

**Solid Waste District of La Porte County
District Board Meeting
Special Meeting**

**August 20, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

APPROVED

Call to Order

Director Clay Turner

Pledge

Roll Call District Board

Mayor Dermody
Councilman Przybylinski
Councilman Mollenhauer
Commissioner Haney
Commissioner Holifield

Absent

Commissioner Gramarossa
Mayor Nelson Deutch

Others Present

Clay Turner, Executive Director
Robin Havens, Office Manager/HR
Lisa Woodson, Recycling Coordinator
Douglas Biege, Attorney
Bret Boccabella, District Manager, Borden Waste Away
Kiel Pennington, Div. Vice President, Waste Connections
Derek Woolsey, Sales Manager, Borden Waste Away
Johnny Bachman, Municipal Sales Support, Borden Waste Away
Evan McFarland, Operation Supervisor, Borden Waste Away

MINUTES DISTRICT BOARD – July 16, 2025

Commissioner Haney made a motion to approve the July 16, 2025 District Board minutes as presented. Councilman Mollenhauer seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Old Business

A. Borden Discussion

In going through the “Borden Issues” handout in the meeting packet, Mr. Turner initially addressed the fact that Borden Waste Away was sold without the Solid Waste District’s knowledge. Kiel Pennington, Division Vice President for Waste Connections explained that in March 2024 Waste Connections purchased Borden Waste Away and he thought the Solid Waste District had been made aware by the previous account reps. Mr. Pennington further stated Borden would continue to operate under the Borden Waste Away name. Mr. Turner then addressed the customer service call center is still not up and running. Bret Boccabella, District Manager for Borden Waste Away, stated there was a complete overhaul of the computer system and their customer service dept. was unable to take phone calls due to the learning process. Mr. Boccabella further stated, it’s gotten better, and he believes going forward Borden will be able to switch that back fairly soon. Mr. Boccabella also spoke about the fines which have been imposed by the District. He stated that as a group they agree with a lot of the fines but some of them they disagree with. He stated he understands they have a 90-day timeframe and they are working on putting something together to address them. Lisa Woodson, Recycling Coordinator, finished going through the list and also explained some items are showing improvement. Ms. Woodson stated missed pick-ups within 48 hours are improving, personal containers labeled recycling are showing improvement in being emptied, courtesy returns are improving, the District is seeing improvement in being notified right away if there is an issue and the public drop off site in Michigan City is showing improvement in cleanliness. Evan McFarland, Operation Supervisor, also stated they have made some changes and they have a pretty green team at this moment, however, one of the newer drivers is

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from the LaPorte area and has a great deal of knowledge, which will greatly benefit the recycling pick-up for LaPorte County residents. Mr. Boccabella stated that he realizes the distance between Borden Waste Away and LaPorte County which is why the company is considering a satellite somewhere in LaPorte County. Mr. Boccabella stated they have appointments scheduled at different properties in the area, after the Board meeting. Mayor Dermody then asked if Borden was interested in continuing to serve the area going forward. Mr. Boccabella replied, absolutely. Mr. Turner inquired about the issues with the drivers on one -way streets. Mayor Dermody asked if the drivers are intentionally going down one-way streets intentionally. Mr. Boccabella stated the drivers are not going down one-way streets the wrong way and as of right now, the driver is getting out of the truck to move the container to the right side of the truck to service but Borden is working on a better solution, possibly going to a Curotto can instead. Mr. Turner also stated he went to the public access site in Michigan City on Tuesday and the area looked excellent. Councilman Przyblinski also stated that every time he has been there recently it looks much, much better and they've really been doing a great job keeping the area clean. Commissioner Haney commended all Borden employees for working hard to correct the issues the District has been experiencing as well as the commitment they are showing to LaPorte County residents by placing a satellite site in our area. Commissioner Holifield informed Mr. Pennington and Mr. Boccabella there is a site at the KOP he would like to discuss with them for a satellite location, if they would be interested. Both gentlemen stated they would be very interested in speaking about the property.

B. Resolution for Loan

Mr. Turner presented the amended Resolution to Obtain Loan 2025-01, which gives Board President, Don Przybylinski authority to sign the necessary documents to procure a loan for a payload. **Commissioner Haney made a motion to approve the amended Resolution to Obtain Loan 2025-01. Councilman Mollenhauer seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.