



1 **RSWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
2 **Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
3 **February 25, 2020**  
4

5 A regular meeting of the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA) Board of Directors was held  
6 on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Administration  
7 Building, 695 Moores Creek Lane, Charlottesville, Virginia.  
8

9 **Board Members Present:** Dr. Liz Palmer, Jeff Richardson, Lance Stewart, Paul Oberdorfer, Dr.  
10 Tarron Richardson, Lloyd Snook.  
11

12 **Board Members Absent:** Mike Gaffney.  
13

14 **Rivanna Staff Present:** Lonnie Wood, Michelle Simpson, Austin Marrs, Victoria Fort, Jennifer  
15 Whitaker, Scott Schiller, Phil McKalips, Betsy Nemeth, Katie McIlwee, Bill Mawyer.  
16

17 **Attorney(s) Present:** Mr. Kurt Krueger.  
18

19 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

20 Mr. Richardson convened the February 25, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the  
21 Rivanna Solid Waste Authority at 2:00 p.m.  
22

23 **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING**

24 *Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board on January 28, 2020*

25 Mr. Richardson asked Board members if they had comments or changes.  
26

27 **Dr. Richardson moved that the Board approve the minutes of the previous Board meeting. He**  
28 **was seconded by Mr. Oberdorfer and the motion passed unanimously (4-0). Dr. Palmer and**  
29 **Mr. Snook arrived late to the meeting and were absent from the vote. Mr. Gaffney was absent**  
30 **from the meeting and vote.**  
31

32 **3. RECOGNITIONS**

33 There were no recognitions.  
34

35 **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

36 Mr. Mawyer stated the RSWA is guided by a Strategic Plan and is pleased that they were able to  
37 improve one of their goals (Workforce Development) recently by adding the Charlottesville YMCA  
38 as a location where RSWA's employees can go. He stated the RSWA supports their membership to  
39 the amount of \$43 per month as a contribution. He stated the employees had previously been limited  
40 to the ACAC facilities. He noted that YMCA has facilities at the Brooks Family located at McIntire  
41 Park in Charlottesville, in Crozet, and in Waynesboro. He stated there are employees who live in  
42 Crozet and the Valley, and that this arrangement makes those facilities available to them. He stated  
43 the RSWA was pleased to add this to its employee wellness benefits.  
44

45 Mr. Mawyer stated that the RSWA's Human Resources Manager (Ms. Betsy Nemeth) and  
46 Communications Manager (Ms. Katie McIlwee) put together a video to help orient new employees.

47 He played the video for the Board, which featured various employees explaining the services the  
48 Rivanna Authority provides.

49  
50 Mr. Mawyer stated this video is shown to new employees on their first day of employment as part  
51 of their orientation, which gives them a firsthand visual of who the Authority is and what they do.  
52 He thanked Ms. Nemeth and Ms. McIlwee for putting the video together.

53  
54 Mr. Mawyer stated he, Mr. Phil McKalips, Mr. David Rhoades, and Mr. Russ Blankenstein went to  
55 Richmond to tour the Sunoco paper mill facility, which is where cardboard, newsprint, and mixed  
56 paper is sent. He stated the facility recycles the materials, putting them into a large vat with a cutter  
57 and water, which results in a brown mush that is compressed in a machine. He presented a picture of  
58 the rolls of finished paper the facility makes. He stated they have an assembly line they use to  
59 recycle paper products and make new paper products. He stated one product they make there is the  
60 Pringles can. He stated the facility goes 24-7 for eight weeks, then takes a week to shut down and  
61 clean the equipment before starting again.

62  
63 Mr. Mawyer stated there was a sustainability workshop done with a consultant in order to grow  
64 their knowledge of how they deal with greenhouse gas emissions, energy management, bioenergy  
65 recovery, and other climate action and sustainability topics.

66  
67 Mr. Mawyer stated Mr. Mike Gaffney was not present that day as he had a skiing accident and  
68 broke his collarbone. He stated Mr. Gaffney is under medical care and as he was absent, the Board  
69 would not be able to take action on Consent Agenda Item c., which was to approve the amendment  
70 of the by-laws to change the Board's regular schedule. He stated therefore, the Board's next meeting  
71 will be in April, unless it decides to have a special meeting. He stated during the April meeting, they  
72 will talk about the Solid Waste budget.

73  
74 **5. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

75 Mr. Richardson opened Items from the Public. Hearing none, he closed the Items from the Public  
76 portion of the meeting.

77  
78 **6. RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

79 There were none.

80  
81 **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

82 *a. Staff Report on Finance*

83 *b. Staff Report on Ivy Material Utilization Center/Recycling Operations Update*

84 *c. Amendment of the Bylaws Regarding Monthly Meetings and Election of Officers, and Approval of*  
85 *the Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2020*

86  
87 *d. Award of Nonprofessional Services Contract for Construction Visual Documentation Services;*  
88 *Commonwealth Documentation, LLC*

89  
90 Mr. Mawyer reminded that Item c. would have to be pulled from the consent agenda.

91  
92 Dr. Palmer mentioned the fact that the transfer station was closed for a week at the end of January.  
93 She acknowledged that this did not affect the amount of refuse processed per day, as this was  
94 calculated with a lower number of days. She asked how the closing did affect the numbers.

95

96 Mr. McKalips replied that he did not look to see what the numbers were down by for the month. He  
97 stated they track the amounts on a daily basis.  
98

99 Mr. Mawyer stated there was a big amount of refuse delivered on the Monday they reopened.  
100

101 Mr. McKalips agreed that there was some catchup, but that it settled down quickly.  
102

103 Dr. Palmer asked if they had any feedback from haulers on that inconvenience.  
104

105 Mr. McKalips replied that he believed the vast majority of the big commercial haulers knew far  
106 enough in advance that they were able to make alternative plans. He stated there was a mixed bag  
107 from the public that they spoke directly to. He stated some from the public were more amenable to  
108 the plan while others hadn't found out, or were less than satisfied.  
109

110 Dr. Palmer asked if customers were lost.  
111

112 Mr. McKalips replied that he didn't think so.  
113

114 Mr. Mawyer noted that there was a publicity campaign, which included sending letters to the large  
115 haulers, a website update, and an announcement in the newspaper.  
116

117 Ms. McIlwee added that it was broadcast on all the local networks, and they handed out flyers at  
118 Ivy.  
119

120 Mr. Mawyer stated the campaign seemed to do a good job of getting the word out and therefore,  
121 they did not have much conflict.  
122

123 Dr. Palmer asked if everything was repaired at the transfer station.  
124

125 Mr. Mawyer replied that everything was not quite fixed. Final repairs would be completed over  
126 Memorial Day weekend.  
127

128 Mr. McKalips replied that they would be closing the transfer station early on the Saturday of  
129 Memorial Weekend, at 1:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. to allow workers to come in and finish the  
130 concrete work that they did not quite complete.  
131

132 Mr. Mawyer stated the contractors had wanted to continue the closed period, but that they were told  
133 to come back in May, when it was more convenient for the Authority.  
134

135 Dr. Palmer stated she was glad that this decision was made.

136 **Dr. Palmer moved that the Board approve the consent agenda (Items a., b., and d.), with Item**  
137 **c. removed. She was seconded by Dr. Richardson and the motion passed unanimously (6-0).**  
138 **Mr. Gaffney was absent from the meeting and vote.**  
139

140 **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

141 *a. Presentation: Recycling Program Update*

142 Mr. Phil McKalips, Director of Solid Waste, presented. He stated he often gets questions from  
143 the public about recycling, and that he assumed the Board members' constituents ask questions

144 as well. He stated there have been some changes since the last time he gave a presentation to the  
145 Board, which was in June of 2018.

146

147 Mr. McKalips stated he didn't know how much everyone kept track of the global recycling  
148 market, but that in 2018, China drastically cut back on the quantity of recyclables they take,  
149 which has depressed recycling. He stated China continues to become more stringent through  
150 2019, and for most American concerns, they take or bring in almost nothing now.

151

152 Mr. McKalips stated there was a period where some of the other southeastern nations (including  
153 India, Thailand, and Vietnam) were bringing the material in, but their countries have now  
154 quickly responded to say that they were not accepting materials, either, and so those have  
155 dwindled.

156

157 Mr. McKalips stated what that means for Rivanna is that the prices for the commodities they  
158 collect are depressed from historical levels, but they are still recycling the materials they collect.  
159 He stated much of this is due to what he calls their "value add," noting they bale a lot of material  
160 and do a fair bit of trucking to get it to the consumer of the recyclable materials (e.g. paper and  
161 plastic) so the buyers internal costs are very low.

