



Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on July 23, 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, July 23, 2025. Members present were Willie Joseph, William Pickrum, Kervin St. Aimie, Jacolby Washington, John Benton, Gina Messenger, Robert Turner, 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, James Lewis, and Miles Belknap. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

Willie Joseph, Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025 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 2025.
- Planning continues for the Extended Maintenance Program (EMP) projects scheduled for the 2025 fall outage period. Projects included are the air compressor replacement, Boiler B101 Economizer Bundle 5 and lower header, and B103 Economizer Bundle 4.
- Electrical production in May was reduced due to the scheduled spring outage and cold iron.
- Electrical revenues in May are estimated to be \$420,000 and June was \$1.25M.
- Industrial Water Treatment Facility (IWTF) availability reduced in May due to WTE scheduled outage from 5/11-5/18 and reduced operating staff time due to operator vacancies.
- 353 customers used the Swap Shop in May, and as a result, 8,869 pounds of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. 287 customers used the Swap Shop in June, resulting in diversion and reuse of 5,403 pounds of HHW.

- In May, the Business Waste Assessments Section (BWAS) conducted 112 business visits. 26% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS. In June, BWAS conducted 66 business visits.
- Solid Waste is currently reviewing the preliminary draft of the 2025 Waste Composition Study report and will share it once it is finalized.
- Surveying for the 2025 Commercial Recycling Awareness Study is expected to finish by the end of July. The final report will be shared once it becomes available.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has certified the 2024 Solid Waste Management Report submission and the recycling rate. Pinellas County achieved an Overall Recycling Rate of 62%, which is the accepted recycling rate and includes renewable energy credit from operating the Waste-to-Energy facility. Compared to other counties, Pinellas has the 8th highest recycling rate in the state. All related documents can be found on the [FDEP's website](#).
- The Where Does It Go? (WDIG) Search Tool is transitioning to a new vendor by early August. The tool will continue to be accessed at the www.pinellas.gov/where webpage, and the reuse, recycling, and disposal options will remain the same. The new platform will offer several improvements to the way the information in WDIG is presented., making it easier for customers to find what they are looking for and making it even more of an educational tool.

Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through June 30.
- Plant management includes all Reworld contracted work.
- Electricity sales revenue of \$8.6M is through May. With four months remaining, sales are assumed to achieve or exceed the budgeted amount for FY25.

Pinellas County Updates

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
 - The next meeting is scheduled for July 30th via Zoom. Emily Grant from FoodRecovery.org will be presenting.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Negotiations with Reworld for operations of the waste-to-energy plant are ongoing. Two bids were received from qualified operators. The first meeting with Reworld was held last week, and a response is expected in the next few days regarding the processing rate. If the rate falls within budget expectations, discussions will proceed with Reworld; otherwise, negotiations will shift to the second firm. The evaluation was based on a 1,000-point scoring system, and the two firms were within three points of each other.
- The Solid Waste budget was presented to the BCC on June 12. Two public hearings are scheduled for September, with final approval of the FY26 budget expected at the second hearing. If no changes occur, the approved budget will include the recommended tipping fee increase of 8% to \$58.86 per ton.

- We are evaluating leachate management from the closed Toytown landfill. Currently, the leachate is sent to the City of St. Petersburg's sewer system, costing approximately \$400,000 annually. An alternative under consideration is piping the leachate to the active Bridgeway Acres landfill, where it can be treated more effectively and at a lower cost than sewer disposal. The proposed pipeline route, which must cross under I-275 has a cost estimate of \$3 million. A financial feasibility review will be conducted to assess long-term cost savings and return on investment. Preliminary discussions have been held with FDEP, but formal review and approval will be required.
- We are experiencing challenges maintaining inward gradients at the southeast corner of Toytown. The landfill is surrounded by an underground slurry wall, but the difficulty in maintaining gradients suggests a potential issue with the wall's integrity. Possibly tree root intrusion, cracking, or incomplete attachment to the confining layer. We may need to install wells on both sides of the wall to conduct pressure testing to identify the source of the problem. FDEP is actively monitoring.
- No further updates on the development of Toytown. All information has been provided to the County Administrator regarding the potential to reopen the site as a year-round Class III landfill or as a post-storm debris disposal site.

Additional Items for Discussion

- On July 22, Paul Sacco reported that a small device exploded at the Solid Waste tip trailer transfer area. The incident occurred after a customer dumped a trailer containing an ammunition box. Another customer noticed the box, opened it, and a device inside detonated, causing injury. The incident received media coverage. Solid Waste notified TMC members via email that the SWDC remained open to customers, with vehicles being routed to the hand unload, the plant, or the landfill.

Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Kervin St. Aimie and seconded by Robert Turner. Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

The next TMC meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304, 13805 58th Street North, Clearwater 33760.

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary