



## Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on March 27, 2024

SPC EpiCenter, 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, March 27, 2024. Members present were Willie Joseph, William Pickrum, Kervin St. Aimie, Jeffrey Kuhl, Raymond Adams, Kaitlyn Roy, Robert Turner, Renee Cooper, Daniel Simpson, Rodney Due, JP Agrall, Catherine Eichner, and Tracy Meehan. Members absent without an alternate: Keith Sabiel and Marco Villagomez. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Cassie Hartman, Emily LeMay, and Brendan Mackesey. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

### Call to Order

Willie Joseph, Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

### Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

### Introduction of New Members

Paul Sacco introduced Catherine Eichner, Division Manager of Infrastructure Support Services with Pinellas County Solid Waste. Catherine has been approved as the Board of County Commissioners' Appointee.

Kervin St. Aimie reintroduced Jeffrey Kuhl, Division Controller for the City of Clearwater, as the Alternate voting member for Clearwater.

### Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting.

**A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Tracy Meehan 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 January and February 2024.
- The U.S. EPA has issued proposed changes to standards which will negatively impact the County's ability to comply with Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility air emissions standards. The EPA issued the draft standards for public comment in January 2024 and provided a 60-day review period. The proposed standards include revisions to administrative reporting, monitoring, and compound emission levels.

Staff engaged third-party engineering consultants for assistance to conduct a cursory review. This quick, high-level analysis indicates that the County would plan to invest \$50-200M in capital to design, purchase, and install additional environmental treatment equipment to meet the new standards. More evaluation is required to better understand the projected increase in operational costs (i.e. chemicals, electrical power, labor).

Staff joined state and national WTE industry leaders on a fly-in to Washington D.C. on March 12-13 to meet with congressional and committee leaders with a purpose to educate and request their support by submitting a letter of objection from their office. If enacted as-is, the new rules would take effect in late November 2024. Municipalities would have 5-years to come into compliance for items requiring capital investment. Compliance with other areas of the rule maybe immediate. No compliance enforcement information regarding fines/penalties have been communicated as of yet. Staff will continue to keep you apprised as more information becomes available.

- Solid Waste Association of North American (SWANA) has recognized Pinellas County and the WTE TRP project for an excellence award. The American Public Works Association West Region Branch selected the Pinellas County TRP project for the project of the year recognition. Subsequently, the nomination was automatically submitted to the State level and the County's TRP project was again selected for project excellence.
- County staff received the partially signed amendment from ADS/WM for the operation of the Tip Trailer Transfer operation. Staff are working with Purchasing to get it on the BCC agenda for approval. Implementation of this transfer operation is expected to reduce the quantities of waste diverted to the landfill.
- Gallons treated at the IWTF was down in February due to cold iron at the WTE plant. The new clarifier is expected to be online in early summer.
- Solid Waste Staff hosted a virtual Regulatory Roundtable presentation on February 21. This presentation was attended by 41 people representing 13 municipalities and agencies.
- The sorting phase of the recyclable materials composition study is complete. Samples were provided by 13 municipalities and the County's Beach Park Recycling locations and drop-off centers. The consultant, HDR, is analyzing the data and drafting a report.
- Solid Waste added a new webpage to the website for [Bridgeway Acres Landfill](#) that details facts about the landfill, our mission & vision, and strategies for how residents and visitors can help Pinellas County reach our goals.

## Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through February 29th.
- Other income includes sale of PPE items.
- Duke Electric Sales Revenue and Capacity Revenue are always one month in arrears.
- Interest was budgeted conservatively for FY24.
- Landfill expenses favorable due to timing of invoices received and posted.

- Capital improvement projects have \$13M+ encumbered, but projects have not been billed/posted yet.
- Capital equipment expenditures high due to several items being encumbered in FY23, but items not received until FY24.

## Pinellas County Updates

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Power brokering continues to move forward. Currently at a standstill until they can get the necessary interconnectivity agreements in place to proceed. Looking to have everything ready at the beginning of the new year.
- The County is working with Covanta to extend the existing agreement to provide time for procurement of a new WTE operator. Expect to have the terms nailed down this month, then send to the Board for approval. They have met with the Purchasing department to begin work on the RFP. The existing agreement expires 12/31/2024.
- MRF Update: Solid Waste staff met with the processors to discuss the RFP, and based on the scope of work and lack of guaranteed tonnage, plus the timing with Hillsborough County's active RFP, they shared that none of them would submit a bid. The County recently surveyed unincorporated residents and found that 60% already recycle. Another survey will be conducted to gather better data. Recommends bringing this information back to the City Managers' Meeting in May for further direction which will be presented to the Board in August.

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
  - A copy of the notes from the March 6, 2024 meeting are included in the meeting packet.
  - Looking for a new Chair as Savannah Bennett announced she is leaving the City of Clearwater. Election will be held at the next meeting. PPR Chair must be a municipal member of the Voting Membership.

## Additional Items for Discussion

- No additional items were presented for discussion.

**Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Tracy Meehan. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.**

**The next TMC meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304, 13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street North, Clearwater, FL 33760.**

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary