

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
Teleconference  
Conference Call #: (605) 313-4159 / Access Code: 260738  
April 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order** – 11:05 am

**Roll Call** –

- BOD: Dave Hagenbucher, George Shereda, Meleesa Johnson, Ali Rathsack, John Welch, Phil Gearing, Chris Anderson, Lindsey Carlson, Erik Lietz
- BOD Not Present: Chad Doverspike
- Also Present: Susan Schuller (SWANA Admin Assistant), Lily Koss (Marathon County), Abby Lichscheidl (Portage Co), Alex Thomas (UWSP), Dustin (from Badgerland)

**Minutes of Previous Meetings** [March 2020](#)

Motion by Meleesa to approve March 2020 – no edits.  
Seconded by Dave  
Approved – Motion Carries (Unanimously)

**Treasurer's Report** [Meleesa](#)

\$6,597.89 in checking  
\$15,997.50 in savings  
All bills for conference is paid.  
Motion by Ali to approve financial report  
Seconded by Phil  
Approved – Motion Carries (Unanimously)

**Committee Reports**

- DNR Report (Emailed Report – details included at the end of notes) [Kate Strom Hiorns](#)
  - Kate was absent. John read the notes from the emailed report (included below)
- Safety Ambassador Report [Erik](#)
  - COVID19 is at the front. There is a lot of information out there to stay safe. But there has been an alarming up-tick of fatalities nationwide (not in WI yet) recently that are not directly tied to the COVID19 disease. It is believed that there are indirect effects on what is happening because there has been so many changes and patterns are shifting. People are not paying attention to what they are doing. We do not have direct reports about this in Wisconsin yet. COVID19 happened very quickly. We did not have a contingency plan for this. It has created a lot of stresses beyond the disease itself. Some discussion and sharing on this topic:
    - Meleesa added. Yes, there are more mental health concerns regarding attention and worry on people. She thanks Erik for mentioning that impact of mental health, in addition to keeping everyone physically safe.
    - Erik shared a personal story on how emotional it has been on his life.
    - Meleesa--We need to recognize that this is a moment where we are going through stages of grief and loss and many do not realize it.
    - Abi – found a video on how people deal with trauma. She found it very helpful to view this that has good applications today even though it was created for a camp and dealing with youth with trauma. She will send this out. (Lindsey can also share it out on the SWANA Facebook page.)
    - Eric- Safety even at home is so important. Many accidents are happening at home.
    - Erik echoed this that personal life and things happening at home create distracts and accidents as a result.

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- The committee didn't meet this past month, but they will meet the last Thursday of the month at 10:30am. Erik will send out the information for that meeting in case someone from membership would like to attend.
- Membership Report *Phil*
  - Total members 175 members.
  - 44% are YPs and a quarter of our membership are students
  - Dave, Chris, and Phil met to talk about some goals.
    - Membership renewal reminders were sent out.
    - Next task is to reach out to newer members and students in the next month to check in and see how things are going.
  - Question from Meleesa: Can this team or our board talk about strategies to maintain membership during financial times? We could see a decline in membership during an economic downturn.
  - Question: How is national dealing with potential membership impacts during this time?
  - During the last recession they did not raise rates. That is one thing that may happen again.
  - AROW may cut member rate 10-15% during this time. They asked themselves - What is more important? People remaining membership at a lower rate might be better than letting membership lapse and trying to get them to rejoin later.
  - This is a good discussion to plan for things like this. What if the conference doesn't happen next year? Good discussion for the budget. Perhaps when the budget is set next year, different scenarios should be discussed.
- International *John*
  - Meeting in Columbus was canceled.
  - SWANApolooza was postponed
  - Remote meetings continue.
  - Even if the conference happens again next year, some people may not be comfortable attending. We could see a drop in attendance. Something to consider.
- YP Report *Dave--/Lindsey*
  - Scholarships due May 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - There were about 12 people on the last call. Good turnout.
  - Waste Camp/River clean-up are postponed.
  - COVID19 was discussed on the last call.
  - YP Newsletter!!! The draft was sent out to get feedback. We are really excited and proud about this.
  - About printing this...What are your thoughts on printing and mailing this for every member \$700-750 or just send to YPs for half that?
    - Alternative: send the newsletter to the organization or agency.
    - Meleesa: what would be the total cost? Lindsay said each newsletter is \$4/printing an issue and \$1/shipping. Meleesa thought it seemed like a lot of money, so we would want to get more of a confirmed number.
    - Oakridge is willing to sponsor but would like money to not go to printing and shipping.
      - Looks good as a PDF and think you could get the same amount of views if digital.
      - Echoed this by Eric.
      - Let people request a hard copy.
    - Lindsey really would like to send this out hard copy. She feels it shows more support and helps people feel more connected.
    - Meleesa is mixed feelings on this. I love the focus on highlighting our industry being on the frontline. She personally does not like paper.
    - John – echoes Lindsey. He says he gets a lot of things in his inbox and just deletes them. He rarely opens it. He likes hard copy even if it is one at the office to share.
    - Instead of asking how much does it cost? Can we ask how much can we spend?

