soon since people will be returning to the schools next month. Newsletter was sent via mail chimp but many of them bounced back or went to spam. This is likely from not having a private email address that can be claimed. This will be fixed when we leave Brightspeed and get rid of the embarqmail addresses.

- **Comments & Announcements**

- No Comments or Announcements.

- **Adjournment**

- Dave Wolkins motioned to adjourn and Jerry Frush seconded the motion. Board moved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting August 12, 2025, at 11:00AM.