



## Technical Management Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting on November 19, 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, November 19, 2025. Members present were Willie Joseph, Bill Pickrum, Kervin St. Aimie, Jacolby Washington, Shawn Clark, Brian Peckins, Robert Turner, and Catherine Eichner. Members absent without an alternate: Keith Sabel, Marco Villagomez, Renee Cooper, Tom Nicholls, JP Agrall, and Tracy Meehan. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Cassie Hartman, Emily LeMay, and Joe Morrissey. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

#### Call to Order

Willie Joseph, Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

#### Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

#### Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025 meeting.

**A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Kervin St. Aimie to accept the TMC Minutes as written. The motion was approved and carried unanimously.**

#### Operations Report

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Paul reviewed the Solid Waste Operations Report for September and October 2025.
- The new Waste-to-Energy (WTE) operating contract was awarded to FCC on October 7, 2025. This new operating contract will go into effect on January 1, 2026. In the meantime, FCC will be preparing to take over the operation of the WTE through a transition process.
- The WTE fall outage is scheduled to begin on November 6 with Boiler 3 being taken down for maintenance through November 17. Boiler 1 is scheduled for its maintenance outage on November 29 through December 16, followed by Boiler 2 from December 16 through December 30.
- A new metric is being reported for Scalehouse operations, including the number of transactions processed and average wait-times for reweighing customers.
- The Industrial Water Treatment Facility (IWT) is still running 24/7. The pond level is down 1.1 feet for the month.

- 221 customers used the Swap Shop in September, and as a result, 4,277 pounds of HHW were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 55,261 pounds of chemicals and 24,912 pounds of chemicals were collected at two HHW North Household Chemical Collection Events in September. There was one Municipal Household Chemical Collection Event with the City of St Petersburg that collected 6,823 pounds of chemicals.
- 219 customers used the Swap Shop in October, and as a result, 4,037 pounds of HHW were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 62,651 pounds of chemicals and 30,565 pounds of chemicals were collected at two HHW North Household Chemical Collection Events in October.
- In September, the Business Waste Assessments Section (BWAS) conducted 109 business visits, 87% of the monthly goal. In September, 36% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- In October, BWAS conducted 108 business visits, 87% of the monthly goal. In October 42% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- The 2025 Commercial Recycling Awareness Survey is available online at <https://pinellas.gov/2025-commercial-recycling-awareness-survey/>. This study assessed the recycling awareness of businesses in Pinellas County, aiming to identify pain points and barriers to recycling. Over 350 businesses across Pinellas County, representing all industry types and sizes, were surveyed via telephone from June to August. 51% of businesses surveyed recycle, which is down from 70% in 2023, but similar to 2019 and 2021 survey results. Most cite environmental concern as their reason. 59% of non-recyclers say it's not a priority. Most businesses would recycle if it were easier or mandatory, with mandatory being increasingly influential since 2019. Rechargeable batteries remain problematic: 28% of businesses admit to recycling (in mixed recycling bins) or discarding them incorrectly, while 52% claim not to have or use them. This is likely due to a lack of awareness of what items contain rechargeable batteries.
- The FY25 Municipal Recycling Grant Program concluded Sept. 15. \$500,000 program funds, \$492,858.00 utilized, \$7,142.00 remaining. 21 of the 23 participating municipalities submitted reimbursement requests. Funds were spent in the following categories: Personnel, Operating, and Recycled Content Products.
- It was recommended to discontinue the Municipal Recycling Grant Program starting in FY27, with funds returned to the operating budget.

## Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summary for October 1 through September 30.
- The final FY25 report will be provided in January, pending completion of year-end transactions.
- Kicked off rate study with Raftelis.
- New revenue is being reported from land lease agreements with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (driving range) and Pinellas County Utilities (FOG plant).
- Plant Management expenditures are three months in arrears.

## Pinellas County Updates

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
  - The previous meeting was held on November 5 via Zoom. Mark Steadman from Call2Recycle provided a presentation on battery recycling, including the recycling process, safety considerations, how to avoid overcharging, and proper disposal methods.
  - Keep Pinellas Beautiful will host a holiday open house on December 12; registration is available online. Their annual awards luncheon is scheduled for February 12, 2026.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Zack Farr of Biotech Applied Research will present on biochar technologies.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Power brokering revenues are currently tracking above budget. A Florida consortium recently inquired about a 2027-2028 call option that would allow for the purchase of on-demand power. The proposal requests availability of up to 50 MW, with an estimated retainer of \$1-2 million. If the option is exercised, power would be purchased at the current open-market rate plus applicable transmission fees. There is concern that 50 MW may be excessive, with 30-40 MW potentially being more appropriate. A follow-up call is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the proposal further.
- The Board of County Commissioners approved moving forward with a refresh of the Solid Waste 30-year Master Plan. Have contracted with HDR, and the project is expected to take approximately 9 months to one year. Municipalities may be contacted to provide input during the process.

## 2026 TMC Meeting Schedule

- The January meeting will be held at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 1-455, located at 13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street North, Clearwater, FL 33760. This will be an extended meeting with an earlier start time of 1:00 pm to accommodate a presentation of the updated rate model, as well as the FY26 rate discussion and recommendation.
- **A motion was made by Kervin St. Aimie and seconded by Brian Peckins to accept the proposed TMC meeting schedule for 2026 as written. The motion was approved and carried unanimously.**

## Amendment to 2025 Solid Waste Holiday Schedule

- The County-observed holiday on Friday, December 26, 2025, was inadvertently omitted from the 2025 Solid Waste Holiday Schedule. Solid Waste requested approval to implement limited operating hours of 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on that date, consistent with other County-observed holidays.
- **A motion to approve the request to amend the 2025 Holiday Schedule was made by Catherine Eichner and seconded by Brian Peckins. The motion was approved and carried unanimously.**

## 2026 Solid Waste Holiday Schedule

- The County Employee Appreciation Event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2026.
- The Independence Day holiday will be observed on Friday, July 3, 2026. A request was made to implement limited operating hours of 7:00 am to 12:00 pm on the actual holiday, Saturday, July 4.

Members noted that back-to-back days of closure or limited operations creates challenges, particularly for commercial collection. As a result, amending Saturday, July 4, 2026, to limited operating hours of 7:00 am to 3:00 pm was proposed.

- **A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Kervin St. Aimie to accept the 2026 Holiday Schedule with the proposed amendment. The motion was approved and carried unanimously.**

## **Additional Items for Discussion**

- No additional items for discussion.

**Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Catherine Eichner and seconded by Robert Turner. Meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.**

**The next TMC meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 1-455, 13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street North, Clearwater 33760.**

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary