

# City of Meridian Solid Waste Advisory Commission



Wade Ramsey – Seat 1  
Mark Nelson – Seat 2  
William Baber – Seat 3  
Steven Cory – Seat 4  
Randy Rabin – Seat 5  
Bethany Guajardo – Seat 6  
Sanjay Dasam – Seat 7  
Divya Danesh (Youth) – Seat 8  
Amie Cuhaciyar – Seat 9

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To: The Mayor and City Council  
From: Steve Cory, Chair  
Re: 2025 SWAC Annual Report

SWAC is pleased to submit its 2025 Annual Report:

## A. Membership:

The Commission currently is fully staffed and we do appreciate the Council's support. Commissioner Steve Cory served as Chair and Commissioner Mark Nelson served as Vice Chair.

## B. Community Recycling Fund Program (CRFP):

1. Fund Revenue: During FY25, despite the global market, the CRFP received revenue:

\$ 98,048.75	Beginning balance for FY25
\$ 10,609.20	Revenue for FY25 from Hand in Hand We Recycle
<b>\$ 108,657.95</b>	<b>Sum Beginning Balance and Revenue (as of Sep. 30, 2025)</b>

2. Fund Expenses: During FY25, no fund expenses were incurred

3. FY25 Approved Projects – Final accounting yet to be completed – None

**\$ 108,657.95**                      **FY25 Ending Fund Balance**

## C. Subscription and drop off services:

Subscriptions for curbside grass pickup have increased to 1,516 subscribers as opposed to 1,295 last year (a 17% increase). Subscriptions for curbside glass pickup have stayed steady at 200 subscribers. These are out of 44,695 active residential accounts.

## D. SWAC Annual Activity:

SWAC participated in the 2025 PW Expo event on May 19th. Approximately 85 people came to the booth. Patrons mainly wanted to know what was recyclable.

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E. Recycle a Bicycle:

SWAC was also pleased to provide support to the Recycle a Bicycle program. At the Unplug and Be Outside event, there were approximately 70 patrons who came to the SWAC booth. All bikes brought to give away were taken, more than 100 bikes were serviced with air, slime, etc. and there were 10 volunteers from Meridian citizens, City staff, SWAC, and Timber Creek that helped out. The online signup stats for this year included requests from 52 Meridian households and 24 households from other cities. SWAC members were able to fulfill most requests by Meridian citizens before the event and all requests by the end of the summer.

F. Ada County Solid Waste Advisory Committee:

SWAC Chair, Steve Cory, represented City of Meridian’s interests on the Ada County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and served as chair of the Ada County SWAC. This committee allows stakeholders to work in concert with one another to hear proposals from the ACLF and work to improve solid waste collection and disposal systems and services, including maintaining reasonable financial costs for the operation of the Ada County Landfill. Diversion of material away from the landfill to extend the life of the landfill is a routine subject at committee meetings. Steve Cory reports back to Meridian SWAC throughout the year providing insight and information about valley-wide solid waste matters.

G. FY26 Annual Solid Waste Rate Adjustment:

SWAC reviewed Republic Service’s proposed FY26 Annual Solid Waste Rate Adjustment. The rate adjustment for both commercial and residential services was comprised of the contractual CPI adjustment and the continuance of sharing the residential recycling processing costs as set forth in a separate contract amendment. HHW funding was removed from the Solid Waste Rate and became a separate line on citizen’s utility bills. Disposal costs which pass through were raised by about 3 percent.

H. Household Hazardous Waste Quarterly Meetings:

SWAC members attend the HHW quarterly meetings to stay informed about the Ada County-wide program. Information is presented to SWAC about the program.

I. Presentations:

Throughout the year SWAC received presentations regarding the following topics:

1. Solid Waste Program metrics and tonnage data (City Staff);

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2. CRFP Program and account balance (City Staff and SWAC);
3. HHW meeting reviews (Commissioner Cory and City Staff);
4. Recycle a Bicycle program status (Commissioner Nelson, Republic Services, City Staff);
5. FY26 proposed SW rates and new fees (Republic Services and City staff);
6. Operational meeting participation (City Staff);
7. Customer inquiries (City Staff);
8. Quarterly ACLF SWAC meeting reviews (Commissioner Cory);
9. SWAC PW Expo booth co-ordination (Commissioners and City Staff);
10. Republic Services Recycling Center Tour;
11. Meridian Transfer Facility Tour;
12. Review of City Ordinances and SWAC bylaws (City Legal Staff);
13. HHW billing changes (City Staff);
14. Timber Creek’s Meridian-Nampa Transition (Timber Creek);
15. Planning for a 2026 Art Contest (Commissioner Cuhaciyen); and
16. Mattress Diversion opportunity (Peter Gilbert).

## J. Upcoming Commission Business:

In 2026, SWAC is looking forward to working with Republic Services and City staff on the following projects:

1. CRFP usage;
2. Promoting Meridian’s Hand in Hand and the Recycle a Bicycle program;
3. Attending the quarterly Ada County-wide Household Hazardous Waste Program meetings and reporting back to SWAC and the Mayor and City Council as appropriate;
4. Hosting an art contest promoting recycling;
5. Partnering outside the city through the Ada County Solid Waste Advisory Committee to develop an amplified, unified message to divert materials from the landfill and reduce contamination of materials collected for recycling;
6. Continued expansion of educational outreach to decrease contamination in the commingled residential recycling stream;
7. Monitoring yard composting market trends and construction/demolition waste diversion efforts;
8. Furthering improvements in recycling efforts including reviewing the needs of the parties purchasing the materials to be recycled, opportunities to reduce contamination, and evaluating improving material separation technologies.
9. Looking for opportunities to reach out to new residents of Meridian; and
10. Looking for opportunities to reach out to the youth of Meridian.

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In conclusion, it has been an active year for SWAC. Our commitment is steadfast to work in partnership with staff and Republic Services to identify and recommend to the Mayor and City Council improved and fiscally sound trash and recycling services and programs for the benefit of Meridian residential and commercial customers. SWAC looks forward to another productive year.