



Miami County Recycling District Board Meeting

The Miami County Recycling District held a meeting of the Board of Directors on
Monday, July 21st, 2025, At 12:00pm

Attending in Person:

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

Absent:

Staff Attending in Person:

Jenny Gatliff- *Director*, Gabby Varnell- *Assistant Director*

Absent: Bill Berkshire-*Attorney*

Public Attending: Karie Nelson & David

Call to Order:

Mr. Musselman called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Keith Musselman waived the reading of the Board minutes. Board members received a copy of the minutes from June 23rd, 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. 72125 Motion to approve the MCRD Board Meeting Minutes from June 23rd; Motion Carried (6-0).

Approval of Financial Report & Claims:

Board Members reviewed claims and financial reports for June & July 2025. Mr. Mark Horner motioned to approve; Ms. Sandy Chittum seconded. Roll Call No. 72125A Approval of June & July Financials; Motion Carried (6-0).

Director's Report:

Approval of Voided/ Dropped Invoices:

Board Members reviewed voided/dropped invoices for July 2025. Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve; Mr. Mark Horner seconded. Roll Call No. 72125B Approval of voided/dropped invoices; Motion Carried (6-0).

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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The total amount for invoices sent out was \$449,455.00 that was billed out for 2025.

We still have a total of \$137,484.00 unpaid. Total unpaid late fees \$61,950.00.

Lawyers Report: None.

Over the past several months, Recycling Works has significantly raised our monthly invoices. For example, in January, the total invoice was \$17,776.00, which included individual site charges such as Logansport Rd and Erie at \$313.20, North Miami at \$486.00, Erie at \$340.00. In February and March, we were billed \$17,320.00 at a flat rate of \$450.00 per location. However, in April, the invoice jumped to \$25,472.16, with fuel and material surcharges added without prior notice- totaling over \$3,400.00 in additional fees. By May, the invoice increased again to \$27,469.71, with a \$900.00 discrepancy that remains unresolved. We paid \$26,569.71 based on what I could verify.

To date, I have made multiple phone calls and followed up with emails on July 11th and July 15th. On July 15th, I received an email from Johnny Bachman with Recycling Works stating the following "Per the contract we are to charge the normal compliance and fuel surcharge. There is no mention of a discount and directs the customer to our website for the regular FS schedule. I believe standard rates and fees should be applied" with our contract attached from 2023. Ms. Gatliff sent an email to our attorney, Bill Berkshire, to express his opinion. Mr. Berkshire suggested not paying for the fuel and material surcharges, at the discretion of the board. He reviewed our contract, it states that an annual price increase will occur but should be locked in for 12 months. In February there was a price increase, in April Fuel & Material surcharge was added. It was assumed these fees were included in our base price. The board of directors is requesting Mr. Berkshire to send a letter to Recycling Works informing them they are in violation of MCSWD contract. In the meantime, Ms. Gatliff will be pursuing alternative recycling vendors. Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve; Mr. Don Sturch seconded. Roll Call No. 72125C Approval to send breach of contract letter; motion carried (6-0).

As it stands, if this upward trend in billing continues, we are on track to exceed \$300,000.00 annually, nearly double our current recycling services budget of \$176,00.00. For this reason, I have included the necessary adjustments in our 2026 budget request.

Due to the rising operational costs and the steady increase in resident participation in services funded by the annual assessment fee, we find it necessary to implement a \$5 increase to that fee. This adjustment would generate approximately \$75,075.00 in additional revenue, allowing us to maintain the quality and availability of our current programs. It has been 11 years since our last assessment fee increase. Board of directors decided to revisit annual assessment fee.

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Lastly, it would be beneficial if we were to transition the annual recycling assessment fee to be collected with property taxes, we could save approximately \$23,000.00 in outsourced billing costs annually creating long-term savings and operational efficiency.

Old Business:

Tire Recycling on W. 7th St.- Mr. Don Sturch will follow up.

New Business:

Refunds: Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve; Mr. Don Sturch seconded. Roll Call No. 72125D Approval of Refunds; motion carried (6-0).

Budget 2026- Ms. Sandy Chittum motioned to approve; Mrs. Brenda Weaver seconded. Roll Call No. 72125E Approval of Budget 2026; motion carried (6-0).

Public Comment:

Next Meeting:

Board of Directors- Monday, August 18, 2025, at 11am

Miami County Court House- GAR Room., 25 N. Broadway Peru, IN 46970.

Adjournment:

Adjournment was unanimous 12:42pm.

Jenny Gatliff *Director*

Keith Musselman *Chairman*

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