



Davidson County Solid Waste Region Board

MINUTES

March 20, 2023

5:00 PM

**Sonny West Conference Center, Howard Office Building
700 Ronald Reagan Way, Nashville, TN 37210**

The meeting of the Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board was held on March 20, 2023 at 5 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 Board Chair Damita Beck-Taylor and roll call was taken. The following members were present: Dale Grimes, Jennifer Hackett, Jennifer Moody, and Emily Stutzman.

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 December 12, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Dale Grimes and seconded by Jennifer Hackett. The motion was passed unanimously.

The new Board Members were introduced; Emily Stutzman is an environmental studies professor at Lipscomb University and Jennifer Moody is the City Manager of Belle Meade and has worked in local government for 15 years. The Board Members were then introduced to new employees on the Zero Waste Nashville team.

The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County's legal team representative, Tara Ladd, gave an update regarding WM's Southern Services expansion request litigation. An oral argument will be held on April 4, 2023. WM is arguing that the application was not reviewed in 90 days as required by statute and that it was inappropriate to use the Metro's Zero Waste Master Plan to review the application because the plan had not been approved by Metro Council at the time of the application. WM is asking for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to review the application. Metro is arguing that the application was incomplete because it was not properly verified and any argument about the validity of the plan was waived because it was not previously raised.

The Board then heard an update of Metro Waste Services (MWS) by Sharon Smith, Special Projects Manager. Smith provided a quick overview of the Solid Waste Region Board for the new board members then gave an update on every other week (EOW) recycling that launched on January 30, 2023. This included issues with starting EOW recycling as well as the reasons behind choosing EOW recycling. Smith then talked about how hubNashville, the Metro Nashville call center, is the barometer for measuring waste related issues. Lastly, Smith then provided a brief overview of how Waste Services is moving forward with routing technology to improve pickup efficiency.

The Board then heard a presentation by Jenn Harrman, Zero Waste Program Manager, on the 2022 Annual Progress Report. Harrman 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. The Board then discussed these numbers and the limited landfill capacity. Smith



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noted how the Middle Tennessee region needs to work together to come up with solutions as the three regional landfills are reaching capacity. This report was followed by a presentation from Harrman on Zero Waste Initiatives which included a brief overview of the construction and demolition debris management permit review program, starting a residential food waste collection pilot, research on increasing zero waste, and education and outreach. Harrman highlighted that education includes expanding accessibility to information by educational content in more languages.

Following the presentation, the Board was able to ask questions and make comments. First, the Board discussed the feasibility of transitioning MWS from the general fund to a fee-based system. Smith noted that MWS is currently looking into this. Then, Chair Beck-Taylor asked how areas will be selected for the food waste pilot. Harrman said they are working with the NRDC to figure out the most efficient and equitable way, but it will ultimately be through opting-in. Beck-Taylor then asked how the C&D recycling will be regulated; Harrman said they are working with the legal team to figure this out. Emily Stutzman asked how backyard composting MWS will balance backyard composting with the food waste pilot. Harrman noted that it is best to have multiple options for residents to manage their food waste. Dale Grimes shared how recycling can have many barriers and complications; he wished it could be simplified to increase participation. Stutzman questioned if multi-family homes can have access to recycling collection. Harrman stated that a universal recycling ordinance would require multi-family homes and commercial properties to recycle. Smith added that MWS is currently engaged with a pilot to add in multi-family recycling.

The Chair then opened the floor for public comment. Bobby Bandy of Earth Savers Recycling asked a few questions. First, how difficult is it to change the Metro charter to charge fees for service and is there the political will to do so? Smith said that charter amendments must be changed by the public, but they are looking at all options possible. Smith believes that taking MWS out of the general fund would be favorable because it frees up money in the budget to be reallocated elsewhere. Bandy then asked where MWS is at in the Zero Waste Master Plan to which Smith said the pandemic and funding have put it behind. Harrman noted that the strategies from the Zero Waste Master Plan may be reprioritized as the Mayor's Office look at them in terms of their carbon impact.

The Chair asked for a motion to accept and approve the 2022 Annual Progress Report. Jennifer Hackett made a motion to approve the report, Emily Stutzman seconded, and passed with no objection.

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