



## Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on March 26, 2025

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 26, 2025. Members present were Willie Joseph, William Pickrum, Jacolby Washington, Raymond Adams, Kaitlyn Roy Nielsen, Antwann Jackson, Renee Cooper, Daniel Simpson, Rodney Due, and Catherine Eichner. Members absent without an alternate: Keith Sabiel, Marco Villagomez, JP Agrall, and Tracy Meehan. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Cassie Hartman, Emily LeMay, and James Lewis. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

### Call to Order

William Pickrum, Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

### Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

### Minutes

Vice-Chairman Pickrum entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting.

**A motion was made by Catherine Eichner and seconded by Renee Cooper 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 2025.
- Boiler availability has been low based upon tube failures primarily in the Economizer section. Two problem bundles were replaced during the fall outage. The next replacement for the economizer header is scheduled for the Spring 2025.
- January was the first full month of brokered power. The revenue generated is estimated to be 2.2 times more than the standard offer from a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Duke Energy. February was a somewhat mild month, but electrical revenue is estimated to be 1.2 times greater than a standard offer PPA.
- The hurricane temporary disposal sites at Toytown have been closed and the final conditions accepted by staff. The state area on the Bridgeway Acres site has been graded and hydroseed applied.

- HDR is conducting a waste composition study for Pinellas County. Sorting for the study will take place from March 17 to March 28.
- The Request for Proposals for the five-year update to the Solid Waste Master Plan received one proposal. The evaluation committee meeting was held on February 25. The department made a recommendation to move forward with negotiations.
- HCP Associates, Inc. is conducting a survey on commercial recycling awareness in Pinellas County. The survey aims to gather information from businesses in the area regarding their recycling behaviors and practices.
- The Low Waste Event Guide has been published on our website: [www.pinellas.gov/tampa-bay-area-low-waste-event-guide](http://www.pinellas.gov/tampa-bay-area-low-waste-event-guide). Over the course of a year, this guide was created in collaboration with regional partners, including the City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, Manatee County, and members of PPR. ROP will distribute the guide to both internal and external partners.

## Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through February 28.
- Received \$1.7M in electricity sales for first 3-months and \$2.7M in January. The billing cycle is two months in arrears.
- All capacity payments have been received from Duke Energy.
- Plant management expenses are delayed with the Clerk's auditing of invoices due to the extended agreement and hurricane work projects. Should be released within the next month.

## Pinellas County Updates

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
  - Notes from the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be shared once available. A presentation was provided by Sam Deitrich, Prairie Robotics.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025 at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- The first phase of the RFQ for a new WTE operator is complete which resulted in two qualified firms moving on to the second phase. The RFP should be released by the end of this month. The goal is to have a new contract awarded by September/October 2025.
- Met with Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to provide an update on the Waste to Energy RFP, power brokering, Lealman franchise collection, and the rate recommendation from the TMC. The BCC will vote on the rate increases in July, with formal budget adoption in September. For budgeting purposes, municipalities and haulers should budget around the numbers discussed and recommended at the last meeting.
- The Solid Waste Disposal Complex will be closing at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> for an

employee appreciation event. The facility will open at 5:00 am that day.

- Solid Waste staff will be traveling to Tallahassee next week to meet with ReCap, an engineering company who is turning yard waste into biochar. Leon County piloted a test program and has been operating full-scale for approximately six months. Will provide an update from their visit at the next meeting.

### **Waste Diversion Reward Program**

- Emily LeMay provided an overview of the Waste Diversion Reward Program which is proposed to replace the Municipal Recycling Reimbursement Grant Program (MRG). Under the new program, municipalities would need to apply with a new or improved diversion program to reduce waste. Applications will be prioritized based on Master Plan and are first come, first served. If approved, municipalities will implement their programs and submit a final report detailing the amount of waste diverted. Municipalities are rewarded based on the amount of waste diverted at a rate of \$200 per ton, up to a maximum of \$200,000 per applicant.
- **Chairman Joseph called for a motion to vote. A motion was made by Ray Adams against the proposed program and seconded by Bill Pickrum. The motion passed with a vote of 7:1 against accepting the Waste Diversion Reward Program.**
- **Chairman Joseph called for another motion to continue with the Municipal Recycling Grant Program as is. A motion was made by Ray Adams and seconded by Antwann Jackson. The motion passed with a vote of 7:1.**

### **Additional Items for Discussion**

- No additional items were presented for discussion.

**Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Raymond Adams and seconded by Jacolby Washington. Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.**

**The next TMC meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304, 13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street North, Clearwater 33760.**

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary