

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter
Solid Waste Association of North America
Annual Meeting / Board Meeting
November 20th, 2025 at 10:00 AM
MINUTES – APPROVED**

Call to Order: 10:08 AM

Roll Call & Introductions

BOD: Ali Rathsack, Ben Hintz, Logan Dwyer, Alan Kerr, Julie Ketchum, John Peralta, Allison Birr, John Welch, Abby Sauer

BOD Not Present: Lee Daigle, Jon Schroeder

Also Present: Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), Jennifer Semrau

Minutes of Previous Meetings *October 2025*

Alan moves to approve August Minutes.

Ali – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Treasurer's Report *Abby*

Checking \$18,925.45

Savings \$10,970.35

Abby reported about some transactions this past month.

John Welch motions to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Alan – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Committee Reports

DNR Report - *Jennifer*

Staffing:

- Hope to complete hiring process for E-Cycle Wisconsin coordinator in next few weeks; start date likely mid-January.
- Upcoming recruitments include a regional hydrogeologist for the Landfill Team, posting under a few location options; and adding a Licensing, Reporting and Compliance Specialist to assist with things like annual reporting, located in Madison

Rules:

- Reminder that landfill fee surcharge increases from 15 to 25 cents/ton on Jan. 1; will send more info to landfill contacts in early December.
- We're currently focusing on outreach to haulers about the recycling rule changes, including requirement to provide recycling tonnages to contracted RUs.
- Hoping to hold additional stakeholder info sessions on proposed non-landfill rules in first few months of 2026.

Legislation:

Providing feedback or testimony on a number of proposed or introduced bills.

- [AB 605](#) – (Jacobson, Brent) Relating to retention of environmental repair fees by certain municipal solid waste facilities. [SB 599](#) (Tomczyk, Cory) – *Related to retention of environmental repair fees by certain municipal solid waste facilities*
- Battery EPR legislation

Other:

- Many program staff (especially landfill engineers) attended two-day virtual training last week on landfill stability and other geotechnical topics provided by UW-Madison.
- [Recycling Excellence Award](#) winners announced 11/14; record crop of nominees and winners.
- Next [Council on Recycling](#) meeting Dec. 5

Follow up from October meeting questions:

- DNR's landfill operator certification group is excited about the idea of holding testing in conjunction with WIRMC and is connected with planning committee to include this for 2027.
- Landfill notification requirements—we will update our [notifications webpage](#) with this information.
 - Elevated temperature definition: Elevated temperature landfills (ETLFs) are MSW landfills that exhibit temperatures above regulatory thresholds (145 degrees Fahrenheit) due to abnormal chemical reactions within the waste mass. Resource from U.S. EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/elevated-temperature-landfill>.
 - For any surface fire that requires any action to put out (including smothering with sand/soil), the DNR expects landfills to report within five days using the notification form. While we may not always know the cause of a fire, the more data we have on the frequency of these fires, the better we can make the case for policy solutions to keep batteries out of landfills. The form allows landfills to report whether a fire's cause was identified. In many cases, no additional follow-up actions will be required.
 - In addition to completing the notification form within five days, the DNR expects landfills to report surface fires to their assigned DNR engineer within one day if any of the following apply:
 - The fire was within five feet of a geomembrane.
 - The fire destroyed any landfill features (e.g., gas well/piping).
 - The fire required operational changes.
 - The fire required addition of water to put out (small fires can usually be smothered with soil).
 - Note: we haven't received notifications of any landfill fires since Oct. 1 through the online form.

Safety Ambassador Report *John Peralta*

- No meeting.

Membership / Social Media Report *Ali*

- Total membership numbers: 135 members
 - Student membership jumped up 14 members.
 - A welcome email was sent to all new members.
- 3 expiring members this month and they have been contacted.
- E-newsletter was delivered on 11/4, but let Ali know if there are any updates you'd like to see added to the e-newsletter.

International *Julie*

- Julie attended the Advisory Council Meeting at RCon.
 - The policy committee reported that changes to the policies will continue being worked on into December.
 - Governance committee discussed training that would take place for board members in May as opposed to June.
 - Working on an enterprise membership for businesses or counties to join SWANA as a whole instead of individual members joining SWANA to help increase membership and expand access.
 - There was a panel session where 5 or 6 different topics were discussed through facilitators where group could provide input to leadership at SWANA.
- General overview of RCon
 - Lots of tours and fun events, good presentations, booths were sold out. There was also a Plastic Pact conference that ran in conjunction with RCon.
 - Registrations, booths, and sponsorships were all above budget this year!
 - The Chapter Connect was excellent – it provided great tips and guidance to implement at the different chapters.

YP Report *Logan/Abby*

- Good turnout at meeting.
- Exact details are still being worked out, but the YPs are hoping to partner with other groups to facilitate a highway clean-up near Madison, potentially taking place in the springtime before the busy construction season.
- Welcome Night planning for WIRMC is still underway. The materials, music, grading scale and another activity are still being discussed. Group is still looking into doing inflatable axe throwing.
- YPs are considering restructuring the nomination process for YP of the Year by substituting the required letter of recommendation to a questionnaire for either the nominee answer questions or a third party to answer which would help shorten up process and hopefully increase submissions.
 - Abby will write up the questionnaire and send it to board for review.

Advocacy Report *Julie*

- There will be a hearing held on December 4th regarding the battery bill due to recent changes made by WMC to remove alkaline batteries.
- AB605 relating to the environmental repair fees for certain municipal operations. Group reviews bill.
- The AB127 PFAS relief from liability bill has been changed to AB128 with more general, simple legislation, still only for municipal landfills.

Scholarship Report *John Welch*

- Michelle has reached out to the declined applicants for the WCSWMA scholarship but has not heard back.
- Group discusses extending the deadline to December 8th to help encourage applications.
 - Michelle will promote this and reach out to new student members again.

Timeline Review

Send Scholarship Reminders	November	Admin
Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	November	Treasurer
Decide Scholarship Winners & Report to Board	December	Scholarship Chair
Ask for YP Award Nominations	December	Programs Committee
Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	December	Treasurer
Review Bank Statement	December	Treasurer
Review Goals	December	Board
Website Updates	December	Website Chair
Annual Progress Report	Dec 31	Admin
Annual Financial Report	Dec 31	Treasurer

Unfinished – New Business

- **WI Battery Bill**
 - Group discusses bill.
 - Ben makes a motion to write a letter of support to the WI Battery Bill as presented.
 - Alan seconds.
 - Approved – Motion carries.
 - AROW has a resolution and a letter of support drafted
 - Letter of support does reference 3 issues involving the alkaline issue, the convenient standard of the bill, no funding provided to DNR to support this bill.
 - Michelle will work with AROW to get a copy of the letter once it's ready and then board will take an email vote on the specific language.
- **WIRMC Update**
 - 59 attendees, 10 signed up for the field trip.
 - 15 exhibitors.
 - Sponsorships at \$60,600
 - Next promotion will go out first week in December.
- **Bylaws Changes & Updates (Reoccurring)**
 - Any bylaws changes will need to be reviewed by a Wisconsin attorney and an attorney at SWANA will also review.
 - Tabling conversation until next board meeting.
- **Assembly Bill 605**
 - Reviewed during advocacy report.
- **RCon Review**
 - Overall experience was a positive experience.

- Great networking, great opportunities, fun activities, good atmosphere, lots of attendees.
- The technical sessions were a great addition compared to the previous leadership-based conference.
- There were some “invitation only” events that turned out to not be invitation only that caused some confusion for first time conference attendees.
- The general sessions felt pushed and people may not have been able to attend every presentation they wanted to .
- Due to Veteran’s Day, the conference ran from Wednesday to Saturday which had some attendees feel the conference was too long.
 - The later Friday and early Saturday presentations had low attendance due to outbound flights and possibly the length of conference. It was challenging for some attendees to be away from their work responsibilities or other responsibilities that long.
 - The general sessions felt pushed and people may not have been able to attend every presentation they wanted to.
- Suggestion to have BC Chapter have education committee.
 - Consider offering training or all-day workshops either at our conference or prior to our conference.
 - Examples: budgetary capital planning, regulatory compliance landfill design and organization leachate management.
- John Welch was the Pickleball champion for the conference – nice work, John!

Next board meeting is December 18th 2025 at 10:00 AM.

Motion to adjourn by Abby
 Seconded by Julie
 Approved

Adjourn – 11:37 AM

Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant