

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter
Solid Waste Association of North America
Annual Meeting / Board Meeting
February 25th, 2026 at 9:45 AM
MINUTES – Approved**

Call to Order: 9:43 AM

Roll Call & Introductions

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

BOD Not Present: Julie Ketchum

Also Present: Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), Beverly Wagner, Brad Vick, Dan Michiels, Chris Anderson, Eric Tapper, David Pellitteri, Amanda Haffele, Valarie Parker, Mark Waller, Chad Doverspike, Jennifer Semrau

Minutes of Previous Meetings [January 2026](#)

John Peralta moves to approve August Minutes.

Alan– Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Treasurer’s Report *Abby*

Checking \$12,980.80

Savings \$10,970.63

Abby reported about some transactions this past month.

Allison motions to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

John Peralta – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Committee Reports

DNR Report - *Jennifer*

- Finalizing hire of a landfill hydro in SER
- Licensing, Reporting and Compliance specialist position posted; will assist with reporting, licensing, public records requests
- Hiring organics management LTE for SWIFR work
- Watching to see what happens with PFAS and battery bills in Senate
- Council on Recycling meeting March 6
- May be looking for additional WMM Study Group members (Bart Sexton has retired); also need new co-chair
- Busy with reporting season for infectious waste, hazardous waste, landfills, E-Cycle Wisconsin participants, RUs, MRFs; RUs and MRFs transitioning to MyWisconsin ID
- Non-landfill rule drafting wrapping up; look for public input opportunities this summer
- Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation published; report and webinar recording available on DNR website; will continue discussions with stakeholders about prioritizing next steps

Safety Ambassador Report *John Peralta*

- The Safety Committee has been working on developing a Safety Award. Each year, the Safety Committee will have a particular topic presented at WIRMC. If interested parties would like to apply for the Safety Award, they could submit their particular sets of systems or programs of safety management related to the established topic. The winner of the previous year's Safety Award would be showcased the following year and would receive a trophy or plaque and potentially a presentation focusing on their ideas and innovations.
 - Group discusses and decides to move forward with the award first and to look into the presentation in the future.
 - Allison motions to approve \$200 allocation for the safety award and coordination of award by John Peralta and his committee.
- The Safety Committee is doing a safety survey this year for the SRC at WIRMC. Looking to find other topics in the industry within our state that people would find helpful and could potentially use for future Safety Awards.
- There will be an interactive SWANA safety workshop held on March 19th. OSHA and other safety professionals will be there with different safety activities.

Membership / Social Media Report *Ali*

- Ali shared slides recapping the committee's goals.
- Total membership numbers: 135 members as of January 12th.
 - 28 students, 41 private, 52 public, and 14 small business.
- The E-Newsletters have an average open rate of 41.7% with an average click rate of 14.5%.

International *John Welch*

- Finance committee approved their audit and 990 tax forms. These are public record and available to be viewed.
- Budget is doing well compared to expenses, but we are still lagging in membership.
 - There is a new membership director who has a great detailed plan which is started to be implemented.
- RCon will be held in St Louis the week of September 28th. Group will discuss who on the board is interested in attending at the next board meeting in March.
 - 2027 will be held in Portland the week of September 20th.
- Next in person meeting will be mid-April in Portland.
- National is working on updating trainings, MOL etc., this year.
- There have been some challenges between staff and committees recently which may be due to a reduction of staff. SWANA National is taking it seriously and working to rectify it.
- The policy committee is working on shifting policies by making a handbook and creating new policies that focus more on technical.
- SWANA National is now offering Enterprise Memberships for businesses and organizations so all employees can be members under one membership.

YP Report *Logan/Abby*

- The Welcome Night is taking place tonight with the egg drop competition and inflatable axe throwing.
- The YP of the Year will be announced tomorrow at lunch during the Awards Ceremony.

- YPs will be doing a highway clean-up of SCS Engineers adopted highway road on April 25th with a lunch afterwards. There are intentions of adopting their own road, hoping to find a centralized road to meet the minimum clean-up requirement of 3 times a year.
- YPs are looking to do a hospital waste tour, but it is still being coordinated. There is also interest in doing more industry type tours, not necessarily solid waste but industries that also manage waste in their own way.

Advocacy Report *Julie*

- **Batteries:** There is a policy bill (AB 713) and separate funding bill (AB 911) (\$150K) for the WI DNR. Both passed the House unanimously. The House adjourned.
- In the Senate, the funding bill hit a snag with Senator Hutton citing concerns about the impact on small producers. NWRA had heard that Redwood Materials was talking to legislators about this bill impacting small producers. PRBA has stepped in with a letter of support for the battery spending bill and lobbying efforts are underway to correct the misinformation. The Senate will adjourn March 17.
- Prediction: Battery bill is likely to pass in WI.
- **PFAS, Spills Law Exemption and Grant Funds:** In the House, the policy bill (AB 131 Sub amendment 2) and AB 130 (spends \$132.3M of PFAS Trust Fund; \$80M for communities, apportioned out for public landfills, WWT and other. The bill exempts public and private landfills, TS, (not MRFs or compost facilities) from PFAS liability under the WI Spills Law only, not from Federal laws. Only public landfills are eligible for grant funds. All landfills are relieved from liability if:
 - *They send their leachate to a WWT facility that meets effluent standards; or,
 - *They send their leachate to another landfill for pretreatment; or,
 - *They install pre-treatment at the landfill.
- **If a PFAS release occurs at the landfill, the landfill is not relieved of liability from the Spills Law. The bill delays pre-treatment installation at landfills (if required) until 2032.**
- The House passed both the policy and spending bills unanimously and adjourned.
- In the Senate, the policy bill (SB 127) and spending bills (SB 128), mirror the House version and are likely to pass. Given the extensive lobbying efforts with the WI DNR, bill authors and Governor’s office, the bill is set for passage in the Senate. There is effectively no opportunity to make changes to this legislation and no opposition is expected but anything could happen. The Senate adjourns March 17.
- Prediction: PFAS bill is likely to pass.

Scholarship Report *John*

- Approved scholarship winners last meeting.
- Two of them will be at the conference so if you see them say hi!
- John recommends continuing with this timeline which aligns with WCSWMA’s scholarship.
- International will be rolling out their scholarships this month.

Timeline Review

Meet In Person At Conference	Feb/March	President/Admin
Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	February	Treasurer
Wisconsin Non-Stock Corp Annual Report Form	March	Treasurer
Tax Form 990	March	Treasurer

Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	March	Treasurer
Review Bank Statement	March	Treasurer
Review Goals	March	Board
Website Updates	March	Website Chair

Unfinished – New Business

a. Bylaws (Reoccurring)

- i. John will take the lead of organizing a committee for updating the Bylaws.
 - 1. Abby, Ben, & Michelle will be a part of this committee.

b. Wisconsin Badger Chapter Training

- i. Strategy, next steps, what we want to implement.
 - 1. Group is looking to put together Wisconsin specific trainings for the fall, separate from SWANA National Trainings.
 - a. Possible topics: operator training, transfer station trainings.
 - i. Ask members what they'd like to see from SWANA or how SWANA can benefit them.
 - b. Each topic would have 2, 3, or 4 sessions to learn about specifics.
 - 2. Lee will lead the committee on this.
 - a. John Peralta, Ben, Alan, Allison, & Michelle will also be on this committee.

Next Board Meeting – March 25th, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Motion to adjourn by Abby
 Seconded by John Peralta
 Approved

Adjourn – 10:54 AM

Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant