



# WEST VIRGINIA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Mark D. Holstine, PE, Executive Director  
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## MINUTES

### West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board September 18, 2024 11:00 am

#### 1. Roll Call.

Present - Board: Mallie Combs, Tim Blankenship, Howard Coffield, Steve Pilato, Yogesh Patel, Jason Frame, and Roger Bryant.

Absent: None.

Board Counsel: Kelley Goes, Esq.

Staff: Mark Holstine, Jayne Ann Arthur, Paul Hayes, Carol Throckmorton, Kelly Vickers, and Maxine Johnson.

Visitors Listed: Carol Blankenship - Public.

The regular meeting was properly advertised in accordance with W.Va. Code, Chapter 6, Article 9A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mallie Combs, at 11:00 am. Jayne Ann Arthur called the roll. The Chair announced a quorum was present.

## **2. Approval of minutes.**

### **A. August 21, 2024 Board Meeting.**

Chair Combs requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the August 21, 2024 meeting. Mr. Blankenship moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Bryant, the motion passed unanimously.

## **3. Financial Reports.**

### **A. Financial Statements.**

Ms. Vickers gave an overview of the balance sheet and income statement for July 2024 and informed the Board that there were no significant changes. The Expenses line-item Annual Increment was for the annual SWMB staff increment pay, and the other insurance was for the quarterly BRIM payment. The negative OPEB is from the FY 2024 audits and will be carried forward as we pay it down. Greenbrier County has made a loan payment and it will be reflected in next month's statements.

### **B. Purchasing Card Report.**

Ms. Vickers went over the expenses on the P-card for July 2024 and informed the board that 13th month charges discussed during the August Board meeting are included in the July P-card statement. Ms. Vickers informed the Board that there were not any out of the ordinary expenses on the P-card. Normal charges are for general office supplies and legal code books.

Ms. Vickers further explained the additional P-card report provided, informing the board the document is pulled directly from the state Oasis system and she would like for it to be included in future board packets to provide a more insightful transparent summary of P-card usage. The board agreed and stated the change is appreciated.

### **C. Assessment Fee and Tonnage Data.**

The assessment fee and tonnage data for July 2024 was explained to the Board by Kelly Vickers. July assessment fee checks in the amount of \$2,283.00 were mailed out on July 16, 2024. Average check for the year is \$2,283.00.

Assessment fee revenue for the month of July 2024 was \$251,149.00. Average revenue for the year is \$251,149.00. The year-to-date tonnage comparison is 11.04%.

Ms. Vickers also informed the board that in the future she will provide additional more thorough year to date and month to month comparison for a better visual of the actual tonnage.

**D. Grant Status Report.**

Ms. Vickers informed the Board that the FY 2024 grant program ended on July 31, 2024, and final reports were due on August 31, 2024. All final reports have been received.

**E. None.**

**4. Standing Committee Reports.**

**A. None.**

**5. Executive Director Report.**

**SWA Training** - There were 22 people representing 10 SWAs that registered for the Wheeling training session scheduled for Thursday, September 12 at the Highlands Event Center in Triadelphia, WV. 22 people representing 9 SWAs attended. Combined with the training at Raleigh County SWA, our two one-day training sessions engaged 43 people representing 19 solid waste authorities. In comparison, last year's AWVSWA conference had 30 solid waste authorities attend. Comments from those in attendance have been very positive.

In addition, the links to videos of the training sessions and powerpoints recorded by DEP at the Raleigh County session will be posted on our website following the Wheeling training session.

Director Holstine stated that Kelly Vickers provided a fraud presentation during the training in the absence of the auditor's office as well as a modified grant presentation. These power points will be available as well.

The Highlands Event Center was very nice and their staff was very helpful.

**Greenbrier County SWA** - The first loan payment has been received.

**Kanawha County SWA** - At the July meeting, you approved Kanawha County SWA Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan amendment. On Wednesday, September 18, the Kanawha County SWA is holding an informational meeting for municipalities in the county to inform them of the new proposed rates in the application for the certificate need application for Waste Management (WM) that is under review at the PSC for the new transfer station. The proposed rate at the

transfer station is \$37.44 per ton plus landfill disposal rate. The landfill disposal rate at WM's landfill in Putnam County is \$55.16 per ton. This would make the transfer station rate at the proposed Charleston facility \$92.60 per ton. In addition, Kanawha County SWA is asking that the fifty-cent per ton fee that it currently receives from the Charleston landfill be added to the rate, which would bring the rate up to \$93.10 per ton SWA. The proposed facility would also not offer a free day. The West Virginia Citizens Action Group (CAG) has petitioned to intervene in the rate case. CAG is concerned about recycling costs, free day, and county cleanups.

The Board discussed waste energy and future possibilities.

**Tucker County SWA** - A site selection meeting was held on September 4 with Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), the consulting engineer, contractor, and Jody and I to review pipeline access, collection system placement, well and flare locations, etc. The goal is to get the collection system and a flare in place before winter weather. Due to a permitting issue, the flare will be constructed and maintained by RNG but will be owned by the SWA. Regardless of the success or failure of the gas project, the flare can remain in place to help eliminate the odors caused by the landfill gas vent problem.

The manhole for the relocation of the leachate lines has been installed and the pumps are scheduled to be installed on Wednesday, September 18. This should help dewater the waste cells, in particular the active area, and possibly help dewater some of the gas vents. This will also relocate the leachate lines to allow us to expand the stormwater pond to a proper size to assist with compliance of stormwater drainage parameters.

Director Holstine will be on site at the landfill for portions of the next three weeks to cover for Jody Alderman as he attends to some personal business.

**Pocahontas County SWA** - The site inspection part of the performance review will be conducted in Pocahontas County on October 3, 2024.

A special meeting was held on September 9 to discuss vandalism issues at two of the green box sites and future operations. A report by Allegheny Mountain Radio reporter Tim Walker stated that board member Jamie Walker, who is also a County Commissioner, said that the only affordable way forward is to operate the green box system only and limit their operation to only accepting household trash. Chairman Ed Riley agreed. Discussion also included the need to make a more concerted effort in limiting unauthorized waste being placed in the green boxes. It was also discussed that citizens would have to contract with a private hauler to dispose of other materials or haul the waste themselves to another landfill. No action was taken on future operations at this meeting.

The article on this meeting can be found at: <https://www.alleghenymountainradio.org/replacement-fences-to-be-built-at-caesar-mountain-and-marlington-green-box-sites/>

**Nicholas County SWA** - The Nicholas County SWA site inspection as part of the performance review has been scheduled for September 26, 2024.

Nicholas County SWA filed an application to increase its rates and charges for the facility. The base rate is currently \$65.78 per ton and Nicholas is requesting to increase the base rate to \$77.85. The proposed rate increase of 18.35 percent will produce approximately \$277,948 in additional annual revenue. The case was referred to an ALJ with a decision expected by March 21, 2025.

On September 9, PSC staff issued a Memorandum requesting additional information from the SWA which included; payroll summary, depreciation schedule, specific maintenance costs, amortization schedules, etc. Staff states it will continue to evaluate the request in the scheduled time frame.

Nicholas Sanitation has petitioned to intervene and protest in the rate case.

**Mercer County SWA** - Mercer County SWA applied to the PSC to increase rates and charges at the landfill due to increased operation and maintenance expenses. The proposed rate of \$44 per ton is a 15.8% increase from the current base rate of \$38. As part of the petition, Mercer is requesting the ability to allow a negotiable tariff for municipalities in Mercer County and haulers licensed by the PSC that collect waste in Mercer County. In addition, the closure, post closure and construction escrow accounts are sufficiently funded and the authority is proposing a decrease in the deposit of these accounts from \$4.34 to \$2.17 per ton. The case was assigned to an ALJ and a decision is expected to be made by March 24, 2025.

**Other** - Carol Throckmorton attended a public hearing in Ohio County SWA on Friday, September 13, 2024 for the Comprehensive Litter & Solid Waste Control Plan, and the Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan.

Kyla Morris will begin work on September 23 to fill the position vacated by Brittany Cummings. Kyla is a recent graduate of Marietta College in Ohio with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and a minor in Leadership Studies. Dean's List, Biology Honor Society, and the McDonough Leadership Scholar are a few of her honors and awards. She has also worked for the Blue Feather Land Trust planting trees and repairing stream banks as well as working to clean up the banks of the Ohio River.

The DEP-REAP Recycling Grant Committee will meet on October 10.

Director Holstine is currently evaluating training locations and training topics for calendar year 2025.

James Allen, executive director of Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority will be retiring at the end of October. Director Holstine informed the board he has spoken with Mr. Allen and had a preliminary conversation about the possibility of Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority needing a loan from the Solid Waste Management Board for tire processing.

Ms. Throckmorton shared with board her experience with attending the Ohio County Solid Waste Authority's public hearing relating to a transfer station

**6. Unfinished Business.**

**A. None.**

**7. New Business.**

**A. Logan County Solid Waste Authority Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Control Plan and Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan update.**

Chair Combs stated that the Logan County Solid Waste Authority Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Control Plan and Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan update abstracts were emailed and are also included in the Board packet.

There being no questions, Steve Pilato moved that the Board approve the Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Control Plan update for the Logan County Solid Waste Authority in accordance with W.Va. §22C-4-8(d) and WV Code of State Rules 54-3-6. Mr. Pilato further moves that the Board approve the Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan update for the Logan County Solid Waste Authority in accordance with W.Va. §22C-4-24(d) and WV Code Rules 54-4-6 Seconded by Tim Blankenship, the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Braxton County Emergency Grant Request.**

Director Holstine stated that the grant request for Braxton County Solid Waste Authority will not be pursued. There are complications with the ownership of the structure for the grant request and the rules of the Solid Waste Management Board will prevent obtaining a grant.

**C. Pleasants County Emergency Grant Request.**

Chair Combs stated included in the board packets were the documents explaining the position of the Pleasants County SWAs request for emergency grant funding in the amount of \$11,000.00 to fund the critical repair of their main baler.

In accordance with 54 CSR 5, Subsection 3.3, Mr. Patel moved that the Board approve the Pleasants County Solid Waste Authority's request for a FY 2025 SWMB emergency grant in the amount of \$11,000.00, provided that the Authority submits all grant expenditure documentation as required by the Board. Steve Pilato seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. **Other.**

8. **Miscellaneous Business.**

A. **None.**

9. **Public Comment – Limited to three minutes.**

A. **None.**

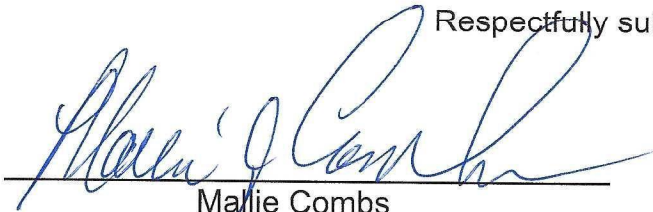
10. **Next Meeting.**

Chair Combs set the next meeting of the Solid Waste Management Board for **Tuesday, October 29, 2024** at 11:00 am in The Hawthorne Room at Canaan Valley Resort.

11. **Adjournment.**

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Combs adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mallie Combs  
Chair



Mark D. Holstine  
Secretary/Treasurer