

Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board
Minutes for May 21, 2019

The meeting of the Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board was held on May 21, 2019 at 4:00 PM at the Sonny West Conference Center.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Sherman, Chairman, and roll call was taken. The following members were present: Heidi Campbell, Robert Diehl, Jennifer Hackett, Jeff McCormick, Vanessa Paz, Beth Reardon and Jason Repsher.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes from the last meeting on April 1, 2019. A motion was made by Mr. Jeff McCormick and seconded by Mr. Robert Diehl to approve the minutes and was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the appointment of a vice chair. Mr. Robert Diehl nominated Ms. Jennifer Hackett. Her nomination was seconded by Mayor Heidi Campbell and was approved without opposition.

Mr. Sherman provided background on why and how the long-term planning process started. At this point Board Member Damita Beck-Taylor arrived. Chairman Sherman made particular mention to the community input. He then turned the meeting over to Metro contractor CDM Smith.

Chris Gabel from CDM Smith proceeded to give a presentation on the Plan.

1. Current state of solid waste management in Metro Nashville
2. Setting goals and priorities for zero waste
3. Current challenges to meeting the goals (voluntary recycling, low diversion, lack of funding for education)
4. Critical policy and program recommendations to move Nashville towards zero waste
 - a. Establishing the necessary authority
 - b. Mandatory diversion for recycling and food waste
 - c. Save as you throw
 - d. C&D diversion methods
 - e. Franchise collection
5. Impact on waste reduction from the top strategies
6. Transitioning Nashville from disposal to resource management
7. Triple bottom line analysis showing the environmental and economic benefits to the community
8. Aggressive implementation phases
9. Strategies to get Nashville started
10. Current programs in process or starting soon:
 - a. Every other week curbside recycling in the USD
 - b. Food waste diversion
 - i. Drop-off locations at all convenience centers
 - ii. Anaerobic digestion study
 - c. Downtown waste management study
 - d. NRDC/Nashville Food Waste Initiative
 - e. Greater Nashville Regional Council's regional solid waste work
 - f. Mayor Briley's Nashville Made initiative

After the presentation CDM Smith took questions from the Board and then Chairman Sherman opened the public comment period.

Todd Lawrence from Urban Green Lab provided a statement of support from NRDC and the Nashville Food Waste Initiative.

John van der Harst from Recycling Advocates of Middle Tennessee spoke next and questioned why wet/dry was not chosen as a viable option for Nashville. There was much discussion between Mr. van der Harst, members of the Board and CDM Smith on wet/dry programs and high levels of contamination. It was decided that CDM Smith would conduct some research into San Jose's downtown commercial wet/dry collection and report back to the board. With no other members of the public interesting in providing comments, Chairman Sherman closed public comments.

The Board then considered when to close the online comment period. Jeff McCormick made a motion to allow online comments until June 7th which would allow Metro's contractor time to review the comments, update the draft and prepare for the next meeting. That motion was seconded by Jason Repsher and passed without objection.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Jennifer Hackett, seconded by Vanessa Paz and it was passed unanimously.