

Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: December 19, 2025

Meeting Type: Regular Commission Meeting

Location: Courthouse Annex Building, Loudon, Tennessee

Time: 6:00 pm EST

Chairman: Mr. Adam Waller

Attendees:

- **Commission Members Present:** Chairman Mr. Adam Waller, Mr. Gary Hendrix, Dr. Steve Bartell
- **Commission Members Absent:** Ms. Monty Ross, Mr. Andy Lawson
- **Legal Representation:** Ms. Elizabeth Murphy (not present)
- **Republic Services:** Mr. David Hollinshead, Mr. Stoddard Pickerell
- **Public:** Mr. Brian Viars, Ms. Pat Hunter, Mr. Anklan, Ms. Bonnie Coffey

Note: No votes taken due to lack of quorum (two commission members absent).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brian Viars - Road Safety Hazards and Project Status:

Mr. Viars raised critical safety concerns about current road conditions and requested multiple project updates. The mud situation has exceeded pre-rainfall conditions creating what he characterized as "an absolute nightmare" and major safety hazard. He tested braking at approximately 20 mph with no vehicles ahead and experienced significant sliding, confirming hazardous conditions. He requested updates on: (1) lawsuit status, (2) paving project timeline (originally scheduled weeks ago, delayed by weather and cold temperatures), and (3) communication protocols. Mr. Viars expressed concern that submitting requested road condition photographs to all three mayors (Buddy Bradshaw, Jeff Harris, Tony Aikens) and Chairman Waller receives acknowledgment only from Mayor Tony Aikens of Lenoir City, creating impression the board doesn't care about documented conditions. Chairman Waller clarified the most important recipient for all complaints is Republic Services, who currently are not copied on Mr. Viars' emails, recommending this be corrected immediately since Republic handles all operational complaints.

Mr. Anklan - Brush and Tree Disposal:

Questioned whether dedicated cell exists at landfill for trees and brush disposal separate from sanitary waste areas. Stoddard confirmed dedicated area exists for brush and stumps with grinding capability to produce mulch for operational use.

Pat Hunter - Multiple Status Inquiries:

Ms. Hunter requested updates on: (1) lawsuit status and whether Republic has been served and responded, (2) audit completion status, (3) vulture control program effectiveness and verification methodology for tracking results to ensure value for expenditure.

Vulture Program Discussion:

Chairman Waller directed question to Bonnie regarding success measures and current vulture activity. Bonnie reported seeing fewer vultures currently with limited landing activity, noting contractor indicates minimal catching opportunities as many vultures migrated further south for winter with reduced activity expected during cold months. Property does not allow roosting, though vultures still observed flying in area. Public comments indicated neighboring properties experience more significant vulture presence compared to landfill property. Mr. Hendrix noted his early question to contractor about migratory patterns, acknowledging vultures are migratory birds though suspecting year-round resident population will persist, committing to raise issue again with contractor. Ms. Hunter questioned complaint routing; Chairman Waller confirmed all complaints should go to Republic Services, though acknowledged board wants awareness, emphasizing proper protocol channels complaints through Republic.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Minutes Approval:

No minutes approved due to lack of quorum with two commission members absent; approval deferred to January meeting.

Audit Update:

Chairman Waller reported finally receiving final draft from Mr. Vance after extensive back-and-forth review process. He must review final version with Ms. Murphy before presenting it to commission, with vote scheduled for January meeting.

BORROW PIT REZONING

County Commission approved rezoning application for submission. Chairman Waller owes signed copy of application to Stoddard, who confirmed electronic signature acceptable. Chairman Waller agreed to e-sign document promptly.

JURISDICTIONAL WATERS ASSESSMENT

Dr. Bartell and Chris Cline conducted on-site property walk to assess jurisdictional waters issues. Chris Cline is preparing comprehensive report for commission review and discussion at January meeting.

PAVING PROJECT STATUS AND MUD MITIGATION

Project Delays and Current Status:

Stoddard provided detailed update explaining one-week delay from original post-Thanksgiving start date due to contractor's need to complete other previously started projects. Work commenced last weekend with two of three catch basins installed; third catch basin will be installed upgradient of wheel wash after initial paving completion. Entire road previously characterized as "giant rumble strip" shedding maximum sediment before entrance has been graded with road base and binder. Cold and wet conditions prevented this week paving, with Christmas week approaching and continued wet weather creating approximately another week delay, targeting completion before New Year dependent on weather conditions.

