Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency
Regular Meeting, August 25, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency
2250 A Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

PRESENT: Craig Adamson, Mike Duffy (via Zoom), Roy Hesemann, Brandy Z. Meisheid, Tiffany O'Donnell, Scott Olson, Tyler Olson, Jennifer Pratt, Sami Scheetz

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Joe Horaney, Zac Hornung, Garrett Prestegard, Jason Evans, Celia Van Alst, Mitzi Brunsvold

OTHERS: Steve Jenson – City of Marion, Grant Harper – City of Marion, Bill Copper – Marion resident, Brian Harthun – Foth, Gina Wilming – Foth, Erik Miles – Marion resident, Grace Nieland – *The Gazette*, Alicia Presto – ECICOG (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Chair Olson. S. Olson moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026, board meeting. O'Donnell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Jensen addressed the board regarding data center waste and the need for diversion due to the amount of space their waste is generating. He encouraged the board to force the data centers to divert and recycle.

Executive Director Hiring Update: Olson updated board on the hiring committee's efforts: two meetings held, planning to hire a search firm, coordinating with City of Cedar Rapids Human Resources Department, and goal to have an Executive Director hired by February 2027. O'Donnell moved to authorize hiring committee to hire a search firm to find an Executive Director. S. Olson seconded. Meisheid noted that the Interim Director has been serving since May and will continue to do so until the Executive Director position is filled, while also fulfilling his other duties and deserves compensation for that work. Agreement from rest of board to address Interim Director's work at a later time. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Director Report: Horaney gave presentation about data center tonnage and options for the Agency to handle that amount of material. Discussion amongst board ensued, including efforts by the Agency and City of Cedar Rapids speaking with the companies behind the data center projects to ensure diversion and recycling. Staff directed to create a resolution requiring source-separation of materials prior to landfilling or face rejection. Resolution will come to the board for consideration at the September board meeting.

Harthun with Foth gave a presentation about utilizing waste transfer at Site #2, discussing capacity, tipping fees, and timelines for implementation. Discussion ensued amongst board and staff, including questions about the density of bulky loads vs residential waste, allowing the waste to go out of Linn County, and the options utilizing transfer will create in case of a future natural disaster. Adamson questioned whether the Agency should first vote on the working group recommendations before taking action on transfer. Meisheid agreed with the question. Scheetz discussed impacts on tipping fees for both residential and commercial customers. S. Olson noted transfer creates options, knowing capacity is limited. Hesemann said to get the most accurate information about costs and options for a phased approach, a motion should be made today. He moved to authorize staff to solicit disposal and hauling options and begin discussions with IDNR and ECICOG about disposal options. O'Donnell seconded. Motion carried 7-2 (Ayes – Duffy, Hesemann, O'Donnell, S. Olson, Olson, Pratt, Scheetz; Nays – Adamson, Meisheid).

Operations Report: Evans reviewed vehicle and equipment replacement purchase requests. Staff and Operations Committee recommended approval. Hesemann moved to approve purchase of a Freightliner

M2Plus from Kilburg in Preston, IA, for a total purchase price not to exceed $179,355.00 after trade. Adamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hesemann moved to approve purchase of a 2027 Ford F-150 SuperCrew 4x4 Heavy Duty pickup from Ed Stivers Ford, Waukee, IA for the total price of $42,863.00. Adamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adamson moved to approve purchase of a Ford F-250 Standard Cab 4x4 Heavy Duty pickup from Ed Stivers Ford, Waukee, IA for the total price of $45,911.00. Meisheid seconded. Discussion about dealership location and state contracts ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

Hesemann to approve the purchase of ten (10) tarpARMOR tarps and ancillary components from Southwest Sales Company in the amount of $44,089.00. Adamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Report: Prestegard discussed the Site #2 Phase 5B landfill cell project. Staff recommended authorizing bid letting and setting a public hearing on plans and specs. O'Donnell moved to authorize the bid letting and set a public hearing on plans and specifications for September 15, 2026. Scheetz seconded. Discussion on number of stages ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Report: Van Alst reviewed the August 2026 accounts payables and noted a large equipment purchase and water connection charge in the payables. Staff recommended approval of the payables. Pratt moved to approve August 2026 account payables in the amount of $1,377,256.70. Adamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Reports: Adamson questioned why the Agency has not voted on the working group recommendations, since City of Marion and Linn County have already approved them. Olson responded citing the three points under consideration: governance, host fee, and expansion. Since there is not agreement about all three points, he has not brought it to the full board for a vote. Adamson reminded all board members of their fiduciary duty as board members to make decisions in the best interest of the Solid Waste Agency and said he thinks the board should vote one way or another. Olson noted talks amongst the working group members continue and the contested issue is not done with.

Horaney let the board know that the City of Cedar Rapids has expressed interest in having Site #1 return to the City under the Park and Recreation Department, noting these talks have been underway for years as the Mount Trashmore trails and overlook increase in usage each year and the recreational aspect of the site is outside the Agency's mission and charge. Horaney will continue speaking with the City and could bring a proposal to the board for consideration later in autumn.

Public Input: Harper addressed the board, saying he appreciated the presentation. He discussed the working group and the time and effort that was put into the final recommendations that all parties on the working group signed-off on. He noted the MOU that led to the working group formation said if there were provisions that one of the parties did not agree with, they should voice them. Harper requested the Solid Waste Agency and the City of Cedar Rapids consider the working groups recommendations formally and have a vote so all parties have an answer, one way or another.

Due to lack of further business, meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.