

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
Annual Meeting / Board Meeting  
April 23rd, 2026 at 10:00 AM  
MINUTES – Approved**

**Call to Order:** 10:03 AM

**Roll Call & Introductions**

BOD: Julie Ketchum, Logan Dwyer, Allison Birr, Abby Sauer, Lee Daigle, Ben Hintz, John Peralta, John Welch, Ali Rathsack, Jon Schroeder

BOD Not Present: Alan Kerr

Also Present: Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), Josh Allen, Alejandra Viso, Susan Schuller, Erik Lietz, BreAnne Kahnk, Sarah Murray

**Minutes of Previous Meetings** [March 2026](#)

Julie moves to approve March Minutes.

Ali– Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

**Treasurer’s Report** [Abby](#)

Checking \$5,023.57

Savings \$10,970.90

Abby reported about some transactions this past month.

John Peralta motions to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Ali – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

**Committee Reports**

**DNR Report** - [Sarah](#)

Staffing

- Joe Lourigan (hydrogeologist plan review expert) and Bob Germer (northern/west central solid waste/recycling specialist) both retired this month
- New organics management LTE starting in June to help with food waste work related to EPA SWIFR grant
- Currently recruiting for [advanced hydrogeologist emerging contaminants expert](#) (from PFAS legislation) and [battery management specialist](#) (to implement battery law)

Legislation

- Working to implement PFAS and battery legislation; will be sending out additional information and likely holding webinars to answer questions.
- PFAS legislation high-level information:  
On April 6, Gov. Evers signed [Act 201 \[exit DNR\]](#), which creates several new grant programs to help Wisconsin's communities address contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—known as PFAS—especially in drinking water, and [Act 200 \[exit DNR\]](#), which provides the funding for these new grant programs.

Some of the new funding opportunities include sampling drinking water at schools and daycares that use their own well and sampling high-capacity irrigation wells, biosolids, sludge, wastewater and landfill leachate for PFAS. Together, these bills are a critical step toward ensuring that Wisconsinites have access to safer water and to reduce exposure to PFAS through the environment.

Because the law creates new grant programs, it will take time for the DNR to set up and hire staff to administer them. The DNR is committed to moving quickly to ensure these programs and assistance are available to those who need it most.

The DNR welcomes your input on the development of these programs.

- [Submit questions and feedback](#) about these programs. Staff may not respond to all feedback but will review and consider the input as programs are developed.
- [Subscribe to receive email updates](#) about public input opportunities and program implementation through the Wisconsin PFAS Laws GovDelivery list.

[Act 201](#) also includes narrow exemptions to the state's environmental contamination cleanup law, known as the Spills Law, for certain releases of PFAS to the environment. The Act will also result in the DNR issuing a new general permit that includes conditions for monitoring PFAS in wastewater.

#### Rules

- The final administrative rule implementing 2023 Wisconsin Act 107 took effect April 1. The 2024 law established requirements relating to an alternative method of establishing owner financial responsibility (OFR) at municipally owned solid waste disposal facilities and directed the DNR to promulgate emergency and permanent rules to adopt these requirements. The Natural Resources Board adopted an emergency rule in October 2024, and this final permanent rule replaces that.
  - [Final rule language and background information](#)
- Electronics recycling rule public comment period starting soon; public hearing May 28
- Wrapping up initial drafting/internal review of non-landfill solid waste rules; comment period on draft economic impact analysis this summer.

#### Other

- Next Study Group meeting May 7; will include an overview of proposed solid waste fee changes, legislation updates and overview of laws other states have passed to reduce food waste. The agenda is posted at the [Waste and Materials Management Study Group webpage](#)
- Wrapping up annual reporting season with RU reports due April 30. Thanks to all who have submitted/provided data for our many reports.

#### **Safety Ambassador Report** *John Peralta*

- At the last meeting, the committee talked about spring safety as well as the different weather events that happened across the state. They also discussed preparation plans for the different hazards and risks that made themselves apparent during the storms last week.
- More discussion regarding the safety award. One member of the committee brought up the idea of making the award a WIRMC award and not just a SWANA award to help promote inclusivity and to hopefully get more participation.

- BOD discusses and ultimately decides that at least for this first year, the safety award will remain a SWANA award as it has already been budgeted.
- Committee should have a fleshed-out plan of safety award: the ranking, the timeline, etc. by next meeting.

### **Membership / Social Media Report** *Ali*

- Total membership numbers as of the last week: 140 members.
  - 31 students, 46 private sector, 49 public sector, and 14 small business.
  - Outreach for the 2 expiring members was completed on the last week as well.
- Last meeting was spent recapping the feedback regarding the outreach plan to improve the public sector membership numbers. The campaign will start rolling out in the next few weeks.
- SWANA e-newsletter was delivered on the first of the month.

### **International** *Julie & John*

- A committee meeting was set up, but people weren't able to attend, so Julie received a call directly from Debbie Hackman to discuss how WIRMC was this year. Short conversation.
- National meeting was last Sunday in Portland.
  - Finances for the year will be a loss. This is due to the trainings which have fallen behind schedule as well as the membership numbers.
  - Working on finalizing policy updates. A policy has been added which requires all chapters have their financial year matching SWANA Nationals.

### **YP Report** *Allison*

- April meeting canceled.
- Cleanup 12 attending 10 will be attending lunch.

### **Advocacy Report** *Julie*

- Battery legislation was passed and signed by the governor on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The DNR expressed some concern about the timeline, a suggestion would be to go to other states that have already implemented similar bills and find out how they've put it together.
- Lots of questions remain with the PFAS Relief from Liability bill. This went from a simple piece of legislation in 2025 but the 2026 bill was different. This bill came out in February and there is some scrambling on trying to get funding for private landfills and public landfills. The DNR has a lot to figure out and there are lots of studies and reports by UW Madison regarding leachate treatment methods.

### **Scholarship Report** *Lee*

- We will continue with the call for applications in the fall, but we will need to update our application to match the new schedule and new international category which has been posted on SWANA National's website. Michelle will look at the language in the application and align our schedule with the fall submittal.
  - At next meeting, board will discuss the international category to see if there are any changes we need to make.

### **Bylaws Update** *John Welch*

- Abby reviewed the first draft of the proposed Bylaws changes.
- Timeline is to get this approved by annual meeting.

- Michelle will include this document in her meeting review email and the Board is to take a deeper look into these proposed changes and come to next meeting with any questions or comments.

**Training committee** *Lee*

- Tabled until next meeting.

**Timeline Review**

Place Conference on National Site	April	Admin
Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	April	Treasurer
Review Bank Statement	April	Treasurer
IB Rep Attends IB meeting	May	IB Rep
Decide Who Will Attend Rcon	May	Board Vote
Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	May	Treasurer

**Unfinished – New Business**

- **WIRMC 2026 Wrap Up**
  - Susan reviews WIRMC wrap-up which includes final expense report and expected income.
  - Meeting will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> where all the final numbers and final distribution will be completed.

Next Board Meeting – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Motion to adjourn by Abby  
 Seconded by John Peralta  
 Approved

Adjourn – 11:20 AM

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Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant