

City of Meridian Solid Waste Advisory Commission



J. Scott Walters – Seat 1
Mark Nelson – Seat 2
Vacant – Seat 3
Steven Cory – Seat 4
Megan Larsen – Seat 5
Taryn Richmond – Seat 6
Shawn Keating – Seat 7
Janes Leckie (Youth) – Seat 8
Tom Otte – Seat 9

To: The Mayor and City Council
From: Steve Cory, Chair
Re: 2022 SWAC Annual Report

SWAC is pleased to submit its 2022 Annual Report:

A. Membership:

The Commission was fully staffed this year and we appreciate the Council's support. Commissioner Steve Cory served as Chair and Commissioner Meg Larsen served as Vice Chair.

B. Community Recycling Fund Program (CRFP):

1. Fund Revenue: During FY22, despite the global market, the CRFP received revenue:

\$ 50,641.03	Beginning balance for FY22;
<u>\$ 31,385.57</u>	Revenue for FY22 (mostly from Hand in Hand We Recycle and \$761.25 donated from Public Works Week proceeds)
\$ 82,026.60	Sum Beginning Balance and Revenue (as of Sep. 30, 2022)

2. Fund Expenses: During FY22, the following fund's expenses were incurred:

\$ 0 No expenditures

3. FY22 Approved Projects – Final accounting yet to be completed – None

\$ 82,026.60 **FY22 Ending Fund Balance**

C. Trash or Treasure:

This innovative program was again conducted throughout the city. The event occurred the weekend prior to the 2022 Spring Collection week. This is now a city event and SWAC supported city staff by observing the event and providing photographs.

D. SWAC Annual Activity:

SWAC participated in the 2022 PW Expo event on June 8th. SWAC was pleased to participate since the 2021 event had to be canceled due to COVID. Commissioners were able to talk with about 75 visitors at the booth, and most of the questions were about what could be recycled in

City of Meridian **Solid Waste** **Advisory Commission**



J. Scott Walters – Seat 1
Mark Nelson – Seat 2
Vacant– Seat 3
Steven Cory – Seat 4
Megan Larsen – Seat 5
Taryn Richmond – Seat 6
Shawn Keating – Seat 7
Janes Leckie (Youth)– Seat 8
Tom Otte – Seat 9

the cart. City staff hosted a booth outside with Republic Services and Timbercreek where booth visitors could play a sorting game with recyclable material that complimented the information visitors received at both booths.

E. Recycle a Bicycle:

SWAC was also pleased to provide support to the Recycle a Bicycle program last year. 46 bicycles were refurbished for distribution at the Parks and Recreation Department's Unplug and Be Outside event. Bicycles were made available to Meridian Citizens who signed up through the City's website. Despite a downpour, 34 requested bikes were delivered. The remaining bicycles went to the Boise Rescue Mission and Farmway Village residents in Canyon County.

F. Global Recycling Markets:

While recycling markets and recycling revenue continued to recover, revenue losses continued for Meridian's commingled recyclable stream. Revenues did increase, but processing and labor costs offset the improvement. SWAC continued to work with Republic Services and City staff to review the request from Republic Services for sharing of recycling processing losses agreeing to propose approval of another one-year extension of the processing fee. The per household recycled material processing fee was raised from \$1.03 to \$1.11 for FY23.

G. Ada County Solid Waste Advisory Committee:

SWAC Chair, Steve Cory, represents the City of Meridian's interests on the Ada County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Mr. Cory was elected chair of the Ada County SWAC for 2023. This committee allows stakeholders to work in concert with one another to research and develop proposals for improving 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.

H. FY22 Annual Solid Waste Rate Adjustment:

SWAC reviewed and recommended to City Council approval of Republic Service's proposed FY23 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 and incorporation of the FY 2022 fee increase to cover a significant spike in labor costs into the

City of Meridian **Solid Waste** **Advisory Commission**



J. Scott Walters – Seat 1
Mark Nelson – Seat 2
Vacant– Seat 3
Steven Cory – Seat 4
Megan Larsen – Seat 5
Taryn Richmond – Seat 6
Shawn Keating – Seat 7
Janes Leckie (Youth)– Seat 8
Tom Otte – Seat 9

base waste collection fee. SWAC continues to be pleased that collection and processing costs to recycle have been set forth separately from trash collection rates. SWAC continues to believe that this transparency assists the city and public in better understanding the recycling industry's strengths and weaknesses when contemplating future programs or changes to existing ones.

I. Subscription services:

Subscriptions for curbside grass pickup have increased to 664 subscribers as opposed to 521 last year. Subscriptions for curbside glass pickup have increased to 190 subscribers as opposed to 170 last year. These are out of 40,388 active residential accounts.

J. Ada County Household Hazardous Waste Quarterly Meetings:

Commissioner Nelson and city staff attend the quarterly meetings to stay current on the county HHHW program and related topics. They report back to SWAC after each meeting to review what was discussed.

K. Presentations:

Throughout the year SWAC received presentations regarding the following topics:

1. Solid Waste Program metrics and data (City Staff);
2. Squishy Water Bottle pilot program report (Republic Services and City Staff);
3. CRFP Program and account balance (City Staff);
4. Community outreach (City Staff);
5. Holiday light recycling project (City Staff);
6. Trash or Treasure and spring clean-up (City Staff);
7. Recycle a Bicycle program status (Commissioner Nelson, Republic Services, City Staff);
8. Review of the franchise contract (City Staff);
9. County HHHW meeting reviews (Commissioner Nelson and City Staff); and
10. FY23 proposed SW rates and new fees (Republic Services and City staff).

L. Upcoming Commission Business:

In 2023, SWAC is looking forward to working with Republic Services and City staff on the following projects:

1. 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.
2. Promoting Meridian's Trash or Treasure, Hand in Hand, and Recycle a Bicycle programs;

City of Meridian
Solid Waste
Advisory Commission



J. Scott Walters – Seat 1
Mark Nelson – Seat 2
Vacant– Seat 3
Steven Cory – Seat 4
Megan Larsen – Seat 5
Taryn Richmond – Seat 6
Shawn Keating – Seat 7
Janes Leckie (Youth)– Seat 8
Tom Otte – Seat 9

3. Monitoring yard composting market trends and construction/demolition waste diversion efforts;
4. Attending the quarterly Ada County Household Hazardous Waste Program meetings and reporting back to SWAC and the Mayor and City Council as appropriate;
5. Partnering outside the city through the Ada County Solid 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. Looking for opportunities to reach out to new residents of Meridian; and
8. Looking for opportunities to reach out to the youth of Meridian.

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, fiscally sound, trash and recycling services and programs for the benefit of Meridian residential and commercial customers. SWAC looks forward to another productive year.