



Miami County Recycling District Board Meeting

The Miami County Recycling District held a meeting of the Board of Directors on
Monday June 15th, 2026, At 11:00am

Attending in Person:

Keith Musselman-*Chairman & County Commissioner*, Brenda Weaver- *Vice-Chairman & County Commissioner*, Mark Horner- *County Commissioner*, Tim Fisher- *City Council*, *Sandy Chittum*- *County Council*. Don Sturch-Mayor

Absent:

Staff Attending in Person:

Jenny Gatliff- *Director*, Gabby Varnell- *Assistant Director*, Bill Berkshire-*Attorney*

Absent:

Public Attending: Mikki Jeffers, Mary Brown & Mary Betzner

Call to Order:

Mr. Musselman called the meeting to order at 11:00AM

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Keith Musselman waived the reading of the Board minutes. Board members received a copy of the minutes from May 18th, 2026, Board of Directors meeting in their board packets. Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Mr. Mark Horner seconded. Roll Call No. 61526 Motion to approve the MCRD Board Meeting Minutes from May 18th; Motion Carried (6-0).

Approval of Financial Report & Claims:

Board Members reviewed claims and financial reports for May 2026 & June 2026. Mrs. Brenda Weaver motioned to approve; Ms. Sandy Chittum seconded. Roll Call No. 61526A Motion to approve May & June Financials; Motion Carried (6-0).

Approval of Voided/Dropped Invoices: Board Members reviewed voided/dropped invoices for June 2026. Mayor Don Sturch motioned to approve; Mrs. Brenda Weaver seconded. Roll Call No. 61526B Motion to approve voided/dropped invoices; Motion Carried (6-0).

Directors Report:

The mission of the Miami County Solid Waste Management District is to implement and provide source reduction and recycling programs that will reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills, encourage recycling efforts, provide guidance for waste stream reduction, and increase awareness of proper hazardous waste disposal.



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Annual Billing: The total amount for invoices sent out was \$453,991 was billed out for 2026.

We still have a total of \$61,268.55 unpaid. We have applied late fees as of June 11th. Total of \$25,400.00 is due in late fees.

Lawyers Report:

Old Business: City of Peru Invoice (Recovery Recycling Disposal): Ms. Gatliff read the following statement prior to discussion.

I would like to address the ongoing discussion regarding the request for the Solid Waste District to contribute toward the cleanup costs associated with a former recycling vendor's property. I understand the concerns that have been raised and recognize that this is an unfortunate situation.

However, I do not believe it is in the best interest of the district or the residents of Miami County to allocate District funds toward these cleanup efforts.

The annual solid waste fees paid by residents were collected and used for their intended purpose: to pay the vendor for the collection and processing of recyclable materials generated through our recycling programs. Those funds were expended with the expectation that the vendor would properly manage and recycle those materials. Asking the District to contribute additional funds toward cleanup costs would effectively require our residents to pay twice.

It is also important to remember that the vendor provided services to multiple entities and was not exclusively handling materials from the Solid Waste District. The materials located on the property were generated by numerous sources, making it difficult to justify using district funds to address costs associated with the entire site.

While some may view contributing financially as "the right thing to do" I believe the district has already fulfilled its responsibility. We paid for the services that were contracted and expected those services to be performed appropriately. The fact that the vendor failed to properly manage materials after accepting them does not create a financial obligation for the district.

As the Executive Director, I have a responsibility to protect the district's financial resources and ensure that resident fees are used for the purposes for which they were collected. Based on the information available, the district is not legally responsible for these cleanup costs, nor do I believe it would be an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. For these reasons, my recommendation to the Board is that the Solid Waste District not contribute financially toward the cleanup of this property and continues to focus its resources on serving the residents through the district's programs.

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The Board of Directors discussed reasons of why or why not to contribute towards the cleanup fee and recycling materials collected from surrounding counties that may have been processed by Recovery Recycling, located behind Hardee's in Peru. Howard County Director Mikki Jeffers attended the meeting and confirmed that Howard County's recycling materials were not brought to Recovery Recycling in Peru. She stated that materials from Tipton, Marion, and several other surrounding counties had been delivered there.

Mrs. Brenda Weaver made a motion that the Board not contribute toward the City of Peru cleanup invoice. Mr. Mark Horner seconded. Roll Call 61526C. Motion denied (3-3).

Mr. Tim Fisher motioned to discuss further at the next board meeting; Mayor Don Sturch seconded. Roll Call No. 61526D Motion to allow additional review of the district's budget, explore potential cost-sharing arrangements, and continue discussions with the City regarding available options; Motion Carried (6-0).

Mary Brown and Mary Betzner were present.

The discussion focused on the implementation of the MCSWD assessment being added to this year's tax bills. Discussed the collection process and how to ensure that payments and billing are being handled correctly. They also discussed ways to improve the process and make it run more smoothly for next year, including identifying opportunities for greater efficiency and accuracy in the assessment and collection procedures.

New Business:

Next Meeting:

Board of Directors- Monday, July 20th, 2026, at 11am
Miami County Court House- GAR Room., 25 N. Broadway Peru, IN 46970.

Adjournment:

Adjournment was unanimous 11:55 am.

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Jenny Gatliff *Director*

Keith Musselman *Chairman*

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