



**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026**

A. Call to Order

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

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

Also Present at the Meeting:

*Kathy Hutter, Director of Solid Waste
Tyler Esslinger, Business Manager*

Cassie Stadtmueller, Operations Manager

B. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Board

None.

C. Communications Shared by Board Members

F. Frassetto commended the Solid Waste staff for their customer service while he visited the customer drop off site over the past weekend.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the March 4, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by J. Wise, seconded by T. Paterson to Approve the March 4, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes. Passed. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

E. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Approve \$29,900.00 Budget Amendment Request for Landfill Leachate Pre-Treatment Facility & Options Analysis

K. Hutter requested that the Solid Waste Management Board approve a budget increase of \$29,900.00 to line item 52801-55019 in the 2026 Operational Budget. Staff recommended awarding the contract to a proposer outside of the budgeted amount based on review panel scoring, as the proposer demonstrated significantly greater experience in PFAS treatment, technology, and field applications.

D. Nelson inquired as to how staff arrived at the original \$30,000 budget figure.

K. Hutter explained that the amount was derived from the original 2026 budget planning letter submitted by Foth Environmental in June 2025.

K. Hutter provided background on the rationale for issuing a Request for Proposals for a

Landfill Leachate Pre-Treatment Facility & Options Analysis. Federal, State, and local PFAS effluent management guidelines and limitations are pending and are expected to drive the need for Winnebago County to evaluate PFAS pre-treatment options in the near future. Additionally, the Wisconsin Legislature recently passed a series of bills establishing grants, loans, research programs, and protections for innocent landowners. Under the omnibus bill (AB131/SB128), landfills may be afforded protections if they install, operate, partner with, or demonstrate meaningful progress toward the installation of leachate pre-treatment for PFAS by December 31, 2032 (the draft bill had referenced a deadline of December 31, 2028).

K. Hutter further outlined three potential complexities associated with moving forward:

- Off-site Pre-Treatment Facility — County does not own land for locating an off-site facility.*
- Regional/Shared Facility with BOW Partners – A shared facility presents complications related to transportation laws, cost-sharing, the logistics of coordinating with partners, and other outstanding unknowns.*
- County-Owned Business Venture – Operating a facility that accepts waste from outside entities raises considerations related to liability, cost recovery, flow control, and the assumption of another party's waste stream.*

F. Frassetto questioned if the complexities are accounted for in the three qualified proposals.

K. Hutter stated that FOTH Environmental pointed out the complexities and agreed that given 6 more months, they could produce a revised bid, taking some of these complexities into consideration. Cornerstone also pointed out some of the complexities and how the deliverables would need to be discussed and likely modified. Cornerstone's price would remain unchanged.

D. Nelson stated that the cheapest option isn't always the best option.

J. Wise stated that the requested Budget Amendment doubles the cost of the study.

K. Hutter stated that Foth is the Landfills long-time engineer of record, and they will likely bill less time because they know the site. However, their proposal does not demonstrate as much experience in PFAS pre-treatment as Cornerstone.

T. Paterson stated this is a good opportunity to get ahead of the problem, not be subject to it.

Discussion ensued by the SWMB.

Motion by H. Miller, seconded by T. Paterson to Approve \$29,900.00 Budget Amendment Request for Landfill Leachate Pre-Treatment Facility & Options Analysis. Passed. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

2. Landfill Gas Equipment Replacement Project Status

K. Hutter informed the SWMB of project progress from March 5, 2026 through March 31, 2026 as follows:

- August-Winter & Sons installed gas scavenge lines on Unit #1 and Unit #2, as well as a condensate line on Unit #2, per Piping and Instrumentation Diagrams developed by Perennial with input from Foth and County personnel.*

Unit #2, Blower 301 remains offline due to two unresolved issues:

1) Excessive methane venting from Blower 301, which preliminary testing indicates exceeds levels permitted under the County's WDNR Air Permit.

- Perennial's Team indicated that the carbon ring seal in Unit #2, Blower 301, which appeared to have a significant amount of gas venting from it after installation, would require a 24-hour turn-in to set the seal. Blower 301 was operated for the turn-in period by cycling air through it (instead of landfill gas, to avoid exhausting incidental emissions of gas into the building.) The turn-in process was completed on March 10, 2026, but the methane venting persisted when the system was re-connected to the landfill gas lines.

2) Elevated vibration readings on Blower 302 that third-party testing suggests may reflect a sensor malfunction by the contractor.

- Third-party vibration testing by VibeTekk on March 18, 2026, indicated that Perennial's installed sensors registered significantly lower readings than VibeTekk's sensors. Perennial's sensors would have triggered an alarm and system shutdown had they registered the same as VibeTekk's sensor. This is believed to be a malfunction of Perennial's sensors. Additional troubleshooting for elevated vibration is also needed. A final report will be provided to County Corporation Counsel.

Perennial communicated their findings regarding Unit #2 Blower 301 with Lone Star (blower manufacturer); Lone Star indicated to Perennial that Lone Star will not cover troubleshooting Blower 301 gas venting under warranty.

Additionally, system discharge pressure remains a concern. Testing with Blower 302 at 600 CFM showed pressure at Snell dropping from 6.7 psi to 6.2 psi over 45 minutes, approaching the RFP-required minimum of 6 psi continuous pressure. This will require further evaluation once Unit #2 is fully operational.

D. Nelson inquired whether the insufficient flow rate is attributable to low gas quantity in the landfill or a design/construction deficiency in the system.

K. Hutter responded that it could be either. Adjustments can be made to the well field to try to increase methane flow into the system, which is expected. However, staff cannot fully troubleshoot the pressure issues until methane venting and vibration issues on Unit #2 are resolved.

- The County's Risk Manager visited the site on March 11, 2026, to evaluate employee safety and PPE protocols. Solid Waste Department staff are taking steps to follow additional recommendations.

K. Hutter informed the SWMB of further developments of project progress not included in the Agenda Packet from the week of March 24, 2026 as follows:

- Perennial and Lonestar technicians were back on site. They evaluated the carbon ring seal, determined the seal needed to be replaced and performed a 24-hour turn-in to set the seal. Solid Waste personnel performed 7 readings with a gas meter over a 1 - day period. The Air Permit allows less than 500ppm for readings taken within 2 inches of equipment. Readings remained elevated at a range of 29,000 to 45,000ppm.

D. Nelson inquired if Blower 301 was the only source of the methane leak.

K. Hutter stated that it is solely Blower 301 that has the gas venting issue.

Discussion ensued amongst the SWMB.

- An Air Permit deviation was reported to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on March 26, 2026. During an overnight test of the treatment system, the on-call mechanical technician received a system shutdown alarm at Snell shortly after 8:00 p.m. The technician responded within the designated one-hour timeframe. After confirming Snell was back online, the technician proceeded to the Sunnyview site and detected a gas odor near the flare. Upon inspection, the flare was not lit, and the gas shut-off valve was showing closed physically, and on the control screen. The pilot light was manually lit, and the flare was burning with the shut-off valve closed, demonstrating that gas was getting into the flare. Additional troubleshooting will take place to investigate the cause of the deviation. The deviation was documented and reported to the WDNR within the required deadline. The County is awaiting feedback from the WDNR.

D. Nelson inquired whether the incident involved the newly installed flare. K. Hutter confirmed that it did.

F. Director's Report

1.

- Snell Road Landfill Remediation & Redevelopment Program Update
- SWMB Member Term Expirations

Snell Road Landfill Remediation & Redevelopment Program Update

K. Hutter provided an update on the Snell Road Landfill Remediation and Redevelopment Program. Staff met with Foth Infrastructure & Environment to discuss 2026 project needs. The 2026 Budget includes \$365,000 in Capital Improvement Plan funding for the following work:

- Sub-floor vapor intrusion sampling at the Snell Road Landfill shop building will be conducted by Foth in early April 2026.
- Sampling of WDNR-identified wells for emerging contaminants is scheduled for May 2026.
- Utility drawing updates and locates have been requested by WDNR for the shop building and must be completed prior to any soil boring activity.
- Installation of five off-site groundwater monitoring wells and one to two onsite monitoring well nests is planned ahead of May 2026 groundwater sampling. Horizon Construction & Excavating will perform the sonic-drilling process under emergency procurement authorization. Foth has submitted permits with the City of Oshkosh, Town of Oshkosh, and State of Wisconsin for off-site right-of-way installations. Alignment with the May sampling schedule will support collection of both seasonal high and low groundwater data points for submission to the WDNR by year-end 2026.

SWMB Member Term Expirations

K. Hutter noted that the following SWMB members have terms expiring April 21, 2026: Mike Easker (Citizen), Jeremy Thull (Citizen), Frank Frassetto (Supervisor), Howie Miller (Supervisor), Doug Nelson (Supervisor), and Jim Wise (Supervisor). As of March 17, 2026, Mike Easker has been reappointed with a term ending April 18, 2029. Remaining reappointment's are to be made by the County Executive with concurrence of the County Board prior to the May SWMB meeting. The May meeting will serve as an Organizational

Meeting, including election of officers. Upon confirmation of appointments, Director Hutter will poll SWMB members to establish future standing meeting dates and times, which requires consensus of the Board.

G. Items for Next Agenda

Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda
None.

H. Next Meeting Date

The tentative date for the next Solid Waste Management Board Meeting is Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The date and time may be adjusted based on the outcome of board membership appointments.

I. Adjourn

Motion by M. Duebbert, seconded by H. Miller to Adjourn at 11:02 a.m. Passed. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tyler Esslinger
Business Manager*

Approved by the SWMB - May 6, 2026.

[MIN_FOOT]