

Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County, Florida
SWA Executive Committee Special Meeting
February 24, 2026, 1:30PM – 3:30 PM
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 was established.

Present: Chair Ryan, Vice Chair Furr, Member Shuham, Member Horland, Member Metayer Bowen, Member Mead, Member Caggiano, Member AJ Ryan, Member Newton, Alternate Member Colbourne, and Alternate Member Breitkreuz.

Present Online: Member Rydell.

Not Present: Member Dunn, Alternate Member Murphy Salomone, and School Board Member Bulman.

The meeting continued with public comment.

Interviews of Interim Executive Director Candidates - Member Horland provided an update on the interim Executive Director recruitment process, explaining that outreach to potential candidates began the previous week and that eight candidates were contacted. Several candidates later withdrew due to professional or personal commitments. Three candidates remained available for consideration, including Mr. Erdal Donmez, Mr. Lee Feldman, and Mr. Sam May.

Member Horland thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve during the Authority's transition period and explained that the interim role requires maintaining continuity, managing consultants and staff, building trust among member cities, and helping guide the Authority through key milestones including the Master Plan and Facilities Amendment while positioning the organization for a permanent Executive Director.

Chair Ryan outlined a proposed interview process, suggesting that each candidate be given approximately fifteen minutes for a presentation and questions from members. Candidates who were not presenting were asked to step out of the room voluntarily to ensure fairness during questioning. Members agreed to conduct interviews in alphabetical order and to begin with the candidate participating remotely. It was noted that while the goal was to conduct interviews and gather information during the meeting, the Executive Committee was not obligated to make a final selection that day and could continue discussions if needed.

Interim Executive Director Interview, Mr. Erdal Donmez - Mr. Donmez appeared remotely and expressed interest in serving as Interim Executive Director, noting his experience as former Coral Springs City Manager and longtime Broward County resident. He stated that the Master Plan appears ambitious but achievable and emphasized the importance of continued municipal outreach, clear communication, and maintaining momentum toward approval.

In response to questions, Mr. Donmez cited his relationships with city managers and public works officials across Broward County, prior experience negotiating waste and recycling contracts, and his approach of meeting quickly with board members, staff, and municipalities to build trust and address concerns. He stated he could come up to speed within a few weeks and would rely on existing staff and consultants to support the transition.

Interim Executive Director Interview, Mr. Lee Feldman - Mr. Feldman outlined his background as a retired city manager with experience in Fort Lauderdale, Gainesville, Palm Bay, and North Miami. He described a phased approach to the interim role focused on immediate review of ILA obligations and the Master Plan, short term compliance and coordination with member communities, and preparation for transition to a permanent Executive Director.

Regarding the critical timeline for municipal approval of the Facilities Amendment and Master Plan and emphasized the need for coordinated outreach to participating cities, Mr. Feldman stated that success will depend on demonstrating the efficiencies and economies of scale of a unified system and engaging municipalities to build consensus. Members asked about his relationships with municipal leadership, procurement experience, and financial oversight approach. Mr. Feldman stated he maintains relationships with city managers across the county and would first assess the position of each city before developing an outreach strategy.

Interim Executive Director Interview, Mr. Sam May - Mr. May summarized his background in municipal engineering, public works, and city management, including service with Margate and North Lauderdale. He stated that he has been involved with the Solid Waste Authority process since the earlier working group stage and emphasized the importance of achieving economies of scale and long-term system stability. His immediate priority would be to identify hesitant cities, understand their concerns, and work directly with elected officials, TAC members, public works directors, and staff to secure approval of the Facilities Amendment.

Motion: A motion was made by Member Horland and seconded by Member Newton to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. May confirmed he had discussed leaving his current position if selected and did not seek a role beyond the interim assignment. He added that he would focus on practical communication, consultant oversight, and aligning consultant work with the political and operational realities facing member cities.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Interim Executive Director Candidates - The Executive Committee discussed the three candidates interviewed for the Interim Executive Director position and their respective qualifications, experience, and ability to assist the Authority during the critical period leading to municipal consideration of the Facilities Amendment. Members noted that all three candidates brought valuable experience, including municipal management, technical expertise, and familiarity with local government operations. Discussion focused on whether the interim role required a relationship-focused leader to help secure municipal approvals or a more technical manager to oversee ongoing work.

Motion: A motion was made by Member Newton to begin negotiations with Mr. Lee Feldman. The motion was not seconded. Discussion resumed.

Several members emphasized that the immediate priority is obtaining municipal support for the Facilities Amendment and Master Plan and that the Interim Director must be able to engage elected officials and municipal staff quickly. Members agreed that Mr. Sam May's long involvement with the Solid Waste Authority effort, familiarity with TAC members and public works directors, and understanding of the history of the Resource Recovery Board and the earlier Solid Waste Working Group positioned him to move quickly without a steep learning curve. Members also commented on Mr. May's commitment to the effort and his ability to communicate effectively with both staff and elected officials.

Motion: A motion was made by Member Horland and seconded by Member Metayer Bowen to offer the interim SWA position to Mr. Samuel May. Following discussion regarding the need to negotiate terms, the motion was amended and restated by Member Horland as a motion to enter into negotiations for the Interim Executive Director position for the SWA with Mr. Samuel May. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Furr and seconded by Member Metayer Bowen to designate Member Horland to conduct the negotiations. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment - Motion: A motion was made by Member Horland and seconded by Member Caggiano to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.