

# City of Meridian Solid Waste Advisory Commission



J. Scott Walters – Seat 1  
Mark Nelson – Seat 2  
Andy Arriaga – Seat 3  
Steven Cory – Seat 4  
Randy Rabin – Seat 5  
Bethany Guajardo – Seat 6  
Sanjay Dasam – Seat 7  
Divya Danesh (Youth) – Seat 8  
Amie Cuhacian – Seat 9

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To: The Mayor and City Council  
From: Steve Cory, Chair  
Re: 2024 SWAC Annual Report

SWAC is pleased to submit its 2024 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 Meg Larsen served as Vice Chair.

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

1. Fund Revenue: During FY24, despite the global market, the CRFP received revenue:

\$ 81,856.27	Beginning balance for FY24
\$ 16,192.48	Revenue for FY24 from Hand in Hand We Recycle
<b>\$ 98,048.75</b>	<b>Sum Beginning Balance and Revenue (as of Sep. 30, 2024)</b>

2. Fund Expenses: During FY24, no fund expenses were incurred

3. FY24 Approved Projects – Final accounting yet to be completed – None

**\$ 98,048.75**                      **FY24 Ending Fund Balance**

## C. Subscription and drop off services:

Subscriptions for curbside grass pickup have increased to 1295 subscribers as opposed to 979 last year (a 32% increase). Subscriptions for curbside glass pickup have increased to 200 subscribers as opposed to 190 last year (a 5% increase). These are out of 43,172 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 CRFP.

Dropoff of Squishy water bottles at the Meridian Transfer Station resulted in 5 shipments to the recycling center totaling 2.78 tons of empty bottles costing \$1451.19. The operations at the



recycling center have changed allowing squishy water bottles to be combined into the single stream allowing the squishy water bottle program to conclude.

**D. SWAC Annual Activity:**

SWAC participated in the 2024 PW Expo event on May 22nd. Approximately 75 people came to the booth. Patrons mainly wanted to know what was recyclable. SWAC was able to talk with their neighboring booth, the Meridian Fire Department, about lithium battery fires which lead to staff developing outreach communication with the fire dept later in the year.

**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 56 patrons who came to the SWAC booth. All bikes brought to give away were taken, more than 15 people wanted their bikes serviced with air or slime, and there were 7 volunteers from City staff, SWAC, and Timber Creek that helped out. The online signup stats for this year included requests from 88 Meridian households and 53 households from other cities. SWAC members were able to complete 35 Meridian requests before the event.

**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. FY25 Annual Solid Waste Rate Adjustment:**

SWAC reviewed Republic Service's proposed FY25 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.

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## **H. Household Hazardous Waste Quarterly Meetings:**

Commissioner Nelson attends the HHW quarterly meetings to stay informed about the Ada County-wide program. Meridian Staff present to SWAC about the program along with Commissioner Nelson adding insight.

## **I. Presentations:**

Throughout the year SWAC received presentations regarding the following topics:

1. About SWAC (City Staff.)
2. Biosolids & grit (City Staff)
3. SW management system and partners (City Staff)
4. Diversion sources (City Staff)
5. Orange Bag program (City Staff)
6. City's solid waste plan (City Staff)
7. Solid Waste Program metrics and tonnage data (City Staff);
8. Squishy Water Bottle program report (Republic Services and City Staff);
9. CRFP Program and account balance (City Staff and SWAC);
10. Budget process for CRFP (City Staff);
11. HHW meeting reviews (Commissioner Nelson and City Staff);
12. Trash or Treasure (City Staff);
13. Recycle a Bicycle program status (Commissioner Nelson, Republic Services, City Staff);
14. Meridian city ordinance amendments (City Staff);
15. Holiday light recycling program (City Staff);
16. Donated services and the franchise agreement (City Staff);
17. FY24 proposed SW rates and new fees (Republic Services and City staff); and
18. Changes to the bulky item collection process (City Staff).

## **J. Upcoming Commission Business:**

In 2025, 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 event, 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;

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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.