Stoddard's Frustration and Systemic Analysis:

Stoddard acknowledged personal frustration with mud situation, explaining fundamental infrastructure problem: scales and entrance "basically backed up to dirt" in configuration typical of Tennessee and North Carolina landfills he manages. **Long-term solution requires:** Removing dirt interface, relocating scales further onto landfill property to eliminate unmanageable dirt leaving site. Current limitation prevents using water truck on Highway 72 for washing (would discharge sediment into river conveyance channels); once road paved, storm water infrastructure will enable washing and managing sediment on-property effectively.

Interim Measures:

Teresa ordered substantial rock delivery today for installation from wheel wash up to hill, creating "giant rumble strip" ahead of wheel wash. Road currently appears "quite nice" minus pavement—very smooth maintaining vehicle alignment, addressing potential concerns. Stoddard had "couple aggressive conversations" with contractor today pushing completion.

Current Operations:

Site currently paving approximately quarter mile; manages quarter-mile of Highway 72 with street sweeper operating all day every day regardless of weather, sweeping maximum dust possible. Situation represents "infrastructure limitation" requiring everything to move closer to hill and further from entrance as post-paving goal.

Timeline Confirmation:

- Two catch basins installed
- One catch basin remaining (post-paving installation)
- Christmas Thursday next week
- Target paving dates: December 26th, 27th, 28th
- Contractors managing project completion before Christmas if conditions allow
- Don't want setup over Christmas holiday
- Strategy: "Under promise and over-deliver"
- Post-Christmas immediate return for weekend work

- Goal: Completion before New Year holiday weather permitting

NEW CELL MODULES APPROVAL AND MUD ELIMINATION STRATEGY

CQA Approval Received:

Chairman Waller confirmed yesterday's approval of two new modules' Construction Quality Assurance (CQA), eliminating sliver filling requirement immediately.

New Dumping Pad Infrastructure:

Stoddard described robust tipping pads already constructed in new cells with completely constructed road network eliminating mud interaction except perimeter road around brush pile on north hill side, which will receive complete rock coverage before traffic utilization. Strategy focuses on getting operations off top deck quickly to prevent mud caking in tire treads.

Rumble Strip Effect for Sediment Control:

Once rock installed creating rumbling effect, sediment breaks away from tire treads; as trucks proceed through wheel wash and drive down, sediment sheds away from road surface. Current problem: Trucks rumble to scales, drive directly onto road with "no mediation, no medium" allowing sediment to stay on-site—"straight from the site straight to the road." **Paving will be massive improvement** for keeping sediment on the property.

Top Deck Transition Timeline:

Chairman Waller questioned timeline for transitioning off top deck to new dumping pad. Stoddard explained Hinkle will utilize top deck continually during waste relocation as capping project progresses. Teresa will implement "fluffing" strategy requiring very specific MSW initially residential waste like Cheeto bags, spent burgers, typical 90-gallon bin contents. **First six feet requires very specific MSW composition**; after that depth, "free range" management is possible. Teresa must segregate loads, removing items like fence posts and other inappropriate materials for proper initial cell development. **First week or two involves load segregation** ensuring proper cell fluffing. **CQA approved two working faces during transition period.**

Chairman Waller's Timeline Expectation:

Requested a January 12th target for complete top deck transition (two full post-Christmas weeks). Stoddard guaranteed January commission meeting will show site in "much better position with the new cell," confirming new cell operational by January 15th latest.

LONG-TERM SCALE RELOCATION PLANNING

Dr. Bartell's Question:

Questioned scale relocation plans referenced earlier.

Stoddard's Strategic Vision:

Described strategy as "hiding the weenie," sequencing projects protectively demonstrating "we've done this, next step is this." Long-term goal: New scale positioned at Y-fork of hill where road divides, representing optimal location for managing site access and eliminating dirt interface problems.

