

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
Annual Meeting / Board Meeting  
January 15th, 2026 at 10:00 AM  
MINUTES – Approved**

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

**Roll Call & Introductions**

BOD: Ali Rathsack, Ben Hintz, Logan Dwyer, Alan Kerr, Julie Ketchum, Allison Birr, Abby Sauer, Lee Daigle, Ben Hintz,

BOD Not Present: Jon Schroeder, John Welch, John Peralta

Also Present: Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), BreAnne Kahnk, Alice House, Sara Beine, Rob Michitsch, Sarah Murray, Cody Sullivan

**Minutes of Previous Meetings** [November 2025](#)

Alan moves to approve August Minutes.

Julie– Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

**Treasurer’s Report** *Abby*

Checking \$16,363.27

Savings \$10,970.35

Abby reported about some transactions this past month.

Alan motions to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Ali – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

**Committee Reports**

**DNR Report** - *Jennifer*

DNR staffing

- New e-cycle coordinator (Erik Flesh) started this week
- Holding interviews for new hydrogeologist for landfill team—likely start March/April if recruitment is successful
- John Morris retired as northern/west central region supervisor at end of 2025
- Identifying next priority vacancies to fill; limited by loss of positions in state budget

Annual reporting season

- Hazardous waste annual report, E-Cycle Wisconsin collector/recycler/manufacturer reports, infectious waste annual report, landfill tonnage and operations reports, MRF annual self-certification, RU annual report all due over next few months
  - RUs and MRFs moving to MyWisconsin ID system
  - Beginning in 2026, the due date for all landfill annual operations reports (required under s. NR 506.19, Wis. Adm. Code) is now April 30. The updated code contains specific requirements for the operations report that all active landfills should follow for their report submitted in 2026. Closed landfills with annual reporting requirements can continue to follow the format in their DNR approval. Active landfills should refer to the

detailed requirements in s. NR 506.19 (3) for municipal solid waste landfills and s. NR 506.19 (4) for industrial landfills. Landfills should also include any specific annual report elements conditioned in their approval that are in addition to what is required in code

#### Rules

- Haulers are now required to provide recycling tonnages to RUs they serve (even if through individual subscriptions) by Feb. 1. We have published a new map to help haulers identify which RUs they serve. For more, visit the [Transporting Solid Waste and Recyclables webpage](#).
- Non-landfill rule work continuing; will present overview of solid waste processor code changes at 2/5 Waste and Materials Management Study Group meeting.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the license fee surcharge that landfills collect and send to the DNR will increase from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per ton. Landfills should update their systems to ensure they collect the higher fee for applicable categories of waste beginning that date. For a list of waste categories that this fee applies to, reference this [chart of the tip fees by category \[PDF\]](#). Landfills will need to submit payments of this higher surcharge on applicable tons of waste beginning with the first quarter tonnage report in April 2026.
- Still receiving very few notifications of fires at landfills. Please refer to the [landfill notifications webpage](#) and [online form](#) to submit detailed notification to the DNR. You can reach out directly to the DNR engineer assigned to your facility with questions or for notifications of ongoing events.

#### Busy legislative time

- [AB635 \(-4367\)](#) [View Bill History](#) relating to: *notifying counties and tribes of an exceedance of groundwater protection standards or standards for PFAS*.
  - Would require DNR to create system for notifying county health department, tribal health department, and county land and conservation department of an exceedance.

#### Upcoming meetings

- Feb. 3, 12-1 p.m.: webinar on Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation (documents will be posted soon). Registration link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/d416ed16-408b-4a1a-a832-3f0e89cadf3f@f4e2d11c-fae4-453b-b6c0-2964663779aa>
- Feb. 5, 9 a.m.-noon, Waste and Materials Management Study Group meeting. Finalizing agenda this week, should go out in Solid Waste News next week.

#### Safety Ambassador Report *John Peralta*

- Will continue to do the SRC at WIRMC. Looking into doing a survey with prizes as initiatives to fill out survey.
- Continuing to work on the safety award for WIRMC.

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

- Prepared 2026 goals. Largely the same as 2025, but there is an outreach campaign to increase membership.
- Total membership numbers: 135 members: 28 students, 13 small businesses, 38 private, 52 public, 1 blank, 3 YP.
- 13 expiring members and the outreach has been taken care of.
- E-newsletter went out on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Next e-newsletter will be sent out first week in February.

#### International *Julie*

- Not too much to report, much was covered at least meeting. Training will be coming up, more details to come.

## YP Report *Logan/Abby*

- Group met on the 8<sup>th</sup> – good turnout. Discussed welcome night and finishing up the final details: will be doing the egg drop with teams as well as blow up axe throwing.
- Discussed YP award and the changes that are being implemented.
- Group discusses how to expand the reach of the YP of the Year nomination information.
  - Logan will send YP information to Julie, Sarah, and Alan to help spread the word.

## Advocacy Report *Julie*

- **Battery Bill**
  - **SB702/AB713 - Battery Bill** - An act to create 287.07(6) and 287.175 of the statutes; relating to: requiring battery stewardship organizations to administer battery collection and recycling programs and providing a penalty.
- **Food Waste Reduction**
  - **SB741/AB769 – Food Waste Reduction Grants** - An act to create 20.115 (3) (e) and 93.53 of the statutes: relating to: food waste reduction grants, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.
  - 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.

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  - 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.

## Scholarship Report *Ben*

- Group discusses applicants.
  - Abby motions to approve the selected applicants.
  - Julie seconds.
  - Approved – motion passes.

### Timeline Review

Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	January	Treasurer
Meet In Person At Conference	Feb/March	President/Admin
Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	February	Treasurer

### Unfinished – New Business

- **WIRMC (Reoccurring)**
  - Registration as of 1/9/26 was 142. Last year we were at 132 at this time so we're a bit ahead.
  - Early bird ends a week early this year so we've boosted posts on social media and will be sending out extra email blasts to highlight it.
  - 12 booths left in our expo hall – this year we had 60 booths as opposed to 50 last year so we're doing great.
  - Picked up three new sponsors – Apex Technologies as a silver sponsor, Aljon as a supporter, and Wisconsin Recycles as a supporter. Our current total is \$63,900 (up from \$53,300 last year!)
  - Don't forget to wear your SWANA shirt!
- **Bylaws (Reoccurring)**
  - Tabled.
- **RCon**
  - Training/Education
    - Tabled for discussion at WIRMC.

Next Board Meeting in person at WIRMC – February 25th, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Motion to adjourn by Julie  
Seconded by Alan  
Approved

Adjourn – 11:27 AM

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Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant