



Miami County Recycling District Board Meeting

The Miami County Recycling District held a meeting of the Board of Directors on Tuesday February 17th, 2025, At 11:00pm

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:

Call to Order:

Mr. Musselman called the meeting to order at 11:01AM

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Keith Musselman waived the reading of the Board minutes. Board members received a copy of the minutes from January 20th, 2025, Board of Directors meeting in their board packets. Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Mrs. Brenda Weaver seconded. Roll Call No. 21726 Motion to approve the MCRD Board Meeting Minutes from January 20th; Motion Carried (6-0).

Approval of Financial Report & Claims:

Board Members reviewed claims and financial reports for January 2026 & February 2026. Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve; Mr. Mark Horner seconded. Roll Call No. 21726A Approval of January & February Financials; Motion Carried (6-0).

The total amount for invoices sent out was \$449,455.00 that was billed out for 2025. We still have a total of \$120,516 unpaid. Total unpaid late fees \$53,725.

Lawyers 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.



Miami County Recycling District Board Meeting

Old Business: The Miami County Solid Waste District appreciates the Mayor's concern and shares the goal of seeing this situation resolved in a way that is responsible and in the best interest of the community.

The district previously entered a contract with a vendor to collect recyclables and transport them to his facility for proper processing. The district fulfilled its financial obligations under that agreement. Unfortunately, the vendor failed to perform the contracted services and instead stockpiled the materials. Once this became known, the district acted promptly and appropriately by terminating the vendor and securing a new provider to ensure uninterrupted recycling services for residents.

Since that time, the vendor has passed away, and no party has assumed responsibility for the private property where the materials remain. While the district recognized the frustration this has caused and understands the desire to move toward a solution, it is important to note that the district has already incurred financial loss by paying for services that were not properly rendered. The remaining materials are located on private property within city limits and outside the district ownership or legal control. As such, the district does not have the authority to remove or remediate materials on that property, nor does it believe it is appropriate to require district taxpayers to absorb additional costs for a situation that was not created by the district.

The Solid Waste District remains committed to working cooperatively with the city and all stakeholders to identify solutions that fall within its statutory authority. However, the district believes that assuming financial responsibility in this matter would be neither equitable nor consistent with its role or prior actions.

We will revisit when Mayor Don Sturch has a final invoice.

New Business: Shredding Event.

Board members reviewed estimates for Shredding Event. Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve; Mr. Don Sturch seconded. Roll Call No. 21726B Approval of Shredding Event cost of \$600 for three hours; Motion Carried (6-0).

Public Comment: Jennifer Hopkins & Stephanie VanBaalén

Two properties with large quantities of material left by a previous contractor. The City is currently working with the current property owner to resolve cleanup of one site. If the owner cannot address the issue, the City may need to complete the cleanup and place a lien on the property. An initial estimate to remove the material is approximately \$120,000.

The second property (behind Hardee's) has largely been addressed due to safety concerns, including squatters and fire risk. Portions of the structure were removed during the cleanup process. That situation is mostly resolved, though funding assistance may still be needed to offset costs.

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Miami County Recycling District Board Meeting

Discussions with the current property owner are ongoing, and the building has been secured by the Fire Department to reduce safety risks. Additional engineering reviews may be required to determine whether remaining structures are salvageable.

Next Meeting:

Board of Directors- Tuesday, March 16th, 2025, at 11am
Miami County Court House- GAR Room., 25 N. Broadway Peru, IN 46970.

Adjournment:

Adjournment was unanimous 11:25 am.

Jenny Gatliff *Director*

Keith Musselman *Chairman*

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