

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter
Solid Waste Association of North America
Annual Meeting / Board Meeting
August 21st, 2025 at 10:00 AM
MINUTES – APPROVED**

Call to Order: 10:04 AM

Roll Call & Introductions

BOD: John Welch, Ali Rathsack, Abby Lichtscheidl, Lee Daigle, Chris Anderson, Julie Ketchum, Jon Schroeder, John Welch, Dave Hagenbucher, Ben Hintz, Ali Rathsack

BOD Not Present: John Peralta

Also Present: Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), Josh Gabehart, Josh Allen, Kate Strom-Hiorns, Allison Birr

Minutes of Previous Meetings [June 2025](#)

Abby moves to approve June Minutes.

Julie – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Treasurer's Report [Abby](#)

Checking \$20,858.12

Savings \$10,970.07

Abby reported about some transactions this past month.

John motions to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Chris – Seconded

Approved – Motion carries

Committee Reports

DNR Report - [Kate](#)

- DNR's Waste and Materials Management Program is in the middle of recruitment for a solid waste/landfill engineer. Otherwise the agency is in a hiring "frost" until we know more solid information on the federal budget and impacts to the DNR.
- Recycling rulemaking became effective July 1. DNR held a webinar for responsible unit municipalities in July (recording and guidance documents at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/RU.html>) and is holding a MRF stakeholder meeting on August 26 from 9-noon. Info on registration and additional guidance docs will be saved at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/MRF.html>
- Council on Recycling meeting will be September 5 – no agenda set yet, but it will be posted at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Council.html>
- Solid Waste Interested Parties meeting will be September 23 from 9:30-noon. We will discuss implementation of the landfill rulemaking that becomes effective October 1, the required info on program revenues, 2024 recycling data and trends, update on landfill and recycling facility fires (SCS presenter – same as at WIRMC), and an update on statewide food waste evaluation.
- Nomination period is open for Recycling Excellence Awards until September 15.

- Kate Strom Hiorns just began serving as the SWANA rep for the International Solid Waste Association's Recycling and Waste Minimization Workgroup. I'll share what I learn with the Badger Chapter board.)

Safety Ambassador Report *John*

- No meeting this month.
- Road-EO has been postponed until April of next year.
- Still potentially developing a safety award for WIRMC. Parameters will be discussed next week.

Membership / Social Media Report *Ali*

- Currently have 119 members which hasn't changed since last month. There are 7 expiring members who have been reached out to.
- E-newsletter was delivered on 8-5. Please let Ali know if there is any content you'd like to see.
- SM&M committee met last week to review website updates. Also received feedback from Marissa from Foth.

International *Julie/John Welch*

- Julie is now the international rep for our chapter. She registered for RCON and will be there for the meeting.
- Julie seems to not be receiving emails, John will look into this and pass along her information.
- SWANA National/International approved a new budget ad reviewed end of the year budget. Financially, SWANA is doing better than anticipated.
- RCON registration is on track and sponsors and exhibitors are doing better than expected.

YP Report *Abby*

- Sustainability Tour day was last week. Members toured Green Box Compost and Henry Villas Zoo in Madison.
- Touched base on the Welcome Event and we may have to switch to egg drop instead of Axe Throwing.

Advocacy Report *Dave/Julie*

- The relief from liability from PFAs bill was tied to a grant program and so it was overshadowed during the session. Not sure if this bill will resurface in the fall.
- NWRA continues to work with WMC on the battery bill. Recent comments were to require apportionment of fees amongst manufacturers of batteries to by chemistry. This is a new issue brought up and this is the 6th draft of legislation. Unsure where this is headed, but hoping latest issue will be resolved and the draft can be sent to other organizations.

Scholarship Report *John*

- There has been no posted information from SWANA National regarding the scholarship timeline. John suggests board moves forward with their timeline. He will be reaching out to the committee to start the conversation.

Timeline Review

Send scholarship monies to students	August	Scholarship Chair
Prepare budget for approval at annual meeting	August	Treasurer
Prepare meeting schedule for approval at annual meeting	August	Admin

Call for Nominations for Board Members	August	Nominating Committee/Admin
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	August	Treasurer
Ballots Approved	August	Nominating Committee/Admin
Website Updates	September	Website Chair
Ballots Sent	September	Admin
Review goals	September	Board
Assess Administrative Assistant Contract	September	Board
Annual Meeting: Election of Officers, Service Provider Agreement	September	President/Admin
Review bank statement	September	Treasurer
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	September	Treasurer

Unfinished – New Business

- **Website Updates**
 - Michelle presented the website changes.
 - Michelle will open the website for the Board to review for a select time period.
 - Final website will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- **Elections**
 - Four board members are up for elections. Ali and Julie will be running again. Chris and Dave are unsure.
 - Michelle will send out call for nominations to member list.
 - Ben and Chris will be the nomination committee and work with Michelle on recruiting candidates.
- **Annual Meeting**
 - Group discussed location and date for the annual meeting.
 - Abby motions to hold the annual meeting at the Osthoff Resort with lunch included and she and Michelle will work together to put together the budget for this meeting.
 - John Welch – Seconded.
 - Approved – motion carries.
- **Draft Budget**
 - Abby reported on the draft budget and will send the finalized budget before the Annual Meeting.

Next board meeting is October 2nd at 10:00 AM in person at the Osthoff Resort.

Motion to adjourn by Chris
Seconded by Abby
Approved

Adjourn – 11:37 AM

Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant