



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Chair Doug Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members Present: Monica Duebbert, Mike Easker, Frank Frassetto, Kevin Konrad, Howard Miller, Doug Nelson, Tim Paterson, Jeremy Thull. Excused: Jim Wise.

Also Present at the Meeting:

Kathy Hutter, Director of Solid Waste

Cassie Stadtmueller, Operations Manager

Tyler Esslinger, Business Manager

Ryan Bieber, Environmental Compliance Manager

Mary-Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel (10:00 a.m. - 12:03 p.m.)

Tiara Carlson, Assistant Corporation Counsel (10:00 a.m. - 12:03 p.m.)

Paul Kaiser, Finance Director (10:00 a.m. - 12:03 p.m.)

Clint Baier, Solid Waste Mechanical Technician (10:00 a.m. - 11:24 a.m.)

B. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Board

None.

C. Communications Shared by Board Members

None.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the January 7, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by M. Duebbert, seconded by M. Easker to Approve the January 7, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes. Passed. Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0.

E. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Landfill Gas Equipment Replacement Project Status

K. Hutter provided the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) with a project progress summary covering the period from January 7, 2026, through January 26, 2026.

D. Nelson requested that the Gas Handling Skid (GHS) be referred to as Skid #1 and the Gas Conditioning Skid (GCS) be referred to as Skid #2 going forward.

K. Hutter also provided additional information to the SWMB regarding recent developments not included in the agenda packet, as follows:

- *During a Project Status Meeting held on February 3, 2026, it was reported that a shaft replacement would be required on Skid #1. The replacement is being expedited, with*

an estimated delivery timeframe of 1–2 weeks and installation anticipated during the week of February 23, 2026.

- *On February 3, 2026, Skid #1, blower 302 was approved by Perennial Energy, Inc. (PEI) to operate. Solid Waste management informed PEI that a Solid Waste employee would need to be onsite to confirm optimal wind conditions and specific wind directions, as unfavorable conditions could damage the flow meter on the old flare.*
- *On February 3, 2026, unusual noises were observed from Skid #1, blower 302 by Mechanical Technician Clint Baier. With permission from PEI, C. Baier opened the bearing housing covers on both blowers and observed discoloration in the bearing grease.*

R. Bieber presented photos to the SWMB detailing grease discoloration on Skid #1 blower 301 and 302.

R. Bieber stated that PEI technicians were on site the week prior to inspect the discoloration of the bearing grease on January 30, 2026. The bearing grease was replaced and Perennial gave the County permission to run Skid #1 and the flare.

Discussion ensued amongst the SWMB.

D. Nelson sought clarification on if we could run Skid #1 with just 1 blower.

R. Bieber stated that was correct. However, at this time, each blower is exhibiting signs of questionable mechanical reliability.

M. Duebbert questioned if all communication between PEI and Solid Waste Administration is documented.

R. Bieber stated that yes, either via email or recorded meeting minutes.

K. Hutter stated that PEI is sending their Technician back on site beginning February 5, 2026.

Discussion ensued amongst the SWMB.

F. Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 19.85, Wisconsin Statutes, at this point in the meeting, the Board shall consider a motion to convene into closed session for the purpose of: (1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, in relationship to Landfill Gas Equipment Replacement Project Status.

Motion by M. Duebbert, seconded by K. Konrad at 10:30 a.m. to convene into Closed Session. Motion carried by 8-0 roll call vote.

1. Landfill Gas Equipment Replacement Project Status

G. Return to Open Session to Resume Regular Business

Roll-call vote to be conducted to return to Open Session.

Motion by M. Easker, seconded by M. Duebbert at 12:04 p.m. to Return to Open Session to Resume Regular Business. Motion carried by 8-0 roll call vote.

1. Landfill Gas Equipment Replacement Project Status
No discussion or action by the SWMB.

2. Landfill Siting Project — Steps & Budget for 2026

K. Hutter presented the 2026 budgeted next steps and overall strategy for the Landfill Siting Project, as previously discussed in Closed Session on January 7, 2026, and Open Session on February 4, 2026.

K. Hutter explained a correction to the agenda packet. K. Hutter stated that Mary-Anne Mueller would coordinate a legal consultant through Corporation Counsel.

D. Nelson requested clarification regarding the initial financial investment by the Solid Waste Department prior to determining whether a landowner is willing to sell.

K. Hutter stated that anticipated initial costs include \$5,000 to Foth Engineering to finalize the Landfill Siting and Long-Term Facility Planning Report, as well as initial legal consultation fees, which would be billed on an hourly basis.

Motion by M. Duebbert, seconded by T. Paterson, to approve the Landfill Siting Project — Steps and Budget for 2026. Motion passed. Yes: 8, No: 0, Abstained: 0.

T. Paterson asked whether the \$120,000 budgeted for an environmental consultant included the previously referenced \$5,000, for Foth to finalize the Siting Report.

K. Hutter confirmed that the \$5,000 is included within the \$120,000 environmental consulting budget.

J. Thull suggested seeking quotes from additional engineering firms.

K. Hutter stated that the engineering contract is renewed annually and put out for bid every five years, and noted that the Department is not opposed to soliciting additional proposals from other engineering firms, when it makes sense for project needs.

3. Landfill Leachate Pre-Treatment Requirements in Upcoming PFAS Legislation

K. Hutter informed the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) of recent legislative activity related to PFAS regulation. An initial Assembly Bill and partner Senate Bill were introduced in early March 2025 to address PFAS in the environment.

