

Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency

Special Meeting, February 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Held via Zoom

PRESENT: Craig Adamson, Roy Hesemann, Brandy Z. Meisheid, Tiffany O'Donnell, Scott Olson, Tyler Olson, Jennifer Pratt, Sami Scheetz

ABSENT: Mike Duffy

STAFF: Karmin McShane, Joe Horaney, Zac Hornung, Garrett Prestegard

OTHERS: Erik Miles – WasteNotIowa; Grace Nieland – *Cedar Rapids Gazette*

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Olson.

Public Input: None

Olson provided background on discussions with City of Marion regarding Site 2 capacity and introduced proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Solid Waste Agency, City of Marion, City of Cedar Rapids, and Linn County. The MOU would establish specific conditions and requirements that must be met before the City of Marion will consider a limited expansion of the landfill located at 1954 County Home Road, including governance and a host fee. City of Marion, City of Cedar Rapids, and Linn County have approved of the MOU. Working group will be formed by Linn County Friday afternoon.

Olson discussed the letter attached to the Agency's MOU recognizing Agency staff efforts successes achieved through diversion, maintaining financial strength, operations in compliance with federal and state regulations, and partnerships, both public and private, over the past twenty years since the settlement agreement. Noted tonnage is fourth in the state despite being second most populated county. Peer study shows that the Agency is regionally strong even when compared to other similar sized communities in the U.S. Olson said he is glad the entities involved understand the importance of having a local landfill, noting transfer is coming eventually and will cost significantly more. Keeping the space available is a priority.

S. Olson appreciates City of Marion being open to conversation. Thanked board for their ongoing efforts. He noted 70% of Linn County's waste comes from local industry and having an outlet for them is important to the local economy. Discussed the impact of the derecho on capacity and staff's response to the disaster, meeting the needs of the community. S. Olson said he supports the MOU as it gives time to look for alternatives, noting landfilling and lack of options are an issue nationwide. He is glad for the process and working toward a solution for all communities.

O'Donnell said she can speak to the partnership and the work Karmin and her team have done with transforming Mount Trashmore. She noted the responsibility they have to taxpayers to try and keep costs down, saying it would be irresponsible to not pursue all options that can create cost savings for residents.

Scheetz also stated his appreciation for all Agency staff and the work they do. He appreciates Marion, Cedar Rapids, and Linn County sitting down to talk and looks forward to working through the next steps.

Adamson said he has been hoping for a proactive approach, and this MOU could provide more time to find a longer term solution. Appreciates board efforts and this is an opportunity for the Agency to be a leader in that long-term effort.

Olson summarized by saying he appreciates board efforts with Forward 2044 and getting to this point. He called for a motion. S. Olson moved to approve the memorandum of understanding. O'Donnell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to lack of further business, meeting adjourned at 9:17am