

City of Meridian Solid Waste Advisory Commission



J. Scott Walters – Seat 1
Mark Nelson – Seat 2
Andy Arriaga – Seat 3
Steven Cory – Seat 4
Megan Larsen – Seat 5
Bethany Guajardo – Seat 6
Vacant – Seat 7
Janes Leckie (Youth)– Seat 8
Vacant – Seat 9

To: The Mayor and City Council
From: Steve Cory, Chair
Re: 2023 SWAC Annual Report

SWAC is pleased to submit its 2023 Annual Report:

A. Membership:

The Commission currently has three vacancies though for most of last year we were fully staffed and we do 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 FY23, despite the global market, the CRFP received revenue:

\$ 82,026.60	Beginning balance for FY23;
\$ 9,695.84	Revenue for FY23 (from Hand in Hand We Recycle and \$761.25 donated from Public Works Week proceeds)
\$ 91,722.44	Sum Beginning Balance and Revenue (as of Sep. 30, 2023)

2. Fund Expenses: During FY23, the following fund's expenses were incurred:

\$ 9629.26	Glass recycling and squishy water bottles
\$ 236.91	Recycle a Bicycle
\$ 9,866.17	Total FY23 expenses

3. FY23 Approved Projects – Final accounting yet to be completed – None

\$ 81,856.27	FY23 Ending Fund Balance
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B. Subscription and drop off services:

Subscriptions for curbside grass pickup have increased to 979 subscribers as opposed to 664 last year (a 47% increase). Subscriptions for curbside glass pickup have increased to 190 subscribers as opposed to 170 last year (a 6% increase). These are out of 42,216 active residential accounts.

For FY24, the cost of glass recycling at the drop-off MTS location was added into the rates for City Solid Waste Services. This service is no longer being paid for via CRF.



Dropoff of Squishy water bottles at the Meridian Transfer Station resulted in 3 shipments to Western Recycling totaling 0.34 tons of empty bottles costing \$1217.07.

C. SWAC Annual Activity:

SWAC participated in the 2023 PW Expo event on June 8th. Commissioners talked to approximately 70 visitors at the booth, and most of the questions were about what could be recycled in 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.

D. Recycle a Bicycle:

SWAC was also pleased to provide support to the Recycle a Bicycle program. 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. There were 167 online requests, where 110 were from Meridian and the other 57 were from non-Meridian cities. There was 3 people at the event that requested bikes. There were 32 bikes brought to the event and 29 were given away. Timber Creek Recycling was also there to help pump up tire and fill with slime. We also had people come to the booth to ask how they could get rid of bikes.

E. Repurposed/Reclaimed/Recycled Material Art Contest

In 2023 SWAC introduced a new outreach activity hosting an art contest as part of Meridian Art week. SWAC encouraged youth and adult residents to demonstrate their creativity with repurposed/reclaimed/recycled materials by transforming them into artwork. There were only two submissions and they were both in the adult category. The Commission accepted the art sub-committee's report which included a recommendation of the winner. SWAC talked to visitors about waste collection and recycling issues at the Community Art Party at a booth showcasing the contest's winning entry.

F. Global Recycling Markets:

Recycling markets and recycling revenue continued to recover from their low point caused by China reducing their participation in the materials market and COVID. Revenues continue to increase, but processing and labor costs offset the improvement. For FY24, the per household recycled material processing fee was raised from \$1.11 to \$1.20.

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



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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 chair of the Ada County SWAC. 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. FY24 Annual Solid Waste Rate Adjustment:

SWAC reviewed and recommended to City Council approval of Republic Service's proposed FY24 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. The MTS drop-off glass funding was included in the rates (Glass was previously funded through the CRF).

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. County HHHW meeting reviews (Commissioner Nelson and City Staff);
9. The Meridian Solid Waste Plan (City Staff)

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10. FY24 proposed SW rates and new fees (Republic Services and City staff); and
11. The Meridian Budget Process (City Staff).

L. Upcoming Commission Business:

In 2024, SWAC is looking forward to working with Republic Services and City staff on the following projects:

1. CRFP usage;
2. Promoting Meridian's Trash or Treasure, Hand in Hand, and Recycle a Bicycle programs;
3. Attending the quarterly Ada County Household Hazardous Waste Program meetings and reporting back to SWAC and the Mayor and City Council as appropriate;
4. 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;
5. Continued expansion of educational outreach to decrease contamination in the commingled residential recycling stream;
6. Monitoring yard composting market trends and construction/demolition waste diversion efforts;
7. 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.
8. Looking for opportunities to reach out to new residents of Meridian; and
9. 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.