

**Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County, Florida**  
**SWA Executive Committee Workshop**  
April 10, 2025, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Broward County Government Center West  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room – Surtax Plaza  
1 North University Drive  
Plantation, FL 33324

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order, roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Present: Chair Ryan, Vice Chair Furr, Member Shuham, Member Horland, Member Metayer Bowen, Member Rydell, Member Mead, Member Caggiano, Member AJ Ryan, Member Newton, and Broward School Board Representative Member Bulman.

Not Present: Member Dunn, Alternate Member Breitzkreutz, Alternate Member Glassman, Alternate Member Geller.

It was noted that no public comments would be taken during the session.

**Opening Comments**

Chair Ryan welcomed participants to the workshop and emphasized the importance of involving large organizations like the school board, which not only produce significant waste but also have a powerful influence on community behavior and education about sustainability. The workshop's intent was to introduce local corporate and institutional leaders who are already deeply engaged in waste reduction efforts and showcase their current efforts and challenges in advancing sustainability initiatives and using their influence to promote environmental responsibility. The critical importance of building and enhancing partnerships with larger waste producers was stressed as they are both significant waste generators and influencers of public behavior.

**Business Community & Institutional Presentations**

**EDUCATION**

**North Broward Preparatory School** detailed how they built a financially and environmentally sustainable program by composting 65,000 pounds of waste, reducing cafeteria waste, growing food on campus, and introducing an apiary—all primarily led by students. The school cut its environmental impact and saved over \$14,000 on disposables within months. They stressed teaching students that "waste is our responsibility" and shared plans for a student-led composting program and plastic repurposing initiatives.

**Museum of Discovery and Science** described their work in climate action planning, reducing single-use plastics, and educating the public on sustainability. The Museum has created a "Hub for Resilience Education," promoting environmental literacy through hands-on programs, waste reduction, and a new resilience exhibit, while reaching 75,000 students annually and focusing on accessibility and future leadership.

**Broward County Public Schools** shared their waste management efforts across 248 sites, including recycling, limited food-sharing, and plans to expand composting despite challenges like funding, staffing,

and municipal contracts. They stressed the need for student engagement and proof-of-concept composting programs to drive future district-wide sustainability efforts. The Executive Committee called for partnerships with cities and the Solid Waste Authority to address logistical barriers and enhance environmental education.

## **TOURISM**

**Royal Caribbean Group** expressed their ongoing commitment to sustainability through initiatives like *Save the Waves*, waste sorting, and partnerships with ports to reduce waste. They are exploring innovative technologies like electrolysis-assisted pyrolysis (EAP) for food waste reduction and testing biofuels to achieve net-zero emissions by 2035. Challenges include space constraints on ships, complex food waste regulations, and eliminating single-use plastics, all while enhancing energy efficiency and waste management.

## **INDUSTRIAL / MANUFACTURING / DISTRIBUTION**

**Coca-Cola Beverages Florida** presented their focus on sustainability through recycling, waste reduction, and water stewardship. Their goal is zero waste to landfill at their manufacturing sites and supporting community recycling with grants, educational programs, and reverse vending machines. They also collaborate with venues and communities to improve recycling infrastructure and address challenges like contamination and standardization.

## **RETAIL**

**City Furniture** outlined their extensive leadership and ongoing efforts in streamlining recycling operations, fleet transformation to renewable compressed natural gas, and their influence over suppliers' packaging practices. Through their Green Summit, City Furniture continues to inspire others to adopt eco-friendly practices while addressing challenges in packaging and recycling.

**Sawgrass Mills Mall (Simon Property Group)** highlighted carbon emission reduction goals relating to infrastructure and major cardboard recycling efforts. They emphasized challenges such as managing waste contamination, high franchise hauling costs, and educating 350 tenants and millions of visitors from around the world on sustainability practices. Sawgrass Mills urged stronger partnerships with local governments to allow greater operational flexibility, particularly around waste management contracts, to better support large-scale sustainability goals.

## **SPORTS / ENTERTAINMENT**

**The Florida Panthers** organization shared their success in reducing waste expenses by nearly 40% through recycling initiatives at their venues and expressed plans to expand composting programs. Key steps included partnering with Waste Management, installing standardized waste stations, switching to recyclable aluminum cups, building an on-site sorting center, and planning next steps around circular supply chains and community education.

## **CONSTRUCTION**

**Stiles Corporation** property management team reviewed their waste management efficiencies across 110 properties by optimizing trash schedules, increasing recycling, and collaborating with third-party waste consultants to cut costs. Stiles emphasized the importance of continuous tenant and janitorial education to reduce contamination, simplify recycling, and promote sustainability in all their buildings.

They stressed that better waste practices not only benefit the environment but also significantly lower operational expenses, making properties more attractive to tenants.

## **ENERGY**

**Florida Power and Light (FPL)** reviewed Florida's increasing energy demands due to population growth, the rise of AI and electric vehicles. To meet demand, they outlined their investments in infrastructure resilience, renewable energy (like solar), and storm hardening, resulting in faster recovery after hurricanes and maintaining customer bills below national and state averages. FPL committed to expanding sustainability efforts and sharing waste management data with Broward County.

### **Financial Overview / Path**

SCS focused attention on the transition from conceptualizing the Authority's master plan to its implementation in communities, with a primary focus on education and outreach in the early stages rather than immediate infrastructure development. SCS's financial expert, Vita Quinn, presented a financial roadmap outlining phased operations of the master plan, with initial efforts in the first two years directed towards planning, staffing, and coordination. Discussions also highlighted various revenue mechanisms such as host fees, tipping surcharges, and special assessments.

A longer-term financial strategy might include generating revenue from product sales, additional facilities, and future waste-to-energy plants. Special assessments based on benefits rather than property value could fund these facilities, and other funding sources, such as grants, would need to be pursued. The Authority must also consider land acquisition costs for future facilities and the challenges of securing adequate revenue streams during the initial phases. The discussion emphasized the need for a balance between generating revenue and long-term planning while managing fiscal uncertainties.

### **New/Old Business**

The Executive Director was tasked with sharing presentation workshop materials with the Executive Committee and the public, exploring possible composting pilots with Broward County Public Schools, and distributing the SCS financial presentation to Executive Committee members.

Executive Committee members were assigned review and feedback of the Task 6 whitepaper. Executive Committee members and SWA staff were advised to leverage corporate resources and expertise to further sustainable waste management partnerships across the community, such as exploring Royal Caribbean's new food waste technology, working with the Florida Panthers on waste studies, seeking regional waste solutions with Simon Properties, and addressing challenges posed by franchise waste agreements for large producers.

Upcoming dates discussed: The Executive Committee and Governing Board meeting, where the draft master plan will be presented, is scheduled for May 21; four outreach events to share the draft master plan to be held between June 9 and 18, and the Florida League of Cities meeting to take place in August.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Member Rydell and seconded by Member Metayer Bowen. The motion passed unanimously.