



***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
August 10, 2022

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum
 - a. Call to order at 1:00 p.m.
 - b. Quorum not established
- II. Introduction of Visitors
 - a. None
- III. Financial Report
 - a. Invoice 063022 - SWA: \$2,029.67
 - i. Approved
 - b. NEGR Solid Waste Authority account balance = \$29,626.99
- IV. General Discussion
 - a. Upcoming Grant Opportunities
 - i. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has recently announced the Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Diversion (RWD) Grant as part of the Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) Grant Program. The amount of available funding is \$2,000,000 for state fiscal year 2023. The RWD Grant furthers the goals for the SWTF by providing financial support to projects in Georgia to reduce solid waste, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation. Eligible applicants and recipients include counties, municipalities, or any combination of the same, or public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions. The RWD grant guidelines and application are available for review at the following URL: <https://epd.georgia.gov/recycling-waste-reduction-and-diversion-grant>. The application period will open August 1, 2022. The deadline for submitting applications is September 30, 2022. EPD will host two virtual meetings on



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August 17th and 24th at 9:00 a.m. to review eligibility and application requirements, and to answer any questions.

- ii. Members expressed interest in applying for the grant at the county-level and as an Authority for educational initiatives
 - Suki Janssen, Athens-Clarke County, will follow up with EPD representatives to inquire about competitiveness of the application and whether it is recommended for both parties to apply.

b. Regional Plan Implementation

- i. For regional plan implementation, the Board would like to explore submitting an application for the RWD grant opportunity for educational purposes.

c. Member County News, Events, and Initiatives

- i. Oconee County – will be hosting a month-long tire amnesty event in October and will be hosting the annual Rivers Alive cleanup. KECB recently received a donation of +60 butterfly plants to help support pollinator species.
- ii. Greene County – no news.
- iii. Elbert County – have implemented camera use at four problem sites across the county to monitor illegal trash dumping. These cameras are helping with enforcement and have led to 21 citations of \$250 or more in fines that go toward the Elbert County budget. Elbert County has experienced a high tire intake that is becoming difficult to manage. KECB has not hosted a tire amnesty for two years but will consider reactivating the annual program. KECB will host a Rivers Alive cleanup on September 12th and 13th on the Broad River.
- iv. Clarke – Preparing to host community cleanup days where a dumpster will be placed in select neighborhoods at no cost to the residents. This effort is being done in hopes to encourage residents to appropriately and affordably dispose of trash that has collected in yards. A Rivers Alive cleanup event will be held on October 1st in Sandy Creek. The Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) conference is being held September 24-28, 2022 on St. Simmons Island. Also, the SWANA-Georgia Chapter annual conference will be held November 14-16, 2022 on St. Simons Island.



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- v. Madison – KMBC will host a month-long tire amnesty in October. KMBC hosted a spring amnesty as well and recorded 70 tons of tires. They will also host a paper shred and prescription drug collection event on November 12, 2022.

d. Gasification Initiatives

- i. Ray Brindley, Greene County, presented information regarding the concept of gasification of municipal solid waste and/or coal fine aggregate. Mr. Brindley encouraged the Board to explore the technology and uses of the gasification process and how it could be beneficial to our region. There was a suggestion to include this in the scope of educational initiatives if funding from the RWD program were to be awarded to the Authority.

V. Public Comment

- a. None

VI. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.