- If this goes out every time we have a publication, will this be an ongoing cost.
  - Lindsey said it was just for this one right now during the COVID19 situation to help keep people feeling connected and supported. In the past about 50 copies were printed to have available to distribute. It is about \$200 in the past.
  - George adds. This is probably one of the better networking opportunities we have and is very impressive. I want to showcase it. He is in support of providing dollars for this.
  - Are we trying to redistribute money from other budgets? Do we have the money within this committee?
  - John - Just a reminder: each group has access to funds, but before spending they must get approval for spending before action.
  - John agrees with George. This edition is really impressive and for the time that we are at, this is a great way to keep those
  - The Chairs will get a cost estimate for sending to all the organizations represented in SWANA-BC.
- Social Media Report *Chris*
  - No Report
- Legislative Advocacy Report *Meleesa*
  - All PFAS bills failed in the senate.
    - We need to regroup on this and discuss how to discuss PFAS.
    - The bill on owner financial responsibility to use net worth method failed.
    - Incineration bill also failed.
    - They are out of session.
    - They did meet regarding COVID19, but that is it.
    - It is likely to be quiet until after the election.
- Scholarship Report *George*
  - Met and discussed the schedule after the applications are due May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let people know that is the deadline.
  - Good meeting. There is a new scoring and submittal form which looks like it will be easier to apply. That is good.
  - We hope to have some recommendations for the board at the next meeting.

### **Timeline Reviewed – No updates, on track**

#### **Unfinished Business**

- Continuity of Operations Planning in event of COVID19
  - Sent email to our membership from the DNR.
  - John – Any ideas or thoughts on this?
    - We discussed quite a bit at the last meeting.
    - We are not sure how long this will go on, but it has given us some time to develop our policy.
    - Start thinking about how to re-open suspended services when allowed to open again.
  - Watch the current events on this. There may be some people who may put pressure on re-opening and we need to be prepared on how to keep our employees safe during the confusion that likely will result.
  - We may see some bills coming through to give authority to the finance committee. This would limit the ability of the governor to have veto authority on decisions. This inter-fighting in our state legislation between our representatives and the governor could create confusion. So, we as leaders need to think about what we can do to keep people safe.
  - Eric asked about if there is any concern with budgets. Meleesa shared some of the reality communities will face. Waste tonnage is actually up so typically those departments will be fine, but communities are going to get huge hits in other ways that could effect department budgets:
    - 75% down on sale tax revenue in communities.

- Room tax will also be down 75% in these communities. Communities will get hit hard.
  - Abby – She spoke about Portage County. They were already in financial stress. They are getting more money from the waste (garbage) but they are not getting funds from other items like electronics.
- Attorney Review & Comments of By-laws Changes (cont.)
  - John wants to finish this up.
  - Meleesa sent her comments. John will incorporate those.
  - Chad had some comments as well.
  - John will finalize the edits and it will be sent to the full membership for a vote.

Next Board Meeting *May 21, 2020*

Erik moved to adjourn

Phil seconded

Adjourn - 12:15pm

#### **4/16/20 SWANA DNR Updates**

Staffing:

- Hiring freeze in effect. Next priorities: Beneficial Use/Low Hazard Exemption Hydrogeologist in NER/CO; IT Specialist; Engineer in SCR/SER; HW Specialist
- Recently hired: Bureau Director, Environmental Program Associate in SCR

Rulemaking:

- E-Cycle rule scope approval and Coal Combustion Residual scope approval from Natural Resources Board, next step = writing rules and getting public input
- Firefighting Foam emergency and permanent rules required by WI Act 101. Scope prepared, required to hold preliminary hearing on scope

General Program:

- No update on Legislative Audit Bureau program evaluation of state recycling program; LAB still planning on a spring/summer report release
- Waste Characterization Study: two proposals received. Waste sort work expected to start August 2020

PFAS:

- Social distancing has put slow down on public meetings, many postponed – see website for upcoming meeting dates
- Division hired a Communications position, Technical Operations Coordinator, and continuing to hire 2 researchers
- Working on guidance documents and focusing on site specific remediation projects; building maps of known sites; working with contractor on source and background info
- AFFF fire department survey closed; getting data from UW Survey Center to determine amount of PFAS-containing foam at fire departments statewide; Guidance doc and poster being developed

Department COVID-19 Response:

- DNR staff working from home; no or limited site inspections

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- <https://dnr.wi.gov/emergency/COVID19Compliance.html>
  - Compliance assistance approach – case by case, compliance expected unless specific problem arises
  - First contact DNR point of contact or if unknown use online form at website above

Minutes recorded by Susan Schuller, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant