

**Spokane County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

**Minutes
May 15, 2024**

Members Present

Isaiah Paine, CAL District #3
John Dietzman, CAL District #5
Vince Barthels, City of Cheney
Jim Simon, CAL District #1
Tonilee Hanson, Public Interest
Kasey Wilberding, Health District

Members Absent

Kevin Anderson, City of Airway Hts
Rebecca Johnson, City of Spangle
Brian Burrow, Business
Karen Stratton, City of Spokane
Shaun Culler, City of Millwood
Philip Small, AG Interest
Ken Gimpel, Waste Industry
Andy Hoye, CAL District #2
Joel Kohlstedt, Recycling Industry
Chris Jordan, Spokane County

Vacant Positions

CAL District #4

Barr Tech Tour – Scott Deatherage

Scott gave a detailed presentation and answered questions about the facility. After the presentation, SWAC was given a short tour of the facility.

Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2024 – Isaiah Paine

All members moved to approve minutes for the March 20th meeting.

**Review of Current Litter/Illegal Dumping Programs & Options for Future Funding –
Lindsay Chapman**

Lindsay gave an overview of what is currently being done to prevent and clean up litter in the County. Programs include Load Warrior, Team up to Clean up, roads department pickups, and tire collection events.

[Load Warrior](#) is a media campaign that is used every year to raise awareness about the importance of securing your load while transporting to the transfer stations. This year it included a photo contest, extra signage at the transfer stations, and swag items.

[Team Up to Clean Up](#) is a program that is also advertised every year and allows volunteers to choose an area to pick up roadside litter. They are provided with bags and safety equipment. Upon completion, they leave the bags in a designated area and the Geiger work crew will pick it up at no cost. In 2022 there were 6 groups, 2023 had 16 groups and so far for 2024 there are 18 groups signed up already. The [Geiger Work Crew](#) also has roads that they clean up on a regular basis. (Scroll down to Geiger Work Crew and click This Map)

Tire collection events are held yearly when grant funding is available. In 2023 over 100 tons of tires were cleaned up from illegal dumping and from collection events over 3500 tires were accepted.

Each program has had its share of struggles dealing with the large clean ups needed stemming from the many homeless encampments, identifying the responsible parties of illegal dumping, prosecuting issues, staffing issues, and grants and funding running out.

The County is aware that litter has become a huge issue over the past few years and is looking to other counties to see what is done for funding litter programs and how they manage funds efficiently.

Litter Letter to Board of County Commissioners – Tonilee Hanson

Tonilee shared the letter that SWAC put together for the Commissioners. The hope is to demonstrate a need for a funding program while acknowledging all the hard work that is already being done. The goal is to spur the Commissioners into having a meaningful conversation with solid waste staff on how to create a funding program. County Staff are in support of the letter. SWAC moved and all approved to present the letter with minor changes to the Board of Commissioners.

Other business

Julia McHugh shared her thanks for SWAC being so responsive about her neighborhood's litter issue.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm