



Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on September 24, 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, September 24, 2025. Members present were Willie Joseph, Kervin St. Aimie, Jacolby Washington, Shauwn Clark, Kaitlyn Roy Nielsen, Robert Turner, Renee Cooper, Daniel Simpson, Tom Nicholls, Tracy Meehan, and Catherine Eichner. Members absent without an alternate: Bill Pickrum, Keith Sabiel, Marco Villagomez, and JP Agrall. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Jennifer Castagner, James Lewis, and Miles Belknap. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

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

Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 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 July and August 2025.
- The APC structural steel refurbishment project proceeding on schedule.
- Fall outage is scheduled to begin with Boiler 1 on October 1 and is scheduled to continue through December 16.
- Processing lines for July and August were the highest we have seen since October 2024 (post-storm).
- The Industrial Water Treatment Facility (IWTF) ran 24/7 from July 21 through the month of August. The plant was down on August 19th due to Ferric Sulfate delivery being delayed.
- 301 customers used the Swap Shop in July, and as a result, 5,375 pounds of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 78,699 pounds of chemicals and 26,176 pounds of chemicals were collected at two HHW North Household Chemical Collection Events in July.

- 281 customers used the Swap Shop in August, and as a result, 4,506 pounds of HHW were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 61,671 pounds of chemicals and 24,578 pounds of chemicals were collected at two HHW North Household Chemical Collection Events in August.
- In July, the Business Waste Assessments Section (BWAS) conducted 148 business visits, 117% of the monthly goal. In July, 36% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- In August, BWAS conducted 121 business visits, 96% of the monthly goal. In August, 49% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- The 2025 Waste Composition Study (WCS) report is now available online at <https://pinellas.gov/2025-waste-composition-study>. Key takeaways include:
 - By weight, 11.6% of the waste were program recyclables, down 6% from the last WCS completed in 2022.
 - 16.1% by weight was potentially recoverable construction and demolition (C&D) debris (roofing shingles, concrete, rock, grit), up 7.1% from 2022. Hurricanes Helene and Milton likely caused the increase in C&D debris.
 - 18.4% was other potentially recyclable materials (textiles, white goods, mixed C&D), up 6.1% from 2022.
 - 26.0% was compostable materials (yard waste and food waste), down 2.7% from 2022.
 - The remaining 27.9% included items like treated wood, furniture, and plastic film that are difficult to recycle and segregated loads.
- The Where Does It Go? Search Tool's new platform went live in August. The tool remains accessible at <https://pinellas.gov/where>. The tool can be embedded on municipal websites. Email recycle@pinellas.gov to get the widget's HTML code or to provide feedback on the tool.
- We are reviewing the preliminary draft of the 2025 Commercial Recycling Awareness Survey report and will share it once it is finalized.
- We have negotiated an agreement and pricing with HDR for the five-year update to the Solid Waste Master Plan. This is pending approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Financial Report

Jennifer Castagner, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Jennifer reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through August 31.
- Revenue from electricity sales is expected to exceed the budget, as payments for July-September are still anticipated.
- Rental income was not budgeted; however, new land lease agreements have been established with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Pinellas County Utilities.
- Plant Management expenditures reflect a delay in invoices received from Reworld, resulting in the line item being lower than budgeted.
- CIP will increase as projects for FY2025 begin closing out.

Approval of Charity Free Disposal Allowance

Jennifer Castagner, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Jennifer provided a review of the Charity Free Disposal Allowance Application summary. A total of seven (7) charitable organizations qualified to receive the disposal waiver for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Solid Waste is requesting TMC approval for ~\$733,582.77 in tipping fee waivers.
- Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve. **A motion was made by Catherine Eichner and seconded by Robert Turner. Motion carried unanimously.**

Pinellas County Updates

Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
 - The previous meeting was held on September 17 via Zoom and was well attended by municipal and private partners. A presentation was provided by Digital Education Foundation and eSmart Recycling regarding their partnership to repurpose electronics for donation to individuals in need and to deliver digital literacy education.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Call2Recycle will provide a presentation on their battery and electronics recycling programs.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Negotiations with FCC Environmental Services have been successfully completed for a conditional 10-year contract, with two optional five-year renewals. The new processing fee will be \$34.25 per ton, down from the current \$38.49 per ton paid to Reworld. FCC, headquartered in Spain, operates facilities in the UK, Europe, and the Middle East. Paul, another Solid Waste staff member, and a consulting engineer visited three FCC facilities in the UK and met with municipal partners contracted with FCC, all provided positive feedback. With a 125-year history, FCC is well established in the industry. The contract is scheduled for the Board of County Commissioners' consideration and approval on October 7. If approved, FCC will mobilize for transition beginning around November 1 and will formally assume operations of the facility on January 1, 2026.
- Power brokering to the open market has exceeded the budgeted expectations for years 7-8. The largest turbine requires repairs before the winter months to maintain peak performance and capture the highest demand and rates. A contingency to return to a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Duke Energy is always an option, if necessary.
- Revision of the Solid Waste Ordinance will resume. Developed a new approach following the decision to move away from a County-owned MRF and mandated recycling in unincorporated areas. Any proposed edits will be presented to the TMC for review prior to submission to the BCC for approval.
- On September 18, the Board of County Commissioners approved the final budget, which includes an 8% increase to the solid waste disposal fee. Effective October 1, the rate will increase from \$54.50 to \$58.86 per ton.

Additional Items for Discussion

- No additional items for discussion.

Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Tracey Meehan and seconded

by Kervin St. Aimie. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

The next TMC meeting is scheduled for November 19, 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