



***Northeast Georgia Regional
Solid Waste Management Authority***

305 Research Drive | Athens, Georgia 30605-2795
(706) 369-5650 | Fax (706) 369-5792

Brad Rickard
Chairman

AUTHORITY MEETING

E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605
February 8, 2023

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum
 - a. Call to order at 1:01 p.m.
 - b. Quorum established
- II. Introduction of Visitors and New Members
 - a. Renee Van Sickle, City of Winder (Visitor)
 - b. Blake McCormack, Morgan County (Member)
- III. Financial Report
 - a. NEGR Solid Waste Authority account balance = \$35,332.16.
 - b. Invoice 063022 - SWA: \$1,583.92
 - i. Motion to approve: Jamie Dove; Second: Suki Janssen; All in Favor
 - ii. Approved
- IV. General Discussion
 - a. November 9, 2022 Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve: John Daniell; Second: Suki Janssen; All in Favor
 - ii. Approved
 - b. Regional Tipping Fee Overview
 - i. Board members were provided with a table of tipping fees at all facilities within the region.
 - ii. Walton County Transfer Station was requested to be added to the table (updated table provided as attachment to meeting minutes).



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- c. GEFA Biosolids Report
 - i. *Staff member Carol Flaute has been attending Regional Water Council quarterly meetings. At the last meeting of the Ocmulgee RWC, there was a presentation about biosolids from wastewater treatment and the challenges with its disposal. There was a chart shared showing a comparison by regional commission area of biosolid production. NEGRCA's area has a projected increase of nearly 90% by 2060, which is higher than all other RC areas. This is largely due to our expected population increase.*
- d. Regional Tonnages Report 2022
 - i. Georgia EPD report will be available and presented to the Board at the May 2023 meeting.
- e. Comments regarding May meeting
 - i. Janssen suggested inviting the Newton County Solid Waste Authority Director to the May meeting.
 - ii. Beatty to provide regional tonnage reports per county and a report of accomplishments from the past two years of the regional SWMP.
 - iii. Janssen was asked to provide a deeper explanation of current conditions in the recycling market.
 - iv. Jenna Jambeck (UGA) was mentioned as a potential guest.
- f. Member County News, Events, and Initiatives
 - i. Walton County – looking for solutions for mattress recycling. ACC noted that they used the Furniture Bank of Atlanta. Currently, Walton County Transfer Station charges \$1 minimum for mattresses drop off. Also, the County is looking to add a third “paint day” for paint recycling drop offs. They are also preparing to host a document shredding event at City Hall in Loganville soon.
 - ii. Morgan County – recently replaced all dumpsters with compactors at County transfer facilities. The County is preparing to close its Fairplay convenience center.
 - iii. City of Winder – the City is working toward publishing an RFQ for new solid waste collection services.
 - iv. Greene County – Novelis (aluminum recycler) is undergoing a major expansion project that is expected to be complete in November 2023.



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- v. Madison County – County is hosting a document shredding and medication drop-off event on April 22nd. County has experienced a lot of complaints regarding roadside litter but have also received an increase in volunteer offerings for that litter. There will be an upcoming annual 3rd grade field trip to the recycling center for Madison County schools. There will also be an upcoming push to expand the County's adopt-a-mile program.
- vi. Elbert County – Keep Elbert County Beautiful (KECB) is working with the local 4-H chapter to host more recycling events and initiatives. The candy wrapper recycling program has seen success.
- vii. Barrow County – Republic Services is working on a new cell at the Oak Grove Landfill due to high volume and reduced life expectancy since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic; there are no project completion dates for that new cell. There are new staff responsible for Keep Barrow County Beautiful (KBCB); Ben McDaniel will be responsible moving forward and will be invited to the next meeting in May. County hopes to host a tire amnesty event again soon.
- viii. Jackson County – beginning expansion of the County Transfer Station within the next six months. April 15th the County will be hosting Recycling Day – Amazon is expected to contribute to or participate in this event.
- ix. Oconee County – Keep Oconee County Beautiful (KOCB) is hosting regular document shredding events annually; 2023 schedule will be on April 15th and October 15th at the Oconee County Senior Center. County is experiencing staffing shortages at convenience centers and difficulties finding new hires. Recent partnerships with the Oconee County Library and UGA Extension Office have been successful. Also, KOCB have been hosting quarterly educational sessions at the Senior Center to discuss recycling. Cindy Pritchard mentioned needing an outlet for old farm material and equipment as there are a lot of farms aging out of use and converting to residential in Oconee County.
- x. Athens-Clarke County – SWANA Spring Conference (SOAR) is scheduled for April 17-20 at the Georgia Congress Center; there will be several facility tours and mobile workshops available in the Atlanta area. Suki Janssen can share registration for a volunteer link if needed. Georgia EPD RWD grant first cycle received 42 applications, showing high need for continued funding streams in the waste reduction field. A new state bill is being proposed to the Georgia General Assembly that will restrict the state's Solid Waste Trust Fund to go toward tires only. A potential new Samsung compactor truck with a 5-ton limit is coming available that will not require a CDL license to operate.



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Community cleanups involving roll-offs are being provided by the County for select neighborhoods where blight is present; the hope is to provide yard cleanup opportunities at no cost to low income residents. The County will be piloting a bulk waste pickup program within the Urban Service District. On March 23rd the County will host a compost facility tour and a tour of the water reclamation facility to teach about dewatering and biosolid storage.

V. Public Comment

- a. None

VI. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn: Cindy Pritchard; Second: Kenny Sargent; All in Favor
- b. Adjourned at 2:51 p.m.