162

163 Mr. McKalips showed a slide of declining plastic exports and stated to be clear, this was  
164 referring to plastic exports to all countries, but it clearly demonstrated the depression in the  
165 market. He stated where there is a fair amount of exports seen, much of this is to Canada (likely  
166 80% of it).

167

168 Mr. McKalips stated Rivanna recycles compostable food waste, cardboard, mixed paper, #2 and  
169 #4 plastic films, #1 and #2 plastic bottles (noting that they stopped collecting #3 through #7  
170 plastic resins on July 1, 2019), glass bottles and jars, office paper, newsprint, used oyster shells,  
171 aluminum beverage cans, and mixed metals.

172

173 Mr. McKalips stated most of the materials were the same as before, but that there have been a  
174 few changes. He stated the aluminum beverage cans are still going to Gerdau. He stated the  
175 mixed metals also go to Gerdau in Roanoke. He stated corrugated cardboard, as well as mixed  
176 paper, go to the paper mill. He stated it is a 400-ton-per-day mill and that McIntire Recycling  
177 Center is responsible for about 5-10% of their capacity.

178

179 Dr. Palmer asked where the mill is located.

180

181 Mr. McKalips replied that they were in South Richmond.

182

183 Mr. Mawyer stated they are located on the south side of the James River, in the southern part of  
184 the City of Richmond.

185

186 Mr. McKalips stated #1 and #2 plastics are collected separately, but until the quality of those  
187 material streams gets to the level it needs to be, they still need to go to the sort facility in  
188 Raleigh, NC. He stated his presentation included a video demonstrating what happens there at  
189 the materials recovery facility that Rivanna takes its materials to. He stated they would hear on  
190 the video a couple problems they have with shredded paper, but this could be disregarded, as  
191 Rivanna's shredded paper doesn't go there.

192

193 Mr. McKalips played the video for the Board. He stated the video provided the Board a chance  
194 to see what goes on inside a materials recovery facility, which takes mostly material from  
195 curbside collection programs. He stated that as one can imagine, it is hard to get all this material  
196 separated apart, even though the facility has the technology and manpower to do it. He stated it is  
197 one of the benefits of the source-separated facilities that Rivanna operates, as the material largely  
198 comes in relatively clean, though there are still contamination issues. He stated much of their  
199 material can go for a higher, better cost than what comes out of a materials recovery facility.

200  
201 Mr. McKalips stated the mixed paper goes to the Sunoco paper mill in Richmond. He stated #1  
202 and #2 plastic films go to Trex in Winchester, who uses it with wood chips to make synthetic  
203 decking.

204  
205 Mr. Snook asked about #2 and #4 bags.

206  
207 Mr. McKalips replied that a grocery bag is typically a #2 bag that is made from high-density  
208 polyethylene. He stated #4 bags and films are things like plastic, flexible, clear films that hold 6-  
209 packs of cans together. He stated this is a #4 plastic, also called LDPE. He stated many mattress  
210 wraps are LDPE.

211  
212 Mr. Snook asked if the numbers were the same as numbers 1-7.

213  
214 Mr. McKalips replied yes, explaining that it is made from the same plastic resin. He stated #2 is  
215 high-density polyethylene, and #4 is low-density polyethylene.

216  
217 Mr. McKalips stated with regards to glass bottles and jars, Rivanna just signed into a new  
218 contract with Strategic Materials. He stated they go to Wilson, NC where they are sorted and  
219 reused for making food and beverage containers. He stated he was in the process of reaching out  
220 to some of the neighboring counties to see if they would like to get involved. He stated many of  
221 them had to drop glass out of their recycling programs. He stated the idea was that if they cover  
222 the cost of getting glass from their locality to Ivy, where the materials are staged, Rivanna can  
223 get it hauled and recycled for them.

224  
225 Mr. McKalips stated office paper goes to Sonoco Recycling in Madison Heights, where they  
226 send it on to a paper mill. He stated newsprint is going with mixed paper because the cost of  
227 newsprint is so low. He stated that books go with mixed paper.

228  
229 Mr. McKalips stated compostable food waste is collected by Natural Organic Process Enterprises  
230 (NOPE), which takes the waste to McGill Composting in Waverly, which is the same place that  
231 the wastewater biosolids go.

232  
233 Mr. McKalips stated the oyster shells program continues to do well. He stated the bin was about  
234 half full from October 16, 2019, when the program started.

235  
236 Mr. McKalips stated the used cooking oil program was started in the last week or two, and that  
237 they have already had people deposit the oil, which will help keep it out of the sewer systems for  
238 the City and Service Authority.

239  
240 Mr. McKalips stated they continue to watch pricing. He stated they need to work towards  
241 increasing the cleanliness or quality of plastics, especially. He stated that because they are not  
242 clean enough, they must be sent to the Sunoco sort facility to be processed. He stated if they

243 could get the plastics clean enough, they will be sellable at the loading dock. He stated the cost  
244 for #2 plastic is actually fairly high, at 70-80 cents per pound. He stated they could start to earn  
245 some revenue on those, which would decrease costs all around.

246  
247 Mr. McKalips stated the biggest issue is material contamination. He presented some examples,  
248 such as plastic bags, aluminum cans, and the materials in plastic containers.

249  
250 Mr. McKalips stated Rivanna made a visit to van der Linde Recycling at Zion Crossroads a few  
251 months ago, and that they process for recycling construction demolition debris. He stated  
252 Rivanna has had conversations with them that have not yet been fruitful, but that they would  
253 keep looking at how to segregate construction debris out of Ivy and send it to them. He stated it  
254 was a matter of getting the cost numbers to work out.

255  
256 Mr. McKalips stated Rivanna continues to offer two e-waste collection events per year. He stated  
257 the same is true for tires, and that the tires go down to Emanuel Tire in Appomattox, where they  
258 are recycled for beneficial reuse for fuel or other products.

259  
260 Mr. McKalips stated paints, which are collected every day at the IMUC, are recycled by MXI  
261 Environmental.

262  
263 Mr. Snook asked what happens to the e-waste, and if it is merely collected and thrown into someone  
264 else's landfill.

265  
266 Mr. McKalips replied that the vendor Rivanna uses has undergone certification so that they are  
267 actually recycling those materials. He stated they disassemble a television, for example, and if it  
268 is a tubed television, it goes to a smelter, where they recover the lead. He stated the plastic case  
269 gets shredded and recycled as plastic. He stated the electronic components can get smelted to  
270 recover the more expensive metals or rare earth metals. He stated that to the best of the vendor's  
271 ability, they are certified that they are recycling the material.

272  
273 Mr. Snook asked if the vendor takes the material for free to get it off Rivanna's hands.

274  
275 Mr. McKalips replied that Rivanna pays the vendor to take the material. He stated there is no  
276 longer enough value to warrant getting paid for it.

277  
278 Mr. Mawyer stated when the Board meets next (presumably in April), they would talk about the  
279 Solid Waste budget and go through the cost of the different programs, including recycling.

280  
281 Dr. Palmer stated that the County Solid Waste Advisory Committee is trying to put together a  
282 small pilot program for ambassadors one weekend day a month for a few months to try to see if  
283 they can help with the education about contamination.

284  
285 Mr. Mawyer asked if this would be at McIntire.

286  
287 Dr. Palmer replied yes. She stated Mr. McKalips would be very much involved in the  
288 ambassadors' training. She stated the committee appreciated Rivanna's willingness to allow this  
289 pilot to take place.

290  
291 Mr. Mawyer stated Mr. McKalips, Mr. Rhoades, and his group do a great job.

292

293 Dr. Palmer stated one of the biggest problems is that people think the things that they are putting  
294 in the bins at McIntire are being sorted again, and that they are actually not. She stated this is one  
295 of the biggest things they need to communicate out to the community.  
296

297 **9. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD/STAFF NOT ON AGENDA**

298 There were none.

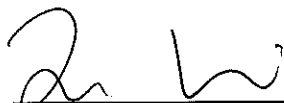
299 **10. CLOSED MEETING: (JOINT SESSION WITH THE RWSA)**

300 There was no closed meeting.  
301

302 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

303 At 2:31 p.m., Dr. Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting of the Rivanna Solid Waste  
304 Authority. The motion was seconded by Dr. Richardson and passed unanimously (6-0). Mr.  
305 Gaffney was absent from the meeting and vote.  
306

307 Respectfully submitted,  
308



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309  
310  
311 **Dr. Tarron Richardson**  
312 **Secretary - Treasurer**  
313