

City of Meridian Solid Waste Advisory Commission



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

To: The Mayor and City Council
From: Steve Cory, Chair
Re: 2021 SWAC Annual Report

SWAC is pleased to submit its 2021 Annual Report:

A. Membership:

The Commission has appreciated being at full staff this year. Commissioner Steve Cory served as Chair and Commissioner Meg Larsen served as Vice Chair. Isabel Kau completed 2 years of stellar service as the Youth Commissioner and we are pleased to welcome Kayleigh Philippi as the current Youth Commissioner.

B. Community Recycling Fund Program (CRFP):

1. Fund Revenue: During FY21, despite the global market, the CRFP received revenue:

\$ 38,740.32	Beginning balance for FY21;
<u>\$ 13,534.18</u>	Revenue for FY21 (from Hand in Hand We Recycle)
\$ 52,274.50	Sum Beginning Balance and Revenue (as of Sep. 30, 2021)

2. Fund Expenses: During FY21, the following fund's expenses were incurred:

\$ 1,633.47	Actual FY21 Squishy Water Bottle Pilot Program (\$2,255 Budget)
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3. FY21 Approved Projects – Final accounting yet to be completed – None

\$ 50,641.03	FY21 Ending Fund Balance
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C. Trash or Treasure:

This innovative program was again conducted throughout the city. The event occurred the weekend prior to the 2021 Spring Collection week. Residents set out unwanted items, allowing others to come by, pick them up, and give them a new home thus diverting items from the landfill. City Staff and Republic Services worked together to market the event utilizing newsletters, social media, and Republic's "Call em' all" service to reach out to residents directly via phone or text message. Republic Services picked up remaining items as part of its Spring Cleanup collection services. Post-event feedback continues to be positive though residents still express desire for additional communication prior to the event. Both Republic Services and the

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City continue to market the program and use it as an educational platform in a variety of forums (website, newsletters, etc.).

D. SWAC Annual Activity:

Due to COVID, the PW Expo event was not conducted.

E. Recycle a Bicycle:

SWAC provided support to Republic's Recycle a Bicycle program last year. Recipients were students at Meridian Elementary School, along with their siblings and families. These Meridian residents received 90 bicycles.

F. Global Recycling Markets:

Recycling markets and recycling revenue continued to recover from China's Green Sword program, however, revenue losses continued for Meridian's commingled recyclable stream. Revenues from recovered commodities increased, 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 a one-year extension of the processing fee. No changes to the \$1.03 per household recycled material processing fee were proposed for FY22.

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. This committee allows stakeholders to work in concert with one another to research and develop proposals for improving solid waste collection systems and services, including maintaining reasonable financial costs for the operations of the Ada County Landfill. Steve Cory reports back to Meridian SWAC periodically throughout the year providing valuable 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 FY22 Annual SW 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 for another year as set forth in a separate contract amendment and acceptance of a fee increase to cover a significant spike in labor costs incurred in

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FY2021. 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 521 subscribers as opposed to 384 last year. Subscriptions for curbside glass pickup have increased to 170 subscribers as opposed to 134 last year. These are out of essentially 40,000 active residential accounts.

J. Ada County Household Hazardous Waste Quarterly Meetings:

Commissioner Nelson attends the quarterly meetings to stay current on the county HHW program and related topics. He reports back to SWAC after each meeting to review what was discussed.

K. Presentations:

Throughout the year SWAC received presentations regarding the following topics:

1. Quarterly and annual reports covering Republic Services' collection services, donated services, the Household Hazardous Waste Program, and secondary market conditions for recycled materials (Republic Services);
2. Solid Waste Program metrics and data (City Staff);
3. Contamination issues at recycling containers at transfer station (Republic Services);
4. Squishy Water Bottle pilot program reports (Republic Services);
5. Eagle Glass Collection (Republic Services); and
6. FY21 proposed SW rates and new fees (Republic Services, City staff).

L. Upcoming Commission Business:

In 2022, SWAC is looking forward to working with Republic Services and City staff on the following projects:

1. Furthering improvements in recycling efforts including reviewing third party needs, 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;
3. Monitoring yard composting market trends and construction/demolition waste diversion efforts;

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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.

M. Solid Waste Plan Subcommittee:

1. SWAC worked with City Staff to finalize the goals and expectations for the City’s Solid Waste plan. An emphasis on outreach and education will be a theme of the Plan. SWAC looks forward to staff presenting the report and the opportunity to provide advice and consultation to finalize and implement the Plan.

In conclusion, it has been an active year for SWAC despite COVID. We continue to gain experience and appreciation of the many challenges facing the solid waste and recycling industries. 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 the year.