

Davidson County Solid Waste Region Board

Minutes for March 29, 2022

The meeting of the Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board was held on March 29, 2022 at 4 PM in the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center, 700 2nd Ave S., Nashville, TN 37210. The meeting information was posted on the Board's website and the Metro Government calendar.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Sherman, Chairman, and roll call was taken. The following members were present: Robert Diehl, Jennifer Hackett, Midori Lockett, Jeff McCormick, and Beth Reardon.

The Chair welcomed the members and the public to the meeting and briefly described the agenda. The Chair then requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Jeff McCormick and seconded by Robert Diehl. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Board heard an update from the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County's legal team representative Kate Pham regarding the appeal by WM to overturn the Board's vote on March 24, 2021 to deny the expansion of the Southern Services landfill. The court upheld the Board's decision to deny the expansion and Kate Pham described the court's reasoning for the ruling. Kate Pham noted that WM can file for an appeal to this decision within 30 days of the ruling.

The Board then heard a presentation on the transition of solid waste services from the former Public Works Department to Metro Water Services (MWS) and an update on the Division's operational status. Sharon Smith, Special Projects Manager for MWS in the Waste Services Division provided an overview of the transition including what services, staff, and infrastructure was moved under MWS and what services, staff, and infrastructure stayed to become the newly formed Nashville Department of Transportation. Sharon Smith then provided an overview of the trash collection delays caused by Nashville's main contractor Red River who is currently in bankruptcy. This included a breakdown of trash collected by hauler, trends in customer complaints, and solutions provided by MWS. Sharon Smith then provided a brief description of the operational assessment that MWS has contracted CDM Smith to conduct for Waste Services that will look at all aspects of the division including collection programs, staff, equipment, costs and revenue, funding sources, customer service, contracts, and material end of life and compare that to Nashville's peer cities to identify how the division can serve the city more efficiently and effectively.

The Board then heard a presentation on the 2021 Annual Progress Report required by TDEC. Sharon Smith provided a brief review of the background of the report and the role of the Solid Waste Region Board. Clay Hand, Solid Waste Engineer for MWS, Waste Services Division, then provided an overview of the report including landfilled tons for both municipal solid waste and construction and demolition waste, and recycled tons from both the public and the private sectors. This report was followed by a presentation on Zero Waste Initiatives provided by Jenn Harrman, Zero Waste Program Manager. This included a brief overview of the city's construction and demolition waste reporting program, the "Sustainable in the City" educational livestream series, zero waste education and new website resources, the city's launch of the Nashville Waste and Recycling app, and compost education. Jenn Harrman highlighted the data that the city has been able to collect through these various programs as well as the reach of new educational initiatives.

Following the presentation, the board discussed a proposal from Board Member Jennifer Hackett to engage grocery store chains operating in Nashville and Davidson County about alternative packaging options. Sharon Smith said that she would assist in facilitating the connection if the Board approved the action.

The Chair then open the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

The Chair asked for a motion to accept and approve the 2021 Annual Progress Report. Jeff McCormick made a motion to approve the report, Robert Diehl seconded, and passed with no objection.

The Chair then asked for a motion to authorize Metro Nashville staff and Board Member Jennifer Hackett to pursue dialogue with local grocery store chains. Robert Diehl made a motion to approve, Beth Reardon seconded, and the motion was passed with no objection.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Robert Diehl to adjourn which was seconded by Jennifer Hackett and the motion was passed with no objection.