

Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – January 17th, 2023

Present: Brad Jackson, Cary Groninger, Bob Conley, Joe Thallemer, Rick Swaim, Jerry Frush, Rick Swaim, Scott Reust, Leslie Williams, Rhonda Helser, Becky Dye – Auditor's Office, Liz Shepherd – InkFree News, Kirk Salerno – Borden Waste-Away Group

Absent: Tom Ganser, Dave Wolkins

- Call to Order:
 - Brad Jackson called the meeting to order.
- December 2022 Board Minutes
 - Brad Jackson asked for a motion to approve Minutes from the December 2022 Board Meeting. Bob Conley made a motion to approve as presented. Jerry Frush seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Claims and Financial Report
 - Rhonda Helser presented the claims in the amount of \$58,851.40. The ending checking account balance is \$86,857.45, in addition to the 1.3-million-dollar investment. Rhonda then stated that the 1.3-million-dollar investment is coming due on the 20th of January 2023. She stated that she will need approval from the Board on what they would like to do with the investment – how much they would like to reinvest. Brad Jackson asked how Rhonda Helser and Becky Dye would advise the Board on the amount to reinvest. Becky stated that \$100,000 was transferred into the checking account toward the end of last year and that was to pad the account – since there will not be as much money flowing out, funds from the investment should not have to be drawn. Brad asked how long the investment period is. Becky answered by saying that the investment is one year. Cary Groninger mentioned that most of our outstanding claims have been paid, so the account is looking stable after part of the investment was pulled. Rick made a motion to approve the financial report and reinvest 1.3-million-dollars into the investment. Joe Thallemer seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- New Business:
 - 2023 Board Elections

- Leslie Williams stated that the 2023 Board Elections will need to be held. Bob Conley made a motion to retain all officers as they are and in current positions. Cary Groninger seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Old Business
 - 2022 Recycling Drop-Off Program Closing
 - Leslie Williams stated that all recycling containers have been picked up from all of the residential recycling drop-off locations. The program is officially closed.
 - Billing is caught up to December for GFL
 - Leslie Williams stated that the last bill that Tom Ganser is disputing between the District and GFL is for December 2022. Leslie stated that the dispute is between tonnages – 104.97 tons vs. 98.22 tons. Leslie stated that she thinks the issue will be resolved within the coming weeks.
 - GFL Host Agreement Meeting
 - Leslie Williams stated that the Host Agreement Meeting is on February 7th, 2023 at 9:30am.
 - Kirk Salerno from Borden Waste-Away Group
 - Leslie Williams stated that Kirk Salerno from Borden Waste-Away Group is present and will be sharing how sign-ups are going for curbside recycling within the county.
 - Kirk Salerno stated that there has been an uptick in new customer sign-ups within the county; however, many of those new subscribers are north of US-30 where routes already exists. Kirk stated that there have been very few new subscribers from south of US-30, where not many routes have been established. Kirk Salerno stated that Borden's has been marketing south of 30 heavily because routes need to be built out in order to sustain them long-term. Kirk mentioned that he would like the District to keep up to date on what Elkhart County is doing – they are eliminating their drop-off sites and putting a program together with Borden's to build up the curbside program within Elkhart County. Kirk mentioned that he feels Elkhart County has really good ideas on how to get residents to recycle curbside. Bob Conley stated that he

has been fielding many questions from residents. Bob stated that one of the things he has been asked about is both trash and recycling through Borden's – do residents have to have Borden's trash services in order to receive Borden's recycling services? Kirk stated that outside of municipalities, there are contracts for trash, and Borden's is asking that county residents do have both trash services in order to receive recycling services. Kirk stated that this is an industry standard. He then mentioned that Borden's was an exception to that standard as they used to let residents sign up for just recycling; however, they now require both trash and recycling services to be subscribed to. Joe Thallemer asked if trash services are every other week or every week. Kirk answered by stating that trash is picked up every week, and recycling is picked up every other week. Brad Jackson asked if their services are year-round. Kirk answered by stating that it is year-round, but Borden's does allow seasonal subscriptions.

Rick Swaim asked if there would be any benefit in promoting Borden's Waste-Away through social media, or would that put the District in the situation of only supporting one particular company. Brad Jackson stated that the District could promote that curbside recycling is available throughout the county and put the vendor that is available – if there is only one vendor, then there is only one vendor; however, if another company comes along and offers curbside, then the District would promote them as well. Scott Reust stated that this idea is consistent with the District's previous public service announcement. Rick stated that it is part of our mission to promote recycling.

Brad Jackson and Rick Swaim stated that they have received very few calls in regard to the recycling program closure. Brad and Rick stated that once they were able to explain the “why” of the program closing, the resident understood.

Joe Thallemer stated that Elkhart County closing their

recycling locations at the same general time and for the same general reasons as Kosciusko County seemed to have backed up the KCSWMD's decision to close the sites. Discussion briefly continued on the matter.

- Reports
 - Leslie Williams stated the Director and Educator Reports were included in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions regarding these reports. Rick Swaim stated that he appreciates Leslie Williams' efforts in the schools, as the younger generations are the next recyclers and environmentalists. There were no further questions or comments.
- Comments and Questions
 - Scott Reust stated that he and Tom are meeting on February 7th, 2023, at 9:30 to discuss the host agreement. Discussion briefly continued. There were no further comments or questions.
- Adjournment
 - Rick Swaim made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bob Conley seconded the motion, with the board approving.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 14th, 2023, at 11am.