



Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on November 15, 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, November 15, 2023. Members present were Willie Joseph, William Pickrum, Robert Turner, JP Agrall, Tracy Meehan, Renee Cooper, Daniel Simpson, Raymond Adams, Robert Mills, Kervin St. Aimie, and Jeffrey Kuhl. Members absent without an alternate: Keith Sabiel, Kaitlyn Roy, Marco Villagomez, and Tom Nicholls. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Jennifer Castagner, Joe Morrissey, and Brendan Mackesey. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

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

Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting.

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

Operations Report

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Paul reviewed the Solid Waste Operations Report for September and October 2023.
- Lower boiler availability in October due to fall outage. Some diversions expected through November.
- Staff continue to monitor site conditions and document punchlist items for Waste Management to complete. Site mowing continues with staff directing priority areas.
- The water treatment plant is running on a modified schedule and at a slower daily processing rate due to low water levels in Pond A.
- There is one more Household Chemical Collection event in 2023. It is on Saturday, December 14th at HHW North (29582 US Highway 19 N., Clearwater).
- The first success story from the new HHW Section and Pinellas County Code Enforcement partnership to divert HHW from the waste stream and better the community through reuse has

been published as a website story. It can be found via this link: <https://pinellas.gov/story/solid-waste-partners-with-code-enforcement-to-help-property-owners-in-need/>

- A free, virtual solid and hazardous waste management workshop for property managers and waste haulers was held on November 2, 2023, to educate the industry on solid, hazardous, and universal waste regulations and management practices.
- The Fiscal Year 2024 Municipal Recycling Grant is underway. In just three business days, 20 out of 24 municipalities responded to our online “intent/decline to participate” form. This is a process improvement because in previous years, each municipality filled out and signed a separate PDF, then emailed it back to us.
- There is a new charter bus contractor to provide tours: Assured Transport.
- The 2024 Recycle Guide will be in English and Spanish. The guide will be printed in early January, delivered to schools, and inserted into one edition of the Tampa Bay Times and tbt*. An online version will be available at www.pinellas.gov/recycleguide and there will be a text only edition.
- We now have downloadable flyers on our [Recycle Guide](#) webpage: What to Recycle and What Not to Recycle. Customers can view, download, and print the flyers. They are 8.5” x 11” to easily match typical printer settings.



[What to Recycle](#)



[What Not to Recycle](#)

Financial Report

Jennifer Castagner, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Jennifer reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through September 30.
- Interest was budgeted conservatively for FY23.
- Landfill expenses favorable due to timing of invoices received and posted.
- Plant contract closer to actual for fiscal year because FY22 invoices were posted in FY23 for August and September.
- Capital improvement projects have \$3M+ encumbered, but projects have not been billed/posted yet. There will be an increase in expenditures for CIP in FY24.

Pinellas County Updates

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- A request for permit modification to allow the diversion of tip-trailers onsite is with FDEP for review. Paul thanked the City of St. Petersburg for sharing GPS data from their trucks in order to provide a baseline of wait times. A study indicated that these haulers deliver the least amount and take the longest. This change in operations would divert tip-trailers to dump at another spot onsite, and the landfill contractor would transfer the waste to the plant or landfill by end of day. It is expected that a transfer operation for these vehicles will reduce turnaround times for the larger haulers.
- Microgrid project update – This is an electrical distribution system for our site that would provide power coming from (future) solar power as well as the Waste to Energy (WTE) facility. They would be tied together to power the buildings on site with any leftover solar power going back to the WTE facility to offset the parasitic load. This would push more power out to the grid, increasing our revenue and reducing utility costs onsite. The first step is a design criteria package which is currently contracted to CDM Smith, then to solicit for the design build. Once this is complete and construction is ready to begin, they will solicit a contract for the solar project.
- Negotiations with Covanta to extend the existing service agreement to operate the Waste-to-Energy facility have ended. Negotiations stalled in late September over processing rate cost differences. Each side was approximately \$10/ton a part, which would equate to \$9M/year. The County requested several times for Covanta to validate the financial loss, but to no avail. This information was presented to County Administration on 10/30 whose direction was to inform Covanta that the County would be testing the market. The existing agreement expires 12/31/2024. It is estimated that the time to initiate and complete this procurement process is 18-months. To that end, the County will be negotiating with Covanta to extend the existing agreement by at least 6-months to provide for a smooth transition.

Municipal Recycling Grant Program Update

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Currently, the total grant funding is \$500K per fiscal year and is available to municipalities based on population. The proposed program would be a 10-year program with municipalities having the option to opt in or not. The first year's agreement would be to standardize recycling communications with the County providing all materials. The County would also provide a biannual recycling waste composition study at no cost to those cities who have opted in. Grant monies would be paid out based on recycling tonnage rather than population. The second year will be based on the first year's performance, and after that, becoming more goal oriented using the first two years as a baseline. A formal proposal will be sent to the TMC members for review and input.

Recyclable Materials Processing RFP Discussion

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Solid Waste staff have revised the RFP for a countywide recyclable materials processing contract. There were no submittals in response to the previous RFP due to a guaranteed tonnage issue. Staff has met with the processors to work through what they would be looking for in a contract and have applied those changes. The updated RFP will be sent to TMC members for review and input, then back to the processors for a final review before putting it back out.

For the purpose of calculating tonnage for the RFP, all municipalities have been included, with the exception of St. Petersburg. However, a mandatory recycling ordinance for the unincorporated areas will be in place by then, which could equal the same tonnage as St. Petersburg. Resource Recycling Systems (RRS), who provided the previous pro forma for a municipal MRF is updating the pro forma and materials market upgrades to assist in deciding the best option going forward.

TMC Meeting Schedule 2024

- The January meeting will be held at Solid Waste's Waste to Energy Administration located at 2940 110th Avenue North, St. Petersburg 33716. This will be a longer meeting to accommodate presentation of the updated rate model and FY25 rate discussion and recommendation.
- **A motion was made by Raymond Adams and seconded by Tray Meehan to accept the proposed TMC meeting schedule for 2024 as written. Motion approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

Solid Waste Holiday Closure Schedule 2024

- **A motion was made by Raymond Adams and seconded by Robert Turner to accept the proposed schedule of holiday hours and closures for 2024 as written. Motion approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

Additional Items for Discussion

- Paul Sacco informed that updates from the September Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) meeting are included in the meeting packet.

Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Tracy Meehan. Meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm.

The next TMC meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at (Solid Waste) Waste to Energy Administration, Room 120, 2940 110th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33716.

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary