

**Minutes of the
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
(RICWMA) Special Meeting**

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 11:00 a.m.
Rock Island County Board Chambers, Room 320
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Bartels, City of Rock Island
Steve Gibson, Village of Milan
Nick Gottwalt, Village of Carbon Cliff
Rhea Oakes, City of East Moline

Michelle Reyes, Village of Hampton
Denver Schmitt, City of Moline
Brian Vyncke, Rock Island County

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Boone, Village of Cordova
Nick Camlin, Rock Island County (Ex Officio)
Doug Greer, City of Silvis
Missy Housenga, Village of Rapids City

Wayne Oney, Village of Port Byron
Andrew Pittard, Village of Andalusia
Representative, Village of Coal Valley

OTHERS PRESENT

Sarah Bambas, RICWMA/BSRC
Jim Graham, City of East Moline
David Kovarik, RICWMA/BSRC
Gena McCullough, RICWMA/BSRC

Lisa McDaniel, SCS
Jeff Phillips, SCS
Matt Pivit, Republic Services

1. Introductions and Roll Call. The meeting was called to order shortly after 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Vyncke who conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.
2. Discussion of RICWMA and SCS Engineers for the Solid Waste Planning Analysis Workshop. Mr. Phillips and Ms. McDaniel with SCS Engineers started the discussion with an introduction of their backgrounds and a brief overview of what they would like to accomplish during the meeting. They both mentioned that the result of this study will help RICWMA staff gear up for the Solid Waste Management Plan in FY26/FY27. Mr. Phillips stated that the final report will include the metrics used, material management, and recommendations. Ms. McDaniel went into how they produced the model and how it is going to work in the future. The model addresses the lack of data and helps to structure the process and estimate waste generation and disposal. The base number is not exact, but it sets a baseline. Rock Island County's waste generation is 363,200 tons, with a 30% conversion rate for commercial generation and a 16% conversion rate for residential generation. The projection year of 2040 predicts 25,000 tons to be diverted in that year. This was derived from housing trends and population analysis.

Mr. Phillips and Ms. McDaniel then opened up the room for a more general discussion about current recycling practices in the county. A discussion was held on how often curbside recycling is happening in the communities and if residents are able to get additional recycling carts for curbside pickup. Many Board members and support staff indicated that additional recycling carts are available at a cost, but that very few residents take advantage of the opportunity. A discussion was also held on the difference between mandatory recycling services and subscription-based recycling services.

This led to a discussion about the previous drop-off sites that RICWMA managed and why they were discontinued. The next set of questions from the SCS staff asked about combining community services and creating a joint agreement, as well as what it would take for a service to be weekly instead of bi-weekly. Mr. Pivit explained that this is possible through Republic Services, but the cost of running a weekly route would increase. Mr. Pivit and other Board members talked about how staffing and equipment needs would have to be addressed if services were to expand. Mr. Phillips then asked the group about the current opportunities and challenges.

There was a conversation about the individual programs through RICWMA. Mr. Phillips asked the group, “What are we not taking advantage of? What are some problematic materials?” Board members brought up items such as TVs and construction materials due to home remodeling. The idea of having an annual E-Waste event came up. Other topics brought up through this discussion included multi-family units, cart capacity, enforcement of what goes in the cart and making sure there is no contamination, possibility for policy and ordinance changes, and how to generate more funds for RICWMA to address new programs.

Mr. Phillips asked the group to talk about more issues that they are experiencing and what some future opportunities that RICWMA could take advantage of. Topics such as yard waste, food waste, water treatment sites, and drop-off sites were discussed. The last discussion revolved around education. Mr. Phillips asked the group about what communities are doing to educate their residents. Various sources were stated by RICWMA Board members and support staff. Items included water bills, social media, website, stickers, and phone calls. There was a discussion on how RICWMA has a social media presence, and press releases are sent out throughout the year. Board members and support staff agreed that there needs to be universal education on recycling.

3. Comments from the Public. None.
4. Adjournment. Having no further discussion to conduct, Mr. Gottwalt motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Oakes seconded. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.