BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
March 17, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (the "Authority") was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on March 17, 2026, in the first-floor conference room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, Pa. 19533.

The following members were present:

Charles Jones, PE
Michael Gombar, Jr., Esquire
Mr. Ron Rutkowski
Mr. Brian Clements
Mr. Tony Sacco
Ms. Jane Witheridge
Mr. Don Moll
Mr. Charles Mowbray attended virtually

Absent was Tony Rymar.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Soc Georgeadis, Esquire, Georgeadis Law

The Chairman declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public chose to speak.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Rutkowski, the minutes of the regular meetings of January 20, 2026, were unanimously approved.

FINANCE

a. Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Rutkowski distributed the Treasurer's Report and invoices for payment and reviewed them with the Board. Upon a motion by Mr. Gombar, seconded by Mr. Clements, the Board approved the payment of all invoices, ratified the payment of invoices previously paid and accepted the Treasurer's Report.

b. Certificate of Deposit

The Treasurer, Mr. Rutkowski, reported that the Authority has a certificate of deposit that will be maturing later this month, in the amount of 154,330.51 and recommended not renewing it and allowing it to mature, to give the Authority cash flow for our spring collection events

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Ms. Witheridge the Board unanimously approved to allow that certificate of deposit to mature.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Georgeadis requested that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation.

Upon a motion by Ms. Witheridge, seconded by Mr Rutkowski, the Board entered into Executive Session at 3:10 pm.

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Ms. Witheridge the Board meeting reconvened at 3:45 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Implementation of latex paint collection program

Ms. Meeks indicated that she had met with Brian Loy owner of Repaint USA to discuss the possibility of starting a latex paint collection program in Berks County. Ms. Meeks explained that the collection would take place a few times a year at the Recycling Center. The estimated cost would be $2,500 per collection, which would include his labor and processing costs.

After much discussion, the Board requested that their Executive Director obtain additional information on the process, indemnification, insurance and bonding, for further discussion at future Board meetings.

B. 902 Recycling Grant – update on County applicants

Ms. Meeks indicated that on March 2, 2026 PADEP announced the opening of another round of 902 Recycling Grants – Round 63. She indicated that only municipalities not receiving funding under the last round are eligible to apply. Ms. Meeks indicated that the following municipalities will be applying and that the mandatory pre-application meetings are scheduled over the next three weeks with applications due May 20, 2026:

Amity Township	Bern Township	Council of Governments
Heidelberg Township	Kutztown Borough	Laureldale Borough
Maidencreek Township	Robesonia Borough	Sinking Spring Borough
West Reading Borough	Womelsdorf Borough	

C. Annual Recycling Reports

Ms. Meeks reported that she has received and filed all of the annual recycling reports from our 73 municipalities, which are due April 1, 2026. Currently 256,000 tons of recyclables have been reported and she is currently running reports and evaluating the data for accuracy. She anticipates that our final recycling number will be approximately 260,000 tons, once all reports are reviewed.

D. Berks County Solid Waste Authority – Annual Report

Ms. Meeks indicated that copies of the draft annual report of the Authority were distributed to the Board for review and comment. Ms. Meeks indicated that all of the recycling reports have been received and she is currently evaluating that data, therefore the recycling data is not included in the draft report. Ms. Meeks briefly reviewed the document and asked if there were any comments or suggested changes. Ms. Meeks indicated that it is her intention to distribute the Report to the County and our municipalities, once complete and present it to the Commissioners at their weekly meeting, along with our chairman. Ms. Meeks requested that the Board contact her with any comments or corrections by the beginning of April, so they can be incorporated in the final report.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on upcoming collection events

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has submitted all of the necessary registrations for our spring hazardous waste collection to be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School. She indicated that the advertisements will begin running in the Reading Eagle March 23, 2026, and will continue through April 18th, in both digital and print format for both our hazardous waste collection and paper shredding event. Our spring collections will once again require mandatory pre-registration and indicated that we currently have 500 registered for our hazardous waste collection and 550 for our shredding event. She indicated that we can add additional time slots if needed, as we get closer to our event.

Ms. Meeks indicated that the Department of Agriculture has allocated $17,000 for Berks County pesticide disposal, which is collected during our household hazardous waste collections in 2026. She indicated that any pesticides over the $17,000 limit, will be reimbursed at the 50% rate by DEP, through our Act 190 grant. She indicated that the Department of Agriculture budget increased from 16,000 in 2025 and that she anticipates this funding covering 70% of the pesticides received.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she will limit the number of volunteers for our 2026 collections similar to our 2025 events, since surveying will not be required. All necessary information is being collected as part their registration process. Ms. Meeks indicated that magnets with our 2026 collection dates will be distributed to participants during our spring collections.

Ms. Meeks indicated that Shred-It will once again be providing the shredding services for our spring shredding event, which will require pre-registration. The spring shredding event will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School. Ms. Meeks indicated that Surge Volleyball club will once again be assisting with our event, as well as the Cumru Township Fire Police.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks indicated that approximately 2,500 residents used our electronic recycling center during the first quarter of 2026 recycling 120,000 pounds of electronics. The first quarter of the year has been a little slow due to the weather and we are hoping it picks up now that the weather is improving. Over 19 million pounds of electronics have been recycled, through our site, since opening in July of 2010.

Ms. Meeks indicated that both the County and PADEP has approved our 903 Recycling Grant, for 2025, which is estimated to be approximately $86,000, which has already been anticipated in our 2026 budget.

Ms. Meeks indicated that most of the other items outlined in her report have been discussed throughout today's meeting and offered to answer any questions that members may have, regarding her report.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Jones indicated that the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:15 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Rutkowski, seconded by Ms. Witheridge, the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.