She noted that Amendment 1 was recently added to Assembly Bill 131 and Senate Bill 128, which could provide landfills with access to grant funding for PFAS testing, treatment systems, and other environmental compliance costs. The amendment may also allow landfills an exemption from the Wisconsin Spills Law for PFAS present in leachate, provided that a treatment system is in place or the landfill is actively working toward implementing one, by December 31, 2028.

K. Hutter emphasized the importance of the Department moving forward with evaluating leachate pretreatment options, as grant funding may be available for capital projects. She noted that the Department has requested \$30,000 for the 2026 budget for engineering and consultant services to complete a leachate pretreatment plant feasibility analysis.

D. Nelson questioned if there was any outreach from Oshkosh Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) regarding PFAS in Winnebago County Solid Wastes leachate.

K. Hutter stated there has been no communication to date.

M. Duebbert stated that it would be beneficial to get ahead of the current legislation.

D. Nelson sought clarification on whether the action before the Board was related to issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP).

K. Hutter stated that a proposal could be awarded without board approval, as the \$30,000 has been approved in the 2026 budget.

T. Paterson encouraged Solid Waste administration to pursue as many grant opportunities as possible.

K. Hutter stated future grants are contingent upon the legislation passing.

F. Frassetto questioned who would be funding the grants.

K. Hutter stated that she believed it would be from the Environmental fund, currently overseen by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

Motion by M. Easker, seconded by F. Frassetto to support staff recommendation to seek proposals for a Leachate pre-treatment plant and Feasability Analysis in light of the recent legislative activity to address PFAS. Passed. Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0.

4. Budgeted New Loader Purchase & Sale of Used 2018 Volvo L90H Loader

C. Stadtmueller informed the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) that the 2018 Volvo L90H loader was placed on a 15-year depreciation schedule at the time of purchase. Under this schedule, the current net book value of the loader is \$115,899.78. On January 20, 2026, a Volvo representative conducted an assessment and estimated the loader's current retail value at approximately \$55,000. The Department's standard practice is to depreciate loaders over a seven-year period, which more accurately reflects their useful life and market value, and it was unclear how the 2018 loader ended up on a 15-year schedule.

C. Stadtmueller further explained that the Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago (BOW) Agreement includes provisions for sharing expenses and revenues associated with the partnership, including those related to loader maintenance and purchases. Brown County has expressed interest in purchasing the 2018 Volvo L90H loader and proposes to turn over their back-up equipment, a 2012 Volvo loader to be used as a trade-in. The current trade-in value of the 2012 Volvo loader is \$14,500. Selling Winnebago's 2018 Volvo loader to Brown County and trading in the 2012 Volvo loader will allow the BOW Partnership to continue maintaining fleet efficiency and managing shared operational costs effectively. The approved, 2026 Solid Waste Budget has \$340,000 to replace the 2018 Volvo L90H, which has 14,000 hours of operation.

M. Duebbert questioned if there is a market for the 2012 Volvo loader.

C. Stadtmueller stated Volvo confirmed \$14,500 on trade.

C. Stadtmueller recommended that the SWMB approve the sale of the 2018 Volvo L90H loader to Brown County for \$40,500, accept ownership of the 2012 Volvo loader valued at \$14,500, and trade the 2012 loader toward the purchase of a new loader.

M. Easker stated that this is essentially a book loss, not a net loss, noting that it was the result of an incorrect depreciation schedule rather than an actual financial loss.

Motion by M. Easker, seconded by K. Konrad to approve the sale of the 2018 Volvo L90H loader to Brown County, accept ownership of the 2012 Volvo loader, and trade the 2012 loader toward the purchase of a new loader. Passed. Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0.

5. Type 2 Carryover Request Update

K. Hutter informed the SWMB of the Type 2 carryovers from the 2025 budget.

- \$26,150 - For potential change orders to complete the Snell Road Landfill Leachate Lift Station Rehabilitation Project.
- \$334,460.80 - For potential change orders to complete the Landfill Gas Equipment Replacement Project.

Motion by F. Frassetto, seconded by M. Duebbert to approve Solid Waste Department Budgetary Type 2 Carryovers. Passed. Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0.

H. Director's Report

1.

- 2026 Budgeted Capital Equipment and Projects Review
- Waste Water Discharge Permit Notice of Violation
- In the News

K. Hutter presented the Director's report to the SWMB as follows:

2026 Budgeted Capital Equipment and Projects Review

- Capital Purchases
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Waste Water Discharge Permit Notice of Violation

R. Bieber informed the SWMB of the events leading up to the Notice of Violation, dated January 5, 2026, the Solid Waste Department's corrective action, and notification to the City of Oshkosh of the Department's return to compliance, dated January 19, 2026.

In the News

K. Hutter informed the SWMB that the Tri- County Recycling facility was in the local news, to highlight the release of the new Facility virtual tour video.

Motion by K. Konrad, seconded by M. Duebbert to accept the Directors Report. Passed. Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0.

I. Items for Next Agenda

Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda

M. Duebbert stated she will be unable to attend the next SWMB meeting.

J. Next Meeting Date

The next SWMB Meeting date is Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

K. Adjourn

Motion by H. Miller, seconded by M. Duebbert to Adjourn at 12:39 p.m. Passed. Yes 8, No 0, Abstained 0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tyler Esslinger
Business Manager*

Approved by the SWMB — March 4, 2026.

[MIN_FOOT]