



Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on September 23, 2026

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 23, 2026. Members present were Willie Joseph, Kervin St. Aimie, Jacolby Washington, Robert Turner, Colin Bartholomew, Calley Pate, Rodney Due, Christina Porter, Kyle Riefler, Catherine Eichner, and Brenna Haggar. Members absent without an alternate: Randy Knott, Keith Sabiel, Michael Weaver, and Marco Villagomez. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Cassie Hartman, Emily LeMay, 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 July 22, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Catherine Eichner 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 July and August 2026.
- August tonnage to the WTE facility increased. Despite the turbine being out of service, FCC continues to operate both units efficiently. WTE tonnage is expected to continue trending upward. Landfill tonnage should continue to decrease.
- The Industrial Water Treatment Facility (IWTF) resumed operations in August. Although some leaks were found, the facility remains operational. Tank replacement is anticipated within the next month.
- 258 customers used the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Swap Shop in July, and as a result, 4,898 pounds of HHW were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 67,753 pounds of chemicals and 42,135 pounds of chemicals were collected at two HHW North Household Chemical Collection Event in July. There were 39 customers at the Business Electronics & Chemical Collection event in July, and a total of 11,835 pounds were collected.

- 196 customers used the Household Hazardous Waste Swap Shop in August, and as a result, 3,955 pounds of HHW were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 53,325 pounds of chemicals and 26,718 pounds of chemicals were collected at two HHW North Household Chemical Collection Events in August. There were 52 customers at the Business Electronics & Chemical Collection event in August, and a total of 25,596 pounds were collected.
- In July, the Business Waste Assessments Sections (BWAS) conducted 124 business visits, 107% of the monthly goal. In July, 40% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- In August, the Business Waste Assessments Sections conducted 134 business visits, 112% of the monthly goal. In August, 48% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- The Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 26-54 Repealing 05-59 Terminating the Municipal Recycling Reimbursement Grant, effective 10/1/2026.
- New Recycling Resources for Municipalities Webpage: [Recycling Resources for Municipalities - Pinellas County](#)

Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summary through August 31 (approximately 92% of fiscal year).
- Scrap Sales increased due to metal sales as the department has caught up on the previously stockpiled materials.
- Electricity sales are lower than anticipated due to the turbine outage.
- Operating expenses reflect expenditures through August 31 and do not include encumbrances. The reported \$3.2 million in operating expenses, excluding plant and landfill management, does not reflect actual year-end spending, as numerous outstanding invoices have been paid recently. Approximately 89% of the operating budget has been expended, and the Clerk is working to close out any remaining outstanding items by September 30.

Approval of Charity Free Disposal Allowance

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie provided a review of the Charity Free Disposal Allowance Application summary. A total of eight (8) charitable organizations qualified to receive the disposal waiver for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Solid Waste is requesting TMC approval for ~\$818,388.31 in tipping fee waivers.
- Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve. **A motion was made by Rodney Due and seconded by Colin Bartholomew. Motion carried unanimously.**

Pinellas County Updates

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
 - The last meeting was held on September 16. A presentation was provided by Richard Coupland with CP Group on the company's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) technologies,

including those used by Waste Management at their Tampa MRF.

- The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- In response to a TMC request, plans are underway to install a live camera feed at the Solid Waste Disposal Complex (SWDC), accessible through YouTube, to allow users to monitor on-site traffic conditions. The camera location has been identified to provide views of the roundabout and ramp leading to the WTE tipping floor. Equipment has been selected, and an installation quote has been obtained. The project has received BTS (IT group) approval and is now with the Web Team to coordinate YouTube integration. Hope to have an additional update at the November meeting.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- The anticipated completion date for the turbine repairs remains unchanged. GE is expected to complete repairs in November, after which it will be shipped for high-speed testing before being returned to service in late December.
- Two meetings with FM Global are scheduled for October. The first will focus on the draft Root Cause Analysis (RCA) report prepared by Hyperion, an independent third-party. Preliminary findings identified water intrusion into the turbine, potentially from multiple locations. The second meeting will initiate discussions regarding the business interruption claim, including lost revenue and increased costs associated with the outage, such as energy, metals, and operational expenses.
- Landfill tonnage has decreased as a result of the City of Clearwater and Waste Connections diverting municipal solid waste to the Heart of Florida Landfill outside the county. The flow control requirement has been waived for the City of Clearwater. Expect this diversion to continue through the end of January.
- Exploring the possibility of mining material landfilled since the 2024 storms to recover lost landfill capacity. Preliminary estimates suggest that removing approximately 2,000 tons per week could extend the landfill's lifespan by 12–14 years, with the project taking an estimated 3–4 years to complete. The estimated cost of transporting material out of county is \$35–40 million, potentially funded through reserves as a one-time expense without impacting tipping fees. Additional analysis is needed to determine the amount of material that could be diverted out of county. The project would not begin until the turbines are back online to avoid disrupting normal operations. Before moving forward, the department would seek TMC's recommendation and County Administration's support to present to the BCC for consideration, particularly whether the cost is justified to restore landfill capacity to pre-storm levels.
- The microgrid project will establish an onsite electrical distribution system, reducing reliance on Duke Energy and supporting the planned floating solar array on Pond A. Currently, there is no infrastructure to distribute power generated at Pond A to the rest of the site. The project will include a small substation to distribute power generated by the WTE facility and solar array, along with a third connection to Duke Energy for backup power, if needed. The goal is to operate primarily on power generated onsite, using approximately 1 MW of the 5 MW generated and exporting the remaining 4 MW to the grid. While the anticipated return on investment is 20-25 years, the infrastructure is expected to remain in service for 75-80 years. An RFQ has been issued to select a design-build professional for the microgrid portion of the project. Funding is already budgeted and included in the rate model.
- The Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow to approve the final budget. If approved, the new fee

increases will take effect October 1. The proposed rates include the tipping fee of \$63.57 per ton, tire disposal fee of \$210 per ton, and an out-of-county waste surcharge of \$63.57 per ton, in addition to the per ton rate of \$63.57.

Additional Items for Discussion

- Jacolby Washington asked how the Charity Free Disposal Program is funded and whether the County has considered offering credits to municipal haulers as an incentive to increase recycling.
 - It was explained that the Charity Free Disposal Program is not a budgeted expense; instead, credits are applied directly to eligible accounts.
 - The TMC could recommend that the County consider a recycling incentive program. However, the County's responsibility is limited to unincorporated residents, and the most recent recycling survey indicated that approximately two-thirds of those residents already participate in recycling.
- The County is responsible for waste collection services in Lealman. The current contract with Coastal Waste expires at the end of December. The contract was put out to bid, and Waste Management (WM) was selected as the new hauler, effective January 1. The County is coordinating with Coastal Waste and WM to ensure a smooth transition of services.

Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Robert Turner and seconded by Kervin St. Aimie. Meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm.

The next TMC meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2026, 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