

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter
Solid Waste Association of North America
Annual Meeting / Board Meeting
October 23rd, 2025 at 10:00 AM
MINUTES – Approved**

Call to Order: 10:03 AM

Roll Call & Introductions

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

BOD Not Present: Julie Ketchum,

Also Present: Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), Sarah Murray, Alyse Cherveney, BreAnne Kahnk

Minutes of Previous Meetings [October 2025](#)

Alan moves to approve August Minutes.

Allison– Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Treasurer’s Report [Abby](#)

Checking \$20,001.47

Savings \$10,970.35

Abby reported about some transactions this past month.

Ali motions to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Ben – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Committee Reports

DNR Report - [Sarah](#)

- Staffing updates
 - Two new solid waste engineers started Oct. 6 (Travis Nickel and Jon Wagner). Both are based in Fitchburg. We are working to adjust assignments to balance our engineer coverage statewide.
 - Half-time LTE (Erik Flesch) started in early September, taking over organics management work from Ruth O’Donnell, who retired in August.
 - Recruiting an E-Cycle Wisconsin program coordinator (posting closes 10/27) to fill Sarah Murray’s previous position after she moved to section manager role in October 2024.
 - Have permission to recruit for a solid waste hydrogeologist to fill recent vacancies and a reporting specialist to fill December 2024 vacancy.
- Recycling Excellence Awards will be announced Nov. 14—record number of awardees.
- Rule revisions
 - Landfill rule effective Oct. 1.
 - [Updates to Wisconsin’s Landfill Design and Operations Administrative Code](#)
 - [Updates to Wisconsin Solid Waste Management Fees Administrative Code](#)
 - [Full text of rule changes](#)

- If you are referencing administrative code, make sure to use the current version, available through the [Wisconsin Legislature's website](#).
- Updated checklists for submittals coming soon.
- Among other changes, the new code requires active landfills to notify the DNR in writing within a specified time period when certain events occur. Find detailed requirements under [s. NR 506.17 \(5\), Wis. Adm. Code](#). The DNR has created a new webpage and online form for landfill owners and operators 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.
- You can refer to Tess Brester's presentation during the SWIP meeting (recording and slides below).
- Recycling rule: working next on providing more information for haulers on complying with requirements, especially the requirement to provide tonnage data to RUs by Feb. 1.
- Non-landfill solid waste rule: will continue drafting through March 2026; public input opportunities later in 2026. See SWIP slides/recording for info on potential transfer facility changes.
- Recent/upcoming meetings
 - Solid Waste Interested Parties (9/23) [slides and recording available](#).
 - Next [Waste and Materials Management Study Group](#) meeting Nov. 6.
- Sarah will also get more details to help provide better guidance on when fires or elevated temperatures need to be reported to the DNR (e.g., whether there is a minimum size/duration or a minimum temperature).
- Sarah will also follow up on whether there could be a landfill operator certification test held in conjunction with WIRMC.

Safety Ambassador Report [Abby](#)

- Roadmap for safety award, planning on bringing it to the board for approval at the next meeting.
- Discussed hearing & hearing loss as the safety topic of the month.
- Discussed potential set ups and topics for the Safety Resource Center at WIRMC.

Membership / Social Media Report [Ali](#)

- Total membership numbers as of 10/14/25: 121 members 7 students 14 small 40 private 56 public 1 retired 1 blank and 2 YPs.
- 8 expiring members and outreach was done
- November newsletter will be delivered no later than November 4th.
- Upcoming events for our chapter add it to SWANA national calendar
- Ali will share board member updates to Amy at SWANA National.
- Will look more into SWANA linked it. Ali will talk to Lindsey Carlson.

International [Julie/Lee/John](#)

- Amy gave a broad overview of the committees serving under the council (Governance, Policy, membership (Julie was drafted for this committee)).
- **Governance Committee:** Bringing a draft structure to RCON
- **Policy Committee:** met once and is redoing policies T-3 and T-6 but did not elaborate.
- **The Finance Report** is looking good, given a significant deficit (\$338 that has been reduced to by over \$200K).

Investments: Merrill Lynch recommended changes, to have a more diverse portfolio—they need more latitude in what they can invest in. The Committee has met 3 times and will meet again in December

- **Membership:** Hired a new Director. Chair Preston Lee emphasized the importance of membership to the budget.
- **RCON:**
 - There will be a surprise announcement that I know about that I cannot share. Stay Tuned
 - Sign up for the Volunteer Bash on Wednesday Night at the conference.
 - Need more exhibitors, want more engagement from companies
 - Training (MOLO and LF gas) and tour opportunities (SWACO mentioned)
 - Pickle Ball Tournament in the exhibitor hall—not an evening event so look for it on the agenda
 - Keynote Speakers are set and a surprise moderator
 - Registration is going well, but would like more registrants.
- SWANA National continues to focus on recruiting members and retaining members which remains the biggest issue.

YP Report *Abby*

- No updates until after meeting in November.

Advocacy Report *Julie*

- WMC and NWRA have worked out a compromise on the battery bill. SWANA-BC will add this bill as a discussion on the next agenda to decide if they want to take a position on the bill.

Scholarship Report *John Welch*

- There will be one scholarship for seniors last Spring, one for the current senior class, and undergrads and students in college already.
- New applications were created.
- SWANA national will do their scholarship for post grads. Badger Chapter doesn't do an award but we do accept applications to forward on.
- Applications due December 1st and will be brought to December board meeting to vote officially.
- WCSWMA received 15-18 applicants for their scholarship, SWANA-BC discusses sending our scholarship application directly to those who applied for the WCSWMA scholarship but did not receive it.
 - Michelle will get the list from WCSWMA and take care of this.

Timeline Review

Molo CEU pre-approval	November	Conference Chair
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	November	Treasurer
Ask for YP Award nominations	December	Programs Committee
Review goals	December	Board
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	December	Treasurer

- The CEU process is changing for SWANA with their new member portal. Members will be able to track and maintain CEUs and renew certifications. The CEUs will be honor system that you've taken these classes or attended events. If you attend a National Event it will automatically be added to your profile.

Unfinished – New Business

- **Committee Appointments**
 - Group discusses this year's committee chairs.
 - Safety Chair: John Peralta
 - Social Media & Membership: Ali Rathsack
 - YP Chair: Logan Dwyer
 - Legislative/Advocacy: Julie Ketchum
 - International: Julie Ketchum
- **WIRMC Update (Reoccurring)**
 - Exhibitor Hall booth size is smaller than in previous years, but expo hall holds 60 booths as opposed to last year's number of 55. There is also option of overflow into the foyer outside the expo hall if we have a waiting list of exhibitors as we did last year.
- **Bylaws Changes & Updates (Reoccurring)**
 - Group discusses possible bylaw changes including changing fiscal year to match SWANA Nationals (January-December), electing new officers every year instead of every other year, and changing advisory board to advisory council.
 - A Wisconsin lawyer will need to review the bylaws after changes are made. John Welch can look into this.
 - An attorney at SWANA National will also review it.

Next board meeting is November 20th at 10:00 AM.

Motion to adjourn by Ben
Seconded by Ali.
Approved

Adjourn – 11:30 AM

Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant