ONEIDA COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Solid Waste Conference Room
Monday, August 24, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Committee members:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Kyle Timmons	X		
Billy Fried	X		
Kyle Kilbourn	X		

Also Present: Lisa Bauknecht/Solid Waste Director, Rachel Gang/Solid Waste, Chad Metzger/Lakeland Disposal, Tracy Hartman/County Clerk

1. **Call to order and Chairperson's announcements**
   Chairman Ted Cushing called the Solid Waste Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. noting the meeting was properly posted and ADA accessible. No new announcements.

2. **Approve agenda**
   Motion made by Timmons and seconded by Kilbourn to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all ayes.

3. **Approve minutes of the Solid Waste Committee meeting held July 27, 2026.**
   Motion made by Kilbourn and seconded by Timmons to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, all ayes.

4. **Public comments**
   Chad Metzger with Lakeland Disposal provided an update on the company's new transfer station, noting that construction is moving along and they are hoping to have the facility up and running in October.

5. **Future Meeting Dates**
   - Monday, September 28, 2026

6. **July Monthly Vendor Vouchers and Budget to Actual Reports**
   Bauknecht stated there was nothing new to report. Fried asked about the $3,700 payment to Badger Scale. Bauknecht explained that the payment was for scale calibration. The scale also needed to be pressure washed as part of the process to ensure it would pass calibration. While the calibration typically costs approximately $800, the additional work required this time resulted in the higher cost.

7. **Credit Account application for J and J Cleaning Services LLC**
   A motion was made to approve the credit account applications as presented. Motion made by Fried, seconded by Cushing. Motion carried, all ayes.

8. Late Fee Policy and Letter to Customers

The late fee policy and customer letter were presented for review, with the intent to add both to the department's Policies and Procedures. If approved, the letters will be sent with customer statements at the end of September. At this time, there are only two lengthy past-due accounts. Whit's End has a balance of $179, and the account has been revoked. The other account, War Transport, has two unpaid loads of cardboard. Both accounts will be referred to Corporation Counsel for further action.

Fried made a motion to approve the late fee policy and customer letter and to have both reviewed by Corporation Counsel prior to being sent. Cushing seconded the motion. Motion carried, all ayes.

9. 2026 CIP Update

Bauknecht provided an update on the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan. The leachate tank installation is expected to begin within the next couple of weeks. The weigh scale project is also expected to begin sometime next week.

Bauknecht advised that the broom attachment originally considered for the 644 or 544 loaders was not purchased. Instead, the idea of purchasing a broom attachment for the skid steer was presented. The skid steer can access smaller areas that the larger loaders cannot, while the 644 and 544 loaders are also typically being utilized for other operations. Bauknecht noted that the skid steer has only been used approximately six hours since April.

Bauknecht discussed the purchase with Cushing via phone, who advised that the department should proceed with purchasing the broom attachment for the skid steer. The attachment would cost approximately $6,000 for the skid steer, compared to approximately $24,000 for an attachment for one of the larger loaders. The broom attachment is expected to arrive within approximately a week.

10. Vape/E-Cig Disposal

Bauknecht explained that the department has been receiving an increasing number of calls regarding the proper disposal of vapes and e-cigarettes. These devices contain lithium batteries and cannot be disposed of in the regular trash due to the risk of fires. The department researched proper packaging procedures and determined that the hazardous waste vendor will accept them. Bauknecht explained that individual vapes/e-cigarettes would be placed in plastic bags and then stored in five-gallon plastic containers, or larger containers if the volume increases. Sand would be added to the containers for additional protection, as required by the hazardous waste hauler. The containers would be stored outside the hazardous waste building. The committee discussed potentially charging $1.00 per vape/e-cigarette. Fried asked how the department envisioned handling the program. Bauknecht stated that the process would depend on the quantity received. The committee agreed that promoting safe disposal options was important, and Fried directed staff to begin advertising the service and go from there.

11. Potato Disposal

The committee discussed options for handling potatoes brought in by the seed farm. Bauknecht noted that the department still has a vegetable composting license. The possibility of producing and selling natural compost was discussed. It was suggested that

sticks and other yard debris could be combined with the potatoes during the composting process. The department already has a tractor and compost turner on site that could be utilized. Fried advised Bauknecht to develop a plan and ensure that the process would not cost more than the current cost of disposal. Bauknecht will conduct additional research to determine whether the potatoes could be composted in a way that could generate revenue for the department.

12. 2027 Budget Report

The 2027 budget proposal was reviewed with the committee. Several areas of the proposed budget were higher than in previous years. Bauknecht explained that many of the figures were provided by the Finance Department and had not yet been adjusted. She also stated that she uses spreadsheets from previous years to help determine the proposed budget amounts.

Timmons asked whether the department needed two loaders. Bauknecht stated that, in her opinion, the department does need two loaders to adequately handle operations.

The MRF recycling budget was also projected to be higher for 2027. Bauknecht explained that the department has been receiving significantly more recyclable material from both the public and haulers.

Fried asked about the expenses associated with the demolition site. Bauknecht explained that expenses include employee wages and staff time spent at the site crushing material and performing other necessary work. She noted that the demolition site has had a successful year, with more customers bringing loads to the site. Having two office employees has also made it easier to check and direct incoming loads to the demolition site when appropriate.

Kilbourn made a motion to forward the 2027 Budget Report to the Executive Committee for consideration, with further identification and clarification of certain budget items. Timmons seconded the motion. Motion carried, all ayes.

13. Compost Update

Bauknecht advised that the DNR has been discussing the compost issue internally. Effective July 1, 2025, the DNR changed the allowable PFAS levels for land application, and the department's compost currently exceeds those levels. Land spreading the compost onsite would be a significantly less expensive option if the PFAS levels can be reduced to meet the new requirements. Bauknecht discussed a process known as the Open-Hyper Formula that may help reduce the PFAS content and stated that Levi (Sand County Environmental) and she will continue researching whether this is a viable option. In the meantime, Waste Management has identified a site in southern Wisconsin that would accept the compost; however, the department has no trucking to haul it there. The compost is required to be removed from the site by June 30, 2027. If the department is able to meet the requirements for land spreading, an extension may be possible. Bauknecht will focus on determining whether the PFAS levels can be reduced enough to allow for land application and avoid the higher cost of off-site disposal.

14. Solid Waste Report

Bauknecht advised that Lakeland Disposal participated in the School Trade Program. They brought in 37.3 tons of demo material in six loads from the project, representing approximately $2,238 in donated disposal services from the Solid Waste Department.

Bauknecht also reported that the department has two loaders operating again. The 544K loader had been out of service for approximately two weeks.

15. Future Agenda Items

- Bid Opening – Opening sealed bids with the committee
- Recycling - Where it's going?
- Hauling own Material – Metal, OCC, etc. Pricing?
- Owning our own Trailers with open tops
- Employment review – Are we fully staffed? What needs to be done to get there?

16. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:14am.

Committee Chairman

P Gang

Committee Secretary