

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
Board Meeting  
May 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom Conference Call  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** 10:03 am

**Roll Call & Introductions**

BOD: John Welch, Abby Lichtscheidl, Nate Schneider, Ali Rathsack, Dave Hagenbucher, Chris Anderson, MaKayla Galecki, Lee Daigle, Mark Toressani, Benjamin Hintz

BOD Not Present:

Also Present: Joe Lourigan (DNR), John Peralta (Marathon Co), Gerry Neuser (WCSWMA), Rob Michitsch (UWSP)

**Minutes of Previous Meetings** [March 2023 \(April canceled due to lack of quorum\)](#)

Abby moves to approve March Minutes

Ali – Seconded

Motion Passes

**Treasurer's Report** *Abby*

Checking: \$5,178.32

Savings: \$32,619.67 – WIRMC funds were deposited.

- Payment from SWANA National will increase. That doesn't go into effect until fiscal year. There may be a bump from SOAR.

Mark moves to approve the Treasurer's Report

Nate – Seconded

Motion Passes

**Committee Reports**

**DNR Report** - *Joe Lourigan*

- Landfill and solid waste fees rulemaking is underway. Second external advisory committee meeting is June 21 and is open for anyone to attend – email announcement coming out in a couple weeks. At the first meeting we discussed the committee's survey results of their top rule priorities: alternative landfill liner options, alternative landfill cover options, owner financial responsibility, and codifying exemptions. Any questions or comments to share, please contact your SWANA reps on the committee or Kate Strom Hiorns [kathrynm.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kathrynm.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov)
- We continue working on updates to our administrative code related to responsible unit recycling programs and MRF requirements. We held three public meetings (May 3 on MRF elements of the rule, and May 8 and 10 focused on RU recycling programs). Over 200 people attended and provided comments and answered poll questions. A draft of the rule is expected later this summer.
- We had some bugs with our recycling responsible unit annual reports and extended the deadline to submit to next Tuesday, 5/23. These reports are required for municipalities to receive recycling grants and for DNR to collect recycling data. We plan to have 2022 recycling tonnage data ready this fall.

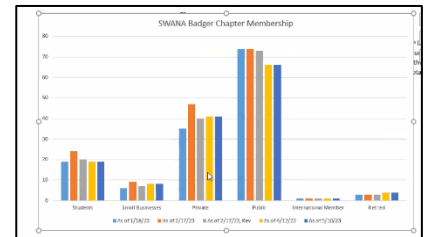
- We are submitting our application for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) federal grant before May 31. The project will focus on prevention and reduction of food waste, with goals to: contract to conduct research and develop a statewide food waste management plan; contract with a non-regulatory entity to provide statewide technical assistance and services to local governments, businesses, institutions, and farms on projects that prevent or divert food waste; and hire a project position to create partnerships, conduct outreach and provide technical assistance.

**Safety Ambassador Report** *Dave/John Peralta*

- Safety Committee met this week – It is Electrical Safety Month (May) Be sure you have an awareness training for haulers, employees, etc.
- “Safety Over Service” discussed. Nolan from IA joined. Some possible collaboration with other states in development.
- Fire in Columbia Co. Cause is not known, but possible lithium battery but no concrete evidence. (<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/2023/05/15/columbia-county-solid-waste-endures-heavy-damage-from-fire/70217684007/?fbclid=IwAR3GwRILL4bVcazNe-4p6PMAoRsmc9W2Yy8GyYfEOi1XcCGDsQOSHE55aFQ>)
- Discussion on getting media involved with covering incidents like fires at landfills. Some discussion on pros/cons of this.
- NR500 rule change can add lithium batteries with lead acid batteries. Pretty easy change. Something to think about. Just because of the rule change doesn’t mean there would be funding or support to add this. (Mark)
  - We want to be proactive. Often times humans make decisions and changes after a tragedy.

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

- Ali shared graphic on membership breakdown. Overall we have steady member numbers.
- E-News Data – Keep industry average between 22-24% reach. Our reach is at or above those targets.
- Discussion and issues continue with national and not being able to download the member list.
- Members who had membership ending soon were notified.
- Discussion on using SWANA WI shared docs. Susan will share info on access with the VP and President



Category	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Student	15	10	10	10	10
Small Business	10	10	10	10	10
Home	75	75	75	75	75
Retail	10	10	10	10	10

**International** *John*

- Change of leadership – Interim director appointed. National search for permanent exec dir by WASTECON (ideally).
- Membership Director / Coordinator is changing jobs. SWANA membership is at an all-time high. Things are going well. They will be replacing that position soon.
- New Strategic Plan is the focus.

- John is stepping up in July as the Regional Rep for a 2-year term. To be a regional rep, you must be a chapter board member. John will remain on the board for at least 2 more years.

### **YP Report** *Abby*

- River Clean-up went great last Saturday teaming with Capital Water Trails group. They collected 3 Tires, a bowling ball, and some garbage. Thanks to Logan for all his help and recruiting volunteers
- BC Organics and UW Oshkosh May 26<sup>th</sup>. Link to registration is in the E-news

### **Advocacy Report** *Mark*

- NR500 Rule changes. Committee is active. First meeting happened and comments were sent in last Friday. If you have suggested change, get that to someone on the committee. There will be a public comment periods, but it would be better to get that in through a committee member. This process, although it seems far off, it will go quickly. If you have any information on financial impact on items such as lithium batteries, that is important and good to gather now. Alternative liners information is being provided to help inform the process.
  - a. Keep an eye on these changes in this rule. Be ready for when they will be implemented.
  - b. Question on how detailed of a financial impact report? Mark explains that the estimates need to be well defined and thought out. He gave an example of the various aspects thought about in a financial impact report.
  - c. John W. reminds us that there is still a statute that can't be changed without a legislative change. This is a code change.
- Opposition to eRINs. Differences are being shown between democrats and republicans making it difficult to regulate. It will be ongoing and tied into the Energy Policy in the USA. John is at the ABC conference in Chicago. EPA sent the RVO Goals meeting their goal of submitting this. Not sure if the eRINs will be included. Despite differences, the general feel is to get this to go through now vs being delayed.
- Emerging Contaminants rules (this is the area where PFAS fall). How do they play a role on alternative liners? That is being discussed.
  - a. In PA – there is a landfill that said they are required to test their air emissions and leachate for PFAS. It is interesting because testing PFAS in air emissions is not well known or defined how to do that.
  - b. EPA Federal Level – CERCLA – originally exempted landfills and waste water treatment. In the last few weeks there are changes to that. This would have profound impacts on landfills. Keep an eye on that.
  - c. Loan / grant program for municipalities to deal with Emerging Contaminates aka PFAS. We will share with members when this comes out.
  - d. There was a Conference put on by GreenFire in Wausau a week ago on PFAS. We learned that funding to help address PFAS was being proposed to come from the Environmental Management Account. There are some concerns here.
    - i. John W. would like a joint letter to oppose funds from the Environmental Management Account to be use toward PFAS.
      1. John explained the Environmental Management Fund since the majority of the funds in that fund comes from landfills. There is

concern that this fund is raided for use in other projects. Apparently there is a \$33million dollar surplus in that fund and it seems that this surplus should go back to programs that were cut from the Solid Waste Industry directly such as reinstating the recycling program. First use the funds to go directly back into Solid Waste/Recycling before transferring it to other programs.

2. A draft letter will be sent around for comment.

**Scholarship Report** *Lee*

- May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. 5 applications
- Lee will send out to the committee. Nate, Ben, Abby, and Chad will review.

**The timeline was reviewed.**

IB Rep attends IB meeting	May	IB Rep
Decide who attend Wastecon	May	Board Vote
Decide Scholarship winners & report to Board Chair	May	Scholarship Chair
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	May	Treasurer
Meet in person at various locations, hosted by different member	June	All
Website Updates	June	Website Chair
Review goals	June	Board
Pursue conference speakers/ideas for sessions	June	All
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	June	Treasurer
Review bank statement	June	Treasurer

Discussion on board member attending WasteCon – Abby has interest. Chris may attend, but will not be asking for funds. Put as agenda item for June meeting.

**Unfinished – New Business**

- e. Action Item: Vote to Adopt the Badger Chapter Safety Committee Bylaws (John Peralta)
  - John moves to approve the Safety Committee Bylaws.
  - Abby – Seconded
  - Motion Passes
  
- f. NR 500 Rulemaking (John Welch and Mark Torresani) – discussed earlier
- g. SW 101 Course and Professional Development (John Welch)
  - 3 organizations proposal. They have been discussing this since October. This was shared at WIRMC with a request for people to complete a survey on professional development for our industry in WI. The results of the survey were summarized and shared with the board. We are at a point to ask for some funds.
  - WCSWMA approved funding at \$10K, as long as SWANA WI and AROW cover the costs up to \$5K each. The intent is that this is a joint effort with the solid waste/recycling community.
  - The board were asked about their thoughts on something like this.
    - SWANA has similar courses, but they are not state specific.
    - DNR sends their staff to a UW course.

- From Portage County, we don't have a lot of change over, so we don't know if we would take the course, but it's a good idea.
  - From the student perspective, this is something of interest.
- Gerry shared the perspective of WCSWMA. The intent is that this is a joint project. WCSWMA has agreed to do the heavy lifting of funding.
- Move vote to next meeting – June
- h. WIRMC Final Report (WIRMC Committee)
  - Susan summarized the final report from this year's conference. It was already shared in committee and discussed.
  - Approval of Contract with Recycling Connections for Conference Planning Services (John Welch)
    - Nate moves to approve the contract with Recycling Connections for Conference Planning Services
    - Ali – Seconded
    - Motion Passes
- i. Announcement: Member Dr. Rob Michitsch will be serving as the new SWANA Communication, Education, and Marketing Technical Division Vice Director July 1, 2023-25 and then director from July 1, 2025-June 30, 2027. (John Welch)
  - i. SWANA has many technical divisions. This is one of the several technical divisions they have.
- j. SWANA WI Shared Drive Folders – How to share? Recommendation is to share with specific committee members vs link sent that anyone can access. Discussion. (Susan Schuller) – Discussed earlier under Membership.

Next board meeting is June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10AM on Zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Abby  
 Seconded by Chris  
 Approved

Adjourn – 11:46am

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Minutes recorded by Susan Schuller, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant