



Wisconsin Badger Chapter

SWANA

Solid Waste Association of North America

Wisconsin Badger State Chapter

Solid Waste Association of North America

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes -

APPROVED



May 21, 2026



10:00 AM



Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting ID: 282 734 818 593 0

Passcode: xG2uL6qP

Opening Business

- Call to Order: 10:00 AM
- Roll Call
 - BOD: Julie Ketchum, Logan Dwyer, Allison Birr, Abby Sauer, Ben Hintz, John Peralta, John Welch, Ali Rathsack, Alan Kerr
 - BOD Not Present: Lee Daigle, Jon Schroeder
 - Also Present: Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), Josh Allen, BreAnne Kahnk, Rob Michitsch, Jennifer Semrau
- Approval of April 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - Alan motions to approve April minutes.
 - John Peralta – Seconded.
 - Approved – Motion carries.
- Treasurer's Report — **Abby Sauer**
 - Checking - \$4,889.32
 - Savings - \$10,970.90
 - Abby reported on transactions this past month.
 - Julie motions to approve the Treasurer's Report.
 - John Peralta - Seconded.
 - Approved – Motion carries.

Committee Reports

- **DNR Report** – *Jennifer Semrau*
 - Staffing
 - We will be creating a new Landfill Section to allow us to better focus on key landfill policy and regulatory issues. We will hire a new section manager and move some staff from our current Recycling and Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste and Beneficial Use section. The section will include the program's lead engineer and hydrogeologist. We'll share more details as the new section takes shape later this summer.

- New organics management LTE, Haylee Kraker, starting June 3 to help with work under EPA SWIFR grant.
 - New hydrogeologist on our landfill team, Sally Klein, starts in SER June 1.
- Rules
 - E-Cycle rule: The DNR will hold a public hearing May 28 on a permanent rule to revise ch. NR 530, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to implementation of E-Cycle Wisconsin requirements. The proposed rule language is also available to review and submit comments through June 5.
 - The hearing take place on May 28 at 1 p.m. CDT via Microsoft Teams. Please [register for the hearing](#) if you are interested in attending.
 - Go to the DNR's proposed permanent rules page to access the documents and public notice.
 - Non-landfill solid waste rule (NR 500, 502, 520, 526, 157): Public comment period on Economic Impact Analysis will start in June. See an overview of proposed fee changes in the [slides from the May 7 Study Group meeting](#).
- Recent legislation
 - See [Study Group slides](#) for an overview of PFAS and battery legislation. Keep sending PFAS bill questions and we will do our best to work on answers, though it may take some time.
- Other updates
 - Wrapping up annual reporting seasons; thanks to all who submitted reports
 - Council on Recycling meeting June 5
 - Will be submitting workplan for 2nd round of SWIFR funding (starting October 2026) to EPA by the end of May
 - Waiting for EPA headquarters to review Wisconsin's coal combustion residuals rule package (which has been in effect for several years), which is the next step toward having an authorized program
- **Safety Ambassador Report – John Peralta**
 - This month is Electrical Safety Month and Mental Health Awareness Month.
 - Group discussed electrical safety procedures and shared stories on electricity safety from different sites.
 - Group continued to work on the Safety Award logistics. John had sent out structure and timeline information for the board to review.
 - Group discusses a few points regarding the attachment.
 - Due to quorum being lost, it was decided to vote via email.
 - Northern Illinois University is offering 1 free OSHA training a month for companies with 100 employees or less until September. Each month will be a different topic. Next month is confined space.
- **Social Media & Membership Report – Ali & John Welch**
 - Total membership number breakdown as of the last week: 140 members.

- 33 students (up 2), 46 private sector (same), 49 public sector (down 1), and 13 small business (down 1).
 - Outreach for the 6 expiring members was completed on the 13th of this month.
 - SWANA E-Newsletter was sent out on the 5th of May. June E-Newsletter creation is underway so let Ali know if you'd like anything added.
 - Membership campaign will be sent out next week by Michelle.
 - There were challenges at SWANA National regarding member management including sending out renewal notices and database accuracies over the last year but improvements have been made and they now have a good handle on the database.
 - SWANA National has rolled out their enterprise membership category where organizations can provide memberships to employees at to however many memberships they need. This provides a bit of savings and one free tech-division for each member and allows early bird pricing for RCon.
- **International & National – Julie & John Welch**
 - Finance committee is recommending approval of the budget for next year. The budget will be a break-even budget and will go to the board in the next couple weeks for a vote.
 - This year's budget will have a deficit instead of the expected surplus due to membership challenges and trainings which impacted revenue. Trainings are planned to be redone and updated with two trainings looking to roll out late Q3/early Q4.
- **Young Professionals – Logan & Abby**
 - Highway cleanup was held on April 25th with about 15 people in attendance. 18 bags of trash, 1 tire, various metals and car parts, a yoga ball, 3 other intermediately sized rubber balls, and a \$5 bill.
 - August 7th is the proposed date for touring Veolia in Port Washington and Menominee Falls. RSVP will be going out soon.
 - YPs were able to change the Welcome Night event budget to \$5,000 and will be moving forward with Casino Night. Group is considering sponsorship options similar to the mini golf holes two years ago at the Chula Vista.
 - Group continues to work on other tour opportunities such as hospitals or farms.
- **Legislative Advocacy Report – Julie**
 - Lots of questions surrounding the PFAs law. The legislative committee met last week and there is an interest for a small group approach to meet with key DNR people to discuss issues. Meeting would also include consultants, well known experts. It wasn't discussed if legal would be brought into this discussion.
- **Scholarship Report – John Welch**
 - Application will need to be updated before getting sent out at the beginning of the school year to better match SWANA National applications.

- **Bylaws Update** – *John Welch*
 - Group reviews the proposed changes to the Bylaws.
 - Bylaws Committee will do a final redline and have it reviewed by an attorney before bringing it back to the board for final approval.
- **Trainings**– *Lee Daigle*
 - Tabled.

Ongoing & New Business

- **Timeline Review**

Decide If/Where/When Board Meets In Person Over Summer	June	All
Pursue Conference Speakers/Ideas for Sessions at WIRMC	June	All
Decide Where Annual Meeting Will Be	June	Admin
Elect Advisory Board Rep (every 2 years)	June	Board
Select Nomination Committee	June	Board
Check Balance to Make Sure It's Not Under \$5,000	June	Treasurer
Review Bank Statement	June	Treasurer
Review Goals	June	Board
Website Updates	June	Admin

- **WIRMC Update**
 - Planning committee approved the budget which includes keeping registration the same but exhibitors will see an increase of a small amount.
 - Call for presentations will start in early June.
 - Reviewed RFPs for 2028-2029 conferences.
- **Annual Meeting**
 - Annual meeting will be held at the Grand Geneva on September 17th.
 - Group discusses potential networking opportunities after the annual meeting.
 - Group decides to do a boat tour.

Upcoming Meeting

 **Next Board Meeting**

 **June 18, 2026**

 **10:00 AM**

Adjournment – 11:45 AM

Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA-BC Administrative Assistant