

Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County, Florida

SWA Executive Committee Meeting

July 18, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Broward County Government Center West

1st 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 established.

Present: Chair Ryan, Vice Chair Furr, Member Mead, Member Newton, Member AJ Ryan, Member Shuham, Alternate Member Murphy Salomone, and Alternate Member Breitzkreuz.

Not Present: Member Horland, Member Metayer Bowen, Member Dunn, Member Caggiano, Member Rydell, and Broward School Board Representative Member Bulman.

Public Comment

During public comment, students from the Broward Sierra Group Junior Team opposed waste-to-energy incineration and urged school composting. They also proposed youth-led education campaigns to rebuild trust in recycling. The Executive Committee expressed appreciation for the students' engagement and encouraged continued involvement. Other speakers urged immediate investment in composting and organics diversion, opposed flow control policies, and called for removing new incineration projects from the plan. They also recommended stronger public education, billboard outreach, greater school involvement, and improved communication to increase public meeting participation.

Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Mead and seconded by Member Shuham to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the May 21, 2025, and June 18, 2025, Executive Committee Meetings. No comment was made. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Angela Harms of CohnResnick delivered the financial report, noting a net cash position of \$1,548,807 and net assets of \$2,551,538 as of June 30, 2025. The Authority's audit has begun with Citrin Cooperman. Executive Director Todd Storti requested guidance on whether to keep the upcoming budget assessment at \$2 million or reduce it, noting this decision impacts budget planning. Outstanding receivables from the county and municipalities are being processed, with no anticipated collection issues, and the amounts still owed are expected to decline significantly soon.

Alpha 250 Site – Extension

The committee discussed extending the sale deadline for the county-owned Alpha 250 property by one year, with five of six mayors already consenting and the sixth expected to follow. Members noted the site's potential use for countywide thermal conversion of biosolids to reduce PFAS contamination and agreed to review an existing joint city-county white paper on the project with a status update expected in September.

Ongoing Outreach and Education Plan

Conceptual - Hayley Zagacki from Conceptual Communications reported over 36,000 views of the student educational videos with an additional student video shoot scheduled in August at MODS. Collaborative campaigns with Sprouts and the Florida Panthers are in the coordination phase. She also promoted the Solid Waste Authority's event toolkit and encouraged back-to-school outreach with student sustainability clubs.

Education & Outreach Subcommittee Report - During the Education & Outreach subcommittee meeting, subcommittee members discussed strategies to improve public engagement, focusing on the use of city communication channels and a proposal to hold two small focus groups aimed at less-involved residents regarding waste and recycling practices. Members noted subcommittee representatives could recruit participants from their own communities.

In response to the subcommittee report, the Executive Committee expressed there is no need for focus groups to be assembled until the overall public messaging campaign has been defined. They called for the development of a unified countywide message that could be adapted locally and highlighted the importance of targeting all age groups, leveraging school and city media capabilities, engaging haulers in outreach, and ensuring all recycling bins carry consistent labeling. Contamination reduction and clear recycling guidelines were identified as top priorities. Members also emphasized the need to begin education efforts immediately on well-known challenges, including public mistrust in recycling and high contamination rates. There was interest in moving the next subcommittee meeting to August to accelerate progress.

C&D Subcommittee Update

The C&D Subcommittee discussed the adoption of the Lee County model for construction and demolition (C&D) waste, using a refundable deposit system tied to permits. Executive Committee members discussed the model's flexibility and requested circulation of the Lee County ordinance and related white paper to all members. The County confirmed their authority to issue permits countywide, enabling such a program to be implemented relatively quickly if adopted. A C&D subcommittee meeting will be held in early September with a presentation from Lee County.

Composting was addressed with a proposal for a dedicated subcommittee due to its distinct challenges. Member Shuham recommended staff gather municipal concerns, and the County expressed readiness to launch yard waste composting once commitments are secured. Emphasis was placed on high-level policy decisions being approved before diving into technical planning.

A recommendation was made to add a standing "Municipal Program Update" agenda item for cities to share recent initiatives at the Executive Committee meeting, fostering collaboration and encouraging the adoption of successful practices. The recommendation was agreed upon by consensus.

SCS - Master Plan

SCS Consulting confirmed the final Master Plan will be submitted by August 3rd, 2025. A request was made to produce a graphical Executive Summary and extend the deadline for the summary to September 3rd, 2025. The summary will distill key Master Plan takeaways into a simplified, visually engaging format for elected officials, municipalities, and the public, supporting consensus-building during the 120-day ILA approval period. SCS also requested an extension of their performance period to the end of the fiscal year on September 30th to address Interlocal Agreement (ILA) requirements not

included in the original contract. These include preparing a financial framework memorandum, including funding strategies, well as a graphical executive summary for the Master Plan.

To fund this work, the Executive Committee discussed reallocating \$96,000 in funds from Task 14 (Operations Plan) and Task 15 (Facilities Maintenance Plan) to the contingency fund (Task 17). Tasks 14 and 15 cannot be completed at this time. The funding reallocation was approved.

Executive Committee discussion also included the Facilities amendment to the ILA, which will be sent to each municipality alongside the Master Plan. Originally intended to address facility ownership and end-of-life issues, the amendment may now require only simplified provisions given the absence of new facilities. Some financial details will remain unavailable until after materials management and disposal RFPs are completed, raising concerns that municipalities may opt out to avoid being locked in. Options such as extending the opt-out period are being considered to maintain participation and avoid (re)fragmentation of the waste management system.

A motion was made by Member Newton and seconded by Member Mead to instruct SCS to not move ahead with Tasks 14 and Tasks 15 of the original contract. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Member Newton and seconded by Member Breitzkreutz to place the money allocated for Tasks 14 and 15 (\$96,000) into the contingency fund for the consultancy work to be overseen by the Executive Director. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Member Newton and seconded by Member Shuham to confirm the final Master Plan due date of August 3rd, extend the SCS deadline for the Master Plan to include an Executive Summary due September 3rd and extend SCS' performance period until the end of the fiscal year on September 30th. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Direction on Waste-to-Energy (WTE)

Chair Ryan acknowledged the solid waste crisis in Broward County, noting its harmful impacts on the environment, the waste of valuable resources, and its effects on public health. He stated that the purpose of the Master Plan is to build countywide consensus on diverting as much waste as possible away from current disposal methods, including WTE and landfilling, toward more sustainable waste minimization, reuse, and recycling solutions. This goal will be achieved through a strategic shift in public policy and increased civic responsibility. Chair Ryan described the Master Plan as a "living, breathing document" that will evolve over time.

A motion was made by Member Newton and seconded by Member Shuham to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee recognized that commercially proven WTE technology as a volume reduction process is an issue that requires serious consideration, compromise, and consensus within the Master Plan. The Committee discussed limiting WTE usage to the existing WTE location in Broward County, with the option to collocate a new WTE facility only at that site.

Leaving the WTE option in the Master Plan was considered necessary for managing extraordinary circumstances such as overwhelming hurricane debris or the potential refusal by other Florida counties

and Southern states to accept Broward's overflow trash for volume reduction or landfilling. Chair Ryan emphasized that the Master Plan should clearly state that WTE remains a last resort for residual waste. Any consideration for WTE expansion, should reuse and recycling efforts fall short, would be restricted to the existing site where new WTE capacity could be colocated.

Members also discussed the possibility of future technological advances that may influence WTE considerations and agreed to leave room for future revisions and refinements to the plan in response to potential breakthroughs.

A motion was made by Member Shuham and seconded by Member Newton to instruct SCS to revise the Master Plan to make the elimination of landfills a priority and to minimize the need for WTE as a volume reduction option, while retaining WTE as an option to colocate at the existing site should updates or expansion be necessary in the future. Discussion followed on the motion.

An amendment was proposed by Vice Chair Furr to rephrase the motion as "an option with the preference of colocating at the existing site."

A friendly amendment was proposed by Chair Ryan to replace the previously proposed amendment stating that "the only scope that we can contemplate is to colocate at the existing facility." Member Newton seconded the friendly amendment.

The amended motion instructed SCS to revise the Master Plan to make the elimination of landfills a priority and minimize the need for WTE as a volume reduction option, but not remove it altogether, allowing only the option to colocate at the existing site if updates or expansion are needed in the future. There was no additional discussion on the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New/Old Business & Informational Materials

- **Executive Director** to add municipal program updates as a recurring agenda item, coordinate with SCS team on waste-to-energy policy revisions in the Master Plan, collaborate with county legal on ILA amendment language for facilities and timelines, circulate Lee County's C&D ordinance to Executive Committee members, and schedule an August meeting for the Education & Outreach Subcommittee.
- **Conceptual Communications** to distribute communication channel survey to city PIOs, managers, and board members within two weeks.
- **SCS Consulting Team** to submit final Master Plan by August 3, deliver executive summary by September 3, and revise the Master Plan to prioritize landfill elimination and include co-location preference for future waste-to-energy projects.
- **Education & Outreach Subcommittee** to define unified messaging priorities and develop a three-item standardized messaging framework for countywide outreach.
- **County Attorney / Legal Team** to draft ILA amendment language to address facility provisions and extend decision-making timelines.

A motion was made by Member Shuham and seconded by Member Newton to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting.