



Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on July 26, 2023

SPC EpiCenter, Conference Room 2-304

The meeting of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee (TMC) was held at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304 at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, July 26, 2023. Members present were Willie Joseph, William Pickrum, Robert Turner, Andrew Butterfield, Renee Cooper, Rodney Due, Raymond Adams, Robert Mills, and Kervin St. Aimie. Members absent without an alternate: Keith Sabiel, Marco Villagomez, and Tracy Meehan. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Stephanie Watson, Cassie Hartman, and Joe Morrissey. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

Willie Joseph, Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

- Mr. Joseph introduced Antwann Jackson as the Alternate member for the City of St. Petersburg.
- Kervin St. Aimie introduced himself as the temporary Alternate for the City of Clearwater.

Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023 meeting.

A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Robert Mills to accept the TMC Minutes as written. Motion approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations Report

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste

- Paul reviewed the Solid Waste Operations Report for May and June 2023.
- Lower availability in May is due to the spring outage.
- Covanta's Facility Manager retired at the end of June. Presently, Covanta have regional operations staff filling in as the interim facility manager.
- DSW Operations staff have been conducting random checks of customer use of PPE when unloading at various areas of the site. Customers have been observed to be in compliance.
- The Water Treatment Facility (IWTF) has been shut down since April due to low water levels on site. Staff are performing cleaning and maintenance activities on the facility.
- The decrease in customers visiting the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Center in June could be due to the new operating hours that went into effect on June 1st.

- The number of Business Waste Assessment visits conducted doubled for June. This is due to the addition of two (2) fully trained inspectors.
- The Where Does It Go? Search Tool For Businesses finally saw an uptick in usage with 135 users: the highest since November 2022.
- Public input meetings were hosted by the Department of Solid Waste on 7/11, 7/17 and 7/19 to provide an overview of and seek input on potential changes to county ordinance Chapter 106 - Solid Waste. Learn more at [Pinellas.gov/swordinance](https://pinellas.gov/swordinance).
- On June 21, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved Resolution 22-48, which increases the rate for disposal of municipal solid waste, commercial waste, and yard waste to \$51.00 per ton effective October 1, 2023.
- The following fee increases will take effect October 1, 2023, if the Department of Solid Waste's budget receives final approval from the Board of County Commissioners on September 19, 2023:
 - The Out-of-County Waste Surcharge is applied at \$51.00 per ton in addition to the per ton rate of \$51.00.
 - Passenger Vehicle Flat Rate Fee increases from \$4.00 to \$4.25.
 - Unmodified Pickup Trucks and Vans Flat Rate Fee increases from \$11.00 to \$11.75 (modified pickup trucks and vans will be charged the per ton rate of \$51.00).
 - Tire Fee increases from \$125.00 to \$150.00 per ton (applicable to loads containing five or more waste tires; reweigh is required).
- Because the Department of Solid Waste has had program changes in the last few years (i.e., handling of household electronics, operation days of the HHW Center and Household Collection events, etc.), the completed a review of the municipal websites with the purpose of correcting outdated information. Having updates completed by municipalities will help deliver accurate and consistent information about the Department of Solid Waste programs to the residents of Pinellas County. DSW reached out to municipalities and their Public Information Officers to request updates.
- NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC has begun work to identify and survey food waste generators. This the purpose is to take input from commercial, industrial, and institutional generators on the challenges and opportunities of a food waste collection and processing program as part of pre-planning for a potential program (strategy in Master Plan).

Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through June 30.
- Interest is always budgeted conservatively.
- Other income includes the sale of site required PPE.
- A payment was received and posted for Renewable Energy Credit (REC) sales.
- Capital improvement projects have \$3.2M+ encumbered but have not been billed/posted yet.

- Cassie introduced Jennifer Castagner, Budget & Financial Management Analyst with the Department of Solid Waste. Jennifer will be providing the Financial Report at the September and November meetings in Cassie's absence.

Pinellas County Updates

Stephanie Watson, Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) update:
 - A full list of updates from the July 12, 2023 PPR meeting is included in the meeting packet.
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection presented.
 - Invited the TMC members to attend the September and November meetings which will be held virtually via Zoom.
 - They will be electing two (2) positions at the January 2024 meeting for Collection and Processing. Currently, they have a Recycling Collection and Processing voting member, but they will be splitting that and inviting two (2) private entities to join.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste

- Continuing negotiations with Covanta on renewal of the existing Service Agreement.
- Waiting on the Board's direction on the ordinance as to mandatory recycling. Once this direction is received, the RFP will go back out to the open market with the same scope of work with the addition of guaranteed tonnage based on whether or not recycling is mandated.
- Paul Sacco shared that the public restrooms at the Scalehouse have reopened. There is a designated parking area along the exit road as well as a new sidewalk and crosswalk. Drivers should continue to use caution when crossing the exit lane. Parking at the hot pad is prohibited.

Municipal Recycling Grant Program

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste

- Currently, the total grant funding available is \$500K per fiscal year. Funding is available to municipalities based on population and by meeting criteria on a reimbursement basis. With the expiration of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in December 2024, the DSW is facing a 55% revenue shortfall. The County needs to justify the grant program by quantified diversion and financial return on investment by reducing the contamination rate or increasing the recycling rate/waste diversion. They would like to update the criteria for the program to be more outcome based and measurable.
- Paul provided a presentation of the proposed program revisions:
 - Municipalities desiring to participate must opt-in to a 10-year agreement to:
 - Standardize collected recyclable materials in contracts and education.
 - County will take the lead and provide all content and fund initial roll-out of municipal recycling center container labeling/signage, residential education outreach (magnets, printed mailers, etc.).

- County will develop a pay structure to subsidize each municipality for the initial effort and impacts to existing programs.
- Those opting-in would be eligible for additional grant funding.
- Municipalities declining to opt-in will no longer receive grant funding.

Additional Items for Discussion

- Stephanie Watson shared they are working with NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC for this year's waste composition study. They will be meeting with NewGen in August to provide the scope of work and obtain a quote. As with the last study, municipalities will have the opportunity to opt in at a 'per sample' cost and will be able to utilize the funds from their Municipal Recycling Grant. The assessments should be conducted in October at the Solid Waste facility citizen hand unload.

Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Bill Pickrum. Meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

The next TMC Meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary