

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

September Board Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 23, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m.

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 August 12th, 2025, Board Minutes.**
 - Bob Conley called for a motion to approve the August 12, 2025 board minutes. Sue Ann Mitchell motioned for the approval and Jerry Frush 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 August and September claims were \$52,186.90 and the actual total cash balance is \$1,913,820.46. Alyssa expressed everything is paid unless something just came in. Everything appears to be completed and in good shape.
 - Ashley McGinnis motioned for approval of the financial report, Cary Groninger seconded, and the motion was approved.
- **New Business:**
 - Tom Ganser informed the board that a week ago, today, the state board of accounts auditor finished the field portion of the audit. The auditor informed Tom that his report would need to be sent to the committee and then the exit review would take place. Tom and Alyssa have talked about what was asked of them and it appears there are no concerns brought up that KCSWMD was not aware of so they believe the audit is clean. Tom has no concerns in regard to the audit.
 - A trailer was purchased to accommodate helping the local towns with their cleanup days. For the sake of time, Tom purchased the trailer with his personal money. The trailer was originally listed for \$1,500 and Tom was able to get it for \$1,000. The trailer is 16' long by 8' wide. Tom is

asking the board to approve the allocation of money so he can be reimbursed and then Tom will sign the title over to KCSWMD. Bob Conley supported the purchase explaining that to get the discount the trailer had to be paid for then and there. Tom had called Bob for his opinion and Bob supported the purchase.

- Cary Groninger motioned to approve the purchase and Dave Wolkins seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve and voiced appreciation for Tom taking the initiative to get the trailer.

- **Old Business:**

- Tom updated the board that the new phone lines and internet service are up and running. Brightspeed's service was inconsistent toward the end so it just made sense to switch over. It was a difficult time for the change with the audit going on and it got over looked how the change would impact the security system but it has all worked out. The security system was only down for a couple days and is back up now.
- As a result of the change in provider there are now new email addresses for the office. Tom will hold on to Brightspeed for 30 days to allow time to migrate the information and get the correct email address on all of the logins and accounts used.

- **Director's Report**

- Tire Recycling event went well. The Depot loaded out the semi trailer and a 40yd container donated by Lewis Salvage for tires on rims. By Thursday at 3pm they were both completely loaded, and we had to stop taking tires. We could not take any tires on Friday. The event took in 1,185 tires from 210 visits. There were a lot of repeat customers during the 4 days bringing in 8 tires at a time. The event saw participation from 15 different communities within the county.
- Update on landfill fees. GFL has notified Tom by email that they are not interested in changing anything with the contract. Scott Reust says that this is not surprising and just a part of any contract negotiation. Sue Ann Mitchell asked if trash was coming in from Ft. Wayne. Tom explained yes, it is and there is an increase in the fees if the trash is from out of county and then it is an even greater increase if the trash is from out of state. There is some question whether the numbers reflect the true origin of the trash. There was a suggestion that it may be time to audit some of the data and it is within the boundaries of the current contract.
- Cary Groninger believes the board should guide Attorney Scott Reust on how to proceed. Scott believes GFL has been responsive and while they are saying they don't want to make changes, Scott feels this is just a

negotiation tactic and it doesn't mean the board needs to stop pushing. GFL did not want to come to a public forum and share their numbers but would be willing to give numbers privately. Scott also does not believe an audit would be out of line. The question was raised of who would complete the audit and the conversation switched to a less formal way to secure the numbers. Sue Ann Mitchell asked if there are public numbers reported to the state. Tom said yes, there are numbers reported to IDEM and stated he would look into them.

- Scott Reust explained that he does not believe GFL has acted adversely and there is no reason to believe they have acted corruptly. At this point it is our turn to reach out. Bob Conley asked the board for a motion to approve Scott Reust reaching out and continue the conversation. Scott asked that Tom be included in the conversations so that Tom's knowledge of waste management can be a part of the conversation. Dave Wolkins motioned for Scott and Tom to continue to pursue discussions with GFL. Cary Groninger seconded the motion and it was approved.
- The next shred event is scheduled for October 7th from 8am-11am.
- **Educator Report**
 - Tom talked about how Janelle is getting into the schools. Janelle reported that 6 different schools have responded, and she is going into several classes this fall.
 - Still needing connections with adult opportunities. Will schedule some recycling craft classes during the colder months. Janelle also ran into a couple of contacts that wanted to connect about collaboration.
 - Social Media is still be used. Janelle encouraged board members to interact with posts when they are seen to help improve our algorithms.
 - Janelle also asked board members to look at the terms listed on the agenda to make sure they are accurate. If they are not, Janelle asked for the board to let her know before leaving so they can be updated.
- **Comments & Announcements**
 - Alyssa Schmucker reported that instead of reaching out to the SBOA about the Microsoft and Brightspeed charging taxes she worked on it directly with the business. She reported she was successful and the taxes were removed from both and should not be there going forward. Microsoft gave a credit and Brightspeed also gave a \$100 credit. Tom pointed out that he already personally paid the taxes so the credit is just on the account and he personally is still out the money for the taxes. Alyssa says this should not be the case going forward.

- Alyssa also pointed out that tax is allowed to be charged for food. The money he reimbursed for the last board meeting's food can be given back and going forward Tom does not need to reimburse for the taxes on the food for the board meeting.
- **Adjournment**
 - Jerry Frush motioned to adjourn and Jeff Grose seconded the motion. Board moved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting October 21, 2025, at 11:00AM.