



**CITY OF ANOKA  
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD  
Meeting Minutes February 11, 2026**



**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Knappek at 5:03 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall.

**Roll Call**

- Board Members present: Brenda Belland, Sue Dergantz, Marijo Hain, Cheryl Knappek, and Shawn Weddel.
- Absent: Chair Veronica Jones
- Remote/Via Zoom: Eileen Rathbun (out of town)
- Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager
- Others Present: None

**Approval of January 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the January 14, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Member Hain, seconded by Member Belland.

6 ayes – 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Old Business**

**Subcommittees Reports:**

- **Alley & Ave Retail Boutique Follow up.** Member Rathbun reported the manager would be happy for us to collect something. Suggesting canning jars and flower pots, and/or wooden picture frames. Add gently used canning jars and wooden frames to spring recycling flyer.
- **Multi-Unit Program** –Nothing new to report.
- **Organics Program** – Member Dergantz reported that it has been going really well. Bowman said she received a concern from a participant that a person was sitting or maybe hiding on the opposite side of the dumpster while she was dropping off her organics. The

participant felt unsafe and said will never bring her organics to that site. Bowman suggested a future discussion of security camera options should be held again.

- **Little Free Library** – Member Belland reported it is full. She cleaned it out. About 65% kids and 35% novels.
- **Citywide Garage Sale** – VC Knapek reported she contacted Thrifty MN website. Bowman reported registration will be available beginning March 2nd. Event is scheduled for May 15 & 16. The Swap/Reuse Committee members reported they will be organizing swap events, but not a reuse event the size of previous years. Bowman will tell registrants that Anoka County has changed and will be having a reuse event at a later date; watch for information from Anoka County.
- **Soles4Souls Program** – Member Rathbun reported we are ending the Soles4Souls Program but shifting the shoe collection to support ACBC Food Shelf's thrift store. Peterson Shoes will continue to collect gently used shoes, package them, and contact ACBC for pickup. ACBC will then provide them in their clothing store for reuse. The city will promote the program. We won't be working with Sneakers4Good; however, Peterson Shoes may continue to do so on their own. Rathbun requested specific boxes for the shoes to be collected at the spring recycling event.
- **Swap/Reuse** – Member Rathbun reported that several cities are doing various swap events. Hennepin County does as well. Halloween costumes, sporting equipment, etc. The subcommittee will be meeting soon to discuss ideas.
- **ReCork Program** – Member Belland reported it has slowed down, but we have emptied it twice. She will check with Ambi to see if they would like to participate.
- **Closing the Loop on Zero Waste Follow-up.** Member Dergantz reported that she is waiting for a response from the author.

### General Updates

- **Holiday Lights Collection Update.** Bowman thanked VC Knapek and Member Belland for packaging the holidays lights today that were collected in January. They will be picked up for recycling on Friday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **Aluminum Can Recycling Trailer Update.** Bowman reported collection continues, trailers remain at Grey Ghost Field and the Anoka Aquatic Center. Public Services continues to monitor and empty as needed.
- **Electronics and Battery Product Stewardship Bill.** Rathbun said she attended a webinar. There will be two bills referencing e-recycling and batteries. This group that presented this to us a couple years ago are working on a Right to Repair Act. VC Knapek had information on the Right to Repair Act. Senate file 2484 and House file 2519.

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

Members reviewed the list and made recommendations. Bowman will update and bring it back to the March meeting. They will vote on the lists in March.

**RAW Newsletter.** Bowman reported articles are due on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to the designer. The following will be included:

- Did You Know - we collected “ \_\_\_\_ pairs of shoes” and switching to support ACBC Food Shelf.
  - Do you know the difference between biodegradable and compostable? By Chair Jones.
  - Shout out about Alley & Ave Boutique
  - Spring Recycling Event
  - Citywide Garage Sale
  - Boost for organics participants if space allows.
  - Bowman will work with designer to maximize space on the cover.
  - VC Knappek – suggested articles from the CR newsletter (wish cycling, etc.).
- **Spring Recycling Event** – Bowman reported she is still waiting on confirmation from First State Tire and pricing, but everything else is in place. She asked what items should be subsidized other than appliances, batteries, and bulbs. It was determined to price all mattresses and box springs at \$15 (including crib), offer all small appliances and electronics for free – these are \$6/ea.

Rathbun reported that Alley & Ave retail store could use some wooden frames and canning jars. We will add “gently used” in our spring recycling event information.

- **July - December 2025 SCORE Report.** Bowman reviewed the reports with the members. She reminded them that the requested reimbursement for expenses was \$48,322.19, with about \$12,000 remaining in SCORE fund and that Anoka County personnel allowed for more dollars to be accounted toward labor. While we are still waiting on some last minute tonnage reports, the approximate tonnage collected should be close to 1,036 tons.
- **Solid Waste Ordinance Update.** Bowman referred to the 2024 Anoka County Solid Waste Master Plan and asked if members had time to review it. She said she has not had a chance to review it and would like more time to do so and suggested reviewing it for another month and to discuss in March and finalize in April. All agreed.

## **2026 Recycling Events**

- **Curbside Recycling Event with JR’s Advanced Recyclers.** Bowman reminded there is \$15,000 budgeted for this service and they can choose a couple dates throughout the year or the all year program and/or subsidize costs.

She said Coon Rapids offers all year - the city covers the service fee (\$30/-\$40per 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 determined to go this route. Bowman will make arrangements with JRs Advanced Recyclers.

- **Farmers Market Participation**

Members will choose a date for June, July, August, and September.

- **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 determined to offer a coupon good for recycling of two items for free. Items will include appliances, electronics, and mattresses and box springs. Members declined adding a paper shredding truck. This will be advertised in the summer City View newsletter.

### New Business

**Holiday Stuff Reuse Event.** This item will be moved to the March meeting due to Chair Jones' absence.

### Communications

**Organized Solid Waste Collection.** Bowman reported that the city and haulers entered into a 60-day negotiation period in early January. Their first meeting was held on January 29<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. The City Manager and Assistant City Manager continue to schedule weekly meetings with the haulers. The City Council can next discuss the topic at their March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting if they choose to do so, which would be beyond the 60-day negotiation phase. No other information is available.

Member Hain left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

**Environmental Specialist Position.** Bowman reported that this new city position will be advertised soon and the new hire will take over all her responsibilities related to the recycling program and as staff liaison to the WRRB. Bowman is hopeful they will be hired before the April recycling event so they can be included and know what to expect for the fall event.

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

### **General Recycling Questions.**

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 6:47 p.m.