Buena Vista County Solid Waste Commission

MINUTES / SEPTEMBER 10, 2026
Storm Lake City Hall

A regular meeting of the Buena Vista County Solid Waste Commission was held on Sept. 10, 2026, at Storm Lake City Hall council chambers. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Erik Mosbo.

The following were present: Jeff Westcottt, Bruce McGowan, Barry Meyer, Larry Robinson, Dan Hartman, Jim Wise, Bill Henrich, Dana Larsen, Tom Grafft, Lori Dicks (manager), Jason Raveling (Hunzelman Putzier), Gary Armstrong (attorney), Clark Fort (insurance agent).

Wise motioned and Meyer seconded to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried- all ayes. Wise motioned to approve the minutes from August 13, seconded by Meyer, motion carried-all ayes.

Jason Raveling reported on current finances, revenue and bills. August bills totaled $171,934.85. Mr. Raveling felt that operating expenses are normal, and that receivables look clean and current. Robinson motioned to pay the current bills and McGowan seconded, motion carried, all ayes.

Lori Dicks reported that the DNR had conducted annual inspections the week prior to this meeting. Storm Lake Citywide Cleanup tickets are on sale, and loads for that program are beginning to come into the Recycle Center. Grinding services for pallets and tree waste has been somewhat irregular. Concerns were raised about the quality of service received and the upcoming leaf season upon us. Space is limited. Grinding fees are becoming a large part of the budget and we may need to look at the program closer in the future.

A contract amendment was proposed to increase the budget by $3,105 to complete the work proposals for DNR. Grafft motioned and Westcott seconded to approve the amendment, motion carried with all ayes. SCS should have the work plans ready soon.

Pocahontas County representatives have already agreed to the terms discussed earlier for a new contract. Fee increases from $10/ton to $20/ton, with an annual $1 per ton increase in subsequent years. A motion to approve the new contract was made by Wise and seconded by Robinson, motion carried-all ayes.

With increasing concerns about safety of rechargeable lithium device batteries, collection boxes throughout the county are proposed for safer and more convenient disposal. The Recycle Center has asked each City in the county to pledge financial support. This program has proven very successful in other planning areas. Extended Producer Responsibility should be the way these batteries are handled but until that happens in the legislature we are burdened with managing the waste stream. Dicks asked for guidance on a potential grant funding opportunity, and the Commission suggested $10,000 with the support from the Cities committed.

Discussions are taking place with Buena Vista University to potentially have a student produce video messages with recycling information that can be used in the future. It is hoped to have more information by the October meeting.

Agent Clark Fort updated the Commission on the Pollution Coverage renewal. Deductibles are going to go up to $25,000, which is the industry standard. More information should be available at the October meeting.

The next meeting will be on October 15, 5 p.m at Storm Lake City Hall. Wise motioned to adjourn and Meyer seconded, motion carried with all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Dicks