



Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on July 24, 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, July 24, 2024. Members present were Willie Joseph, William Pickrum, Kervin St. Aimie, Raymond Adams, Robert Turner, Ben Cegelski, JP Agrall, Catherine Eichner, and Tracy Meehan. Members absent without an alternate: Keith Sabiel, Marco Villagomez, and Kaitlyn Roy. 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.

Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024 meeting.

A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Kervin St. Aimie 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 May and June 2024.
- The new tip trailer Transfer Area has been in operation since early June. The purpose of this new Transfer Area is to take small tip trailers away from the WTE tip floor and route them to a separate area to dump to reduce turnaround time for customers at the WTE without having to landfill processible materials.
- Work to replace significant components of the structural steel supporting the SDAs, Baghouses, and Ducts for each of the three boiler units is about to begin. The project is expected to take about three years to complete as the work will occur while the units are online with no expected impact to operations.
- Covanta has rebranded as Reworld. The amendment to extend the existing contract with Reworld for one additional year has been completed and accepted by Reworld. Will now go to Board of County Commissioners for approval and execution.
- Staff and consultants will be working on developing a landfill expansion plan that will prepare us for expanding the South Landfill area north into cells 2 and 3. It is expected that this expansion to

the north will need to occur within about 10 years. The plan will consider temporary and permanent road access, drainage, and infrastructure and operations relocations as needed.

- Work continues on the new clarifier and sludge thickener construction project at the IWTF. During May and June this required the plant to shut down for several periods for piping tie-ins to be completed.
- In May, the Business Waste Assessments Section (BWAS) conducted 100 business visits, 75% of the monthly goals. In May, 72% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS, the highest since December 2021.
- Pinellas County had the fourth-highest overall recycling rate at 70%. The state's goal is a 75% recycling rate. Palm Beach, Baker, and Collier Counties achieved the 75% goal. The average overall recycling rate for the entire state was 49%, putting us well above average. This rate is calculated based on material weights (in tons). View state reports online:

Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through June 30th.
- Other income includes sale of PPE items.
- Duke Electric Sales Revenue and Capacity Revenue are always one month in arrears.
- Landfill expenses favorable due to timing of invoices received and posted.
- Plant management expenses are low due to timing of invoices received and posted.
- Capital improvement projects have \$14M+ 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

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
 - FDEP launched the Take Charge battery campaign (<https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/take-charge-florida>), and are currently working on branding and ads.
 - Team is reviewing the updated draft of the Low Waste Event Guide and will provide feedback by 8/9. The guide will be placed on Pinellas County (PPR) website (<https://pinellas.gov/boards-councils-and-committees/pinellas-partners-in-recycling/>). Will also create a PDF that will be housed on Pinellas website.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- The Board of County Commissioners has appointed Tracy Meehan to the TMC for another term.
- The draft of the Solid Waste budget was presented to the Board of County Commissioners last week, which included the last of the approved 3-year rate increases. The increase will take

effect October 1, 2024 if the department's budget receives final approval on September 19, 2024.

- Finalized negotiations to extend the Service Agreement with Reworld. Working on the procurement side of the contract to get on the Board of County Commissioners' agenda in September. The purpose of the extension is to allow time to procure the next provider.
- Finalized the RFQ for a new WTE operator and are working on the RFP. This will be a two-phase procurement process; the RFQ will be based on qualifications only, and those qualified will be invited for the RFP process. Aiming for release in the October time frame and hope to have completed in less than a year. The SA extension with Reworld is for six months plus (2) 90-day extensions, if needed.
- Power Brokering: Received a power purchase agreement offer from CEG Power Broker for southern Georgia. CEG is a broker for several utilities throughout the country, but Georgia is growing in the manufacturing and industry sectors requiring ~1200 megawatts (MW) per year. The offer is for a five-year agreement of \$42 per MW (net), and they pay the transportation fee. They would be given 40 of the 60-70 MW generated. The balance of power generated over the 40 MW would be brokered on a real-time basis, with anything left over being sold to Duke.

Municipal Recycling Grant Program Update

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- As discussed previously, the Municipal Recycling Reimbursement Grant Program (MRG) is being revamped to focus on standardizing recycling outreach throughout the County and investing in municipal programs to increase waste diversion.

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Emily provided an overview of proposed changes: the program would focus on setting goals for increasing waste diversion, measuring performance, and calculating the reimbursement on how well those goals were met. To make the program more equitable, rather than based on population, every municipality would be eligible for up to \$100k, and they would prioritize those with lower diversion rates and/or those who hadn't received grant funds in the previous year. Eligibility would require municipalities to standardize recycling and to participate in county-funded waste composition studies.
- The team should have a more formalized plan to present at the November meeting.

MRF Update and Discussion

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- The recommendation going back to the Board of County Commissioners will be to not move forward with a County-owned MRF. With the exception of Lealman, where the County provides collection, recycling is voluntary in unincorporated areas. The County conducted two surveys reporting that approximately 90% of unincorporated residents already recycle (curbside or drop-off), so there doesn't appear to be a need to make it mandatory. In addition, at the request of the City Managers, the County solicited processors on the open market. Due to the inability to

guarantee tonnage, necessary facility upgrades, and competing timing with Hillsborough County's contract, there was no interest in a County-wide processing contract.

- Bill Pickrum expressed concern that without mandated recycling, it could affect the County's goal of 'Zero Waste to Landfill' by 2050 and requested an update on the progress of the Solid Waste Master Plan. Paul shared that an initiative of the Master Plan is standardized recycling, and the County is ready to move forward, possibly hold a workshop with municipalities and all stakeholders. Paul will provide an update on the Master Plan at the September meeting and from there open a discussion on next steps on standardization.

Additional Items for Discussion

- On behalf of the Contamination Committee of PPR, Tracy Meehan solicited any testimonials/stories be shared with TMC or PPR to be used in the Take Charge battery campaign ads.

Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Tracy Meehan. Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.

The next TMC meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304, 13805 58th Street North, Clearwater, FL 33760.

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary