



**CITY OF ANOKA  
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD  
Meeting Minutes January 14, 2026**



**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jones at 5:05 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall. Introductions were made.

**Roll Call**

- Board Members present: Veronica Jones, Brenda Belland, Sue Dergantz, Marijo Hain, Cheryl Knapek, and Shawn Weddel.
- Remote/Via Zoom: Eileen Rathbun
- Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager
- Others Present: None

**Oath of Office**

Congratulations to members Belland, Hain, and Knapek on their reappointment to the Waste Reduction & Recycling Board and to Shawn Weddel on his new appointment to the WRRB. Each of these members took the Oath of Office and signed the official form at the meeting.

**Election of Officers**

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson were elected. Following the election, the newly elected Chair will assume leadership at the meeting.

Chair Jones took nominations for Chairperson. Member Knapek made a nomination for Veronica Jones, seconded by Member Dergantz. Chair Jones asked for any additional nominations. None were made. Motion to appoint Veronica Jones as Chair for a second term: 7 ayes - 0 nays.

Chair Jones asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Member Belland nominated Cheryl Knapek. Vice Chair Dergantz seconded. No other nominations were made. Motion to appoint Member Knapek as Vice Chair was made with 7 ayes – 0 nays. Motions passed.

**Review of Mission Statement, Establishing WRRB, Solid Waste City Code**

Each January these documents are provided for review. Bowman said these were provided for information only, but that this topic was open for discussion or questions. No discussion was held.

### **Approval of November 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the November 12, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Knappek, seconded by Member Hain.

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

#### **Establish Subcommittees.**

Multi-Unit – Member Hain

Organics – Chair Jones & Member Dergantz

Little Free Library – Member Belland

Citywide Garage – Vice Chair Knappek and Pam Bowman

Soles4Souls/Sneakers4Good – Member Rathbun

Swap/Reuse Event – Vice Chair Knappek, Members Dergantz and Weddel.

ReCork – Member Belland

#### **Subcommittees Reports:**

- **Alley & Ave Retail Boutique Follow up.** Chair Jones said there might be an opportunity for us to collect items for them. VC Knappek asked if we could advertise for them. Bowman said yes because they are a non-profit. Member Rathbun said she will talk with them to see if they can come up with one material that we could collect for them. Member Rathbun will report back.
- **Multi-Unit Program** –Nothing new to report.
- **Organics Program** – Chair Jones reported things are going well. One suspected contamination after the holidays of large leaf bags, it was frozen, and it was dumped as waste. She and Member Dergantz continue to maintain the site. Bowman thanked them for their continuous efforts.
- **Little Free Library** – Some crafts are showing up, and members are instructed to remove those items if they see them. Member Belland still has some contacts for books. Member Dergantz will bring books and Chair Jones will add kids' books.
- **Citywide Garage Sale** – Vice Chair Knappek will work with Bowman on deadlines. Event will be May 15 & 16. The Swap/Reuse Committee members will discuss ideas to replace the former reuse event.

Chair Jones asked about collecting reuse weight information from individuals and suggested she do some research. Member Weddel suggested a website where people can report their items and weight, or some means to do so.

- **Soles4Souls Program** – Bowman explained that shipping fees are now required for Soles4Souls and Peterson Shoes has offered to continue the collection but is requesting the city reimburse them for the shipping. Member Weddel suggested a donation from users. Chair Jones asked Bowman to ask the County if SCORE would cover. Vice Chair Knappek wondered if this program is taking needed shoes out of the community. Should these shoes be saved for a swap event? Member Rathbun suggested bringing them to ACBC Food shelf or a trunk swap event. Member Weddel said that would eliminate two issues; shipping costs and taking something needed for the community. Members will pursue opportunities and bring them back to next meeting. Weddel suggested setting up a contract with Peterson Shoes to allow for a certain amount of funds. Consensus is to keep them in the community and partner with the Sneakers4Good program.
- **Swap/Reuse** – Dergantz reported about a clothing swap for children and teens. R Marketplace would like to host it in August (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week) again in the City Hall Community Room.

Vice Chair Knappek shared information about the Maple Grove outdoor gifting event. It is held monthly, rain/shine/snow on Sundays. From 2-2:30 p.m. participants set up in a parking lot next to one another. At 3 p.m. a whistle blows for shoppers. People have 1 hour to shop. All participants have to stay throughout. You get one parking stall, take back all you came with, no trash, etc. They need 10 volunteers for traffic and two volunteers for event: 18 or older. They consistently have problems getting volunteers. FB page: Gift economy events of the Twin Cities.

- **ReCork Program** – Going well we are doing the first shipping of the corks. Member Rathbun suggested asking Ambi Wine Bar to participate. Member Belland will look into it.
- **Closing the Loop on Zero Waste Follow-up.** Member Dergantz read the book. Member Dergantz would love to hear this person speak. The 7 Rs of closing the loop. Refuse, Reduce, Reusing, Repair, Repurpose, Recycle, Rot, Rethink (8). Author: Hepokoski. Member Dergantz will reach out to author to see if she would like to speak. It can be held in the community room or at R Marketplace.

## **Review 2025 Accomplishments & 2026 Goals**

### Accomplishments

1. Increased participation in the Organics Program.
2. Hosted a swap and a reuse event.
3. Collaborated with QCTV on a video to encourage recycling of the Social District plastic cups.

4. Provided diverse content for both beginners and seasoned recyclers in the RAW newsletter
5. Partnered with Better Values Liquor Store to implement the ReCork Program and recycling of natural wine corks.

## **2026 Goals**

1. Organics Program Enhancements
  - a. Research curbside organics
  - b. Offer educational resources
  - c. Implement organics collection at Rockin' on the Rum concerts
2. Swap & Reuse Programs and Events
  - a. Coordinate a Local Buy Nothing/Local Free Stuff Event
  - b. Partner with R Marketplace to host an event during Night to Unite
  - c. Continue partnering with Peterson Shoes to collect gently used tennis shoes through Sneakers4Good and collect all types of shoes to donate to ACBC Food Shelf.
  - d. Expand the ReCork Program to other locations.
3. Improve recycling of the Social District plastic cups.
4. Invite youth representative(s) to join the WRRB.
5. Research how to collect independent residential reuse tonnage.
6. Present recycling information to the Landlords & Managers Association

**Holiday Lights Collection Update.** Bowman thanked both Chair Jones and Member Belland for packaging the holidays lights that were collected in December. More help will be needed in the first or second week of February after closing the collection on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Aluminum Can Recycling Trailer Update.** Collection continues, trailers remain at Grey Ghost Field and the Anoka Aquatic Center. Public Services continues to monitor and empty as needed. Tonnage will be reported in the year end report.

**Solid Waste Ordinance Update.** With Anoka County's 2024-2044 Master Plan now completed and approved, the WRRB should review it as homework and discuss at their February or March meeting how it may play a role in revisions to the city's Solid Waste Ordinance. Chair Jones questions what the redlined "if offered" referred to. Bowman will report back in February.

**Electronics and Battery Product Stewardship Bill.** Nothing new to report.

Member Hain left at 6:44 p.m.

## **New Business**

**RAW Newsletter.** The following were suggested for the 2026 spring edition of RAW:

- Compostable paper plates

- “Did You Know” section - we’ve collected “number of shoes” with our program. Do you know the difference between biodegradable and compostable?
- Alley & Ave Boutique
- Spring Recycling Event
- Citywide Garage Sale
- July drop-off event
- Curbside event if falls in spring/summer

**2026 Events** – Bowman provided the board the 2026 Recycling/Reuse Events list for discussion.

- **Spring Recycling Event** – Vendors are secured. Bowman is still waiting on pricing from most. Once pricing is received, members will need to determine whether they will give any discounts.

Bowman said she received concerns from volunteers at the fall 2025 event noting that some volunteers were taking donated items that were meant for other organizations and that this should not occur. Bowman said she asked other cities how they handle this and some have a policy in place. Bowman will provide an example policy at a future meeting.

Need to determine shoe collection and if it will go to Peterson Shoes for shipping to Soles4Souls or Sneakers4Good or directly to ACBC Food Shelf.

- **Garage Sale Event** – Friday, May 15 – Saturday, May 16  
Vice Chair Knappek and Bowman will work on details.
- **Farmers Market Participation**  
The WRRB members that wish to host a booth can select their dates. Anoka County can select dates after that if they wish.
- **Curbside Recycling Event with JR’s Advanced Recyclers.** Bowman said this is \$15,000 budgeted for this service. She provided information on a new potential program that could offer bulky item pick up service on an ongoing basis contracted with a vendor. She said Coon Rapids offers this with Certified Recycling. The city covers the service fee (\$40/per stop), and the resident pays the cost of the recycling. The resident contacts the vendor directly to schedule and make payment. The city is billed accordingly. Bowman said it is the same concept as the other curbside events they held last year with JRs Advanced Recyclers, only this is on an ongoing basis. Members will determine at their February meeting if they wish to go this route or host two individual curbside events during 2026.

- **Summer Recycling Drop-Off Event** – This is scheduled with Recycle Technologies for Saturday, July 25, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Budget of \$12,900 for residents' discounts. Members to discuss discount at the February meeting.
- Clothing Swap/Other Swap Events. Committee to discuss and determine.
- **Fall Recycling Event** – Scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 8 a.m. – Noon. Fees would remain the same as the spring event.
- **Pumpkin Smash Event** – A dumpster will be ordered for delivery on November 1st and pick up after November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**July - December 2025 SCORE Report.** Bowman reported that she finalized the expense report and the total amount of requested reimbursement is \$48,322.19. She said there was about \$12,000 remaining and that Anoka County personnel allowed for more dollars to be accounted for related to labor stating that staff and the WRRB work hard on the many programs and events they offer.

### **Communications**

**2024 Anoka County Solid Waste Master Plan.** Chair Jones said this is provided as homework to review and to determine if any of the information should be included in the city's Solid Waste Ordinance. Because of the size of this document, this can be discussed at the March meeting to give everyone time to review it.

**Organized Solid Waste Collection.** This item was unintentionally overlooked during the meeting, and an update will be discussed at the February meeting.

**2026 Recycling Calendars from ACE Solid Waste.** Bowman held up the 2026 schedule that ACE mailed out to residents in early December. None of the members recalled receiving it in the mail.

**Environmental Specialist Position.** Bowman reported that this new city position will be advertised in the coming weeks and the new hire will take over her responsibilities as recycling manager, including as the staff liaison to the WRRB.

**2026 Meetings & Activities Schedule** – Members reviewed the schedule and adjusted accordingly.

**General Recycling Questions.** Chair Jones shared information about Ridwell. She said she signed up for the mail in program only.

REMINDER: A topic may not be discussed if it is not on the agenda and the topic should relate to our mission/goals.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.