MULCH UTILIZATION AND BRUSH PILE MANAGEMENT

Public Question on Mulch Usage:

Mr. Anklan questioned whether mulch from tree/brush area being utilized for tipping operations, noting previous conversation approximately 18 months ago where Stoddard indicated mulch wasn't suitable cover material. Questioned current utilization given biodegradable nature, availability, and free grinding costs versus previous burning practice.

Stoddard's Confirmation:

Confirmed active mulch utilization, absolutely no burning planned. Referenced previous fire incident; public indicated ash landed on residence for four days. Chairman Waller clarified lightning strike caused fire with volunteer rescue squad advising controlled burn-out. Stoddard expressed surprise at last year's fire (news to him), noting probable grinding of affected material already completed.

Current and Future Plans:

Already spent \$100,000 on mulch grinding and utilization. Contractor scoping remainder for early 2025 grinding with quote pending; timing dependent on winter weather, likely late January. Already used substantial quantity mixing with dirt for slope stabilization and heavily applying to roads keeping trucks off sediment.

CONVENIENCE CENTER CONCERNS

Ms. Hunter raised complaint about convenience center operations. Chairman Waller explained this issue falls under County Commission jurisdiction rather than Solid Waste Commission. As County Commissioner, he will address concern with Chris Parks regarding inappropriate commercial/industrial trash disposal at convenience centers designed for residential use.

LAWSUIT STATUS UPDATE

Ms. Murphy's Recommendation - Withdrawal:

Chairman Waller reported Ms. Murphy recommending lawsuit pause. Over past five months, commission aggressively pushed Republic to complete road paving and new cell development. Both projects are now completed/near completion (paving imminent, sliver filling eliminated, top deck transition progressing). **Commission retains absolute right to refile lawsuit**, but Ms. Murphy recommends withdrawal and potential refile if needed because litigation becomes expensive.

Strategy: Assess paved road and new dumping area effectiveness before proceeding with costly litigation.

REPUBLIC SERVICES OPERATIONS REPORT

December 9th Inspection - Leachate Observation:

Chairman Waller questioned page three reference to observed leachate on-site (not AOC-level but noted concern).

Stoddard's Explanation:

Issue involves east ditch (previously plugged area) where the toe drain installation planned. During rainstorms, because ditch remains plugged, all runoff from road and slope settles into pond.

Timing-dependent problem: Teresa efficiently dispatches crews immediately post-storm for backup removal, but extended storms cause pooling requiring longer removal time. Inspector present during pooling, but understands plan, progress, and goals, agreeing with approach and acknowledging management continues until Pond Two abatement project essentially completed.

Toe Drain Installation Timeline:

Currently in progress addressing overfills. Granite rock on-site, pipe for toe drain on-site. Awaiting geotextile shipment confirmation from Agrew (North Carolina or North Georgia supplier). Cannot provide definite installation date until geotextile arrives; upon arrival, immediate excavation and cleanout connection work commences.

Mattress Disposal Inquiry (Ms. Hunter):

Ms. Hunter questioned page four of the summary customer activity report regarding entry #138, asking about mattress disposal procedures and whether they damage compaction machinery, requesting information on designated disposal sections.

Stoddard's Response:

If mattresses enter landfill for disposal (versus cans placed in working face), they receive standard treatment: Driven over repeatedly, approximately six compactor passes, integrating into waste stream without special handling.

LITTER CONTROL ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Hendrix's Follow-up:

Referenced last month's discussion about road debris (bags, papers) with Republic committing to driver notification/reminders. Questioned implementation effectiveness.

David Hollinshead's Response:

Scale house staff is now verbally notifying all drivers upon entry. Willing to increase vocal emphasis if needed, confirming communication protocol implemented and continuing emphasis on compliance.

December 2025 Action Items

Item	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Copy Republic Services on road condition emails	Brian Viars	Immediate	Ongoing
E-sign borrow pit rezoning application	Chairman Waller	December 20	Pending
Complete jurisdictional waters report	Cline/Bartell	January	In Progress
Complete road paving project	Republic Services	Before Dec 31	Weather Dependent
Install third catch basin	Republic Services	After paving	Scheduled
Install rock rumble strip (wheel wash to hill)	Republic Services	Immediate	Ordered
Transition operations to new cell modules	Republic Services	By Jan 15	In Progress
Complete top deck operations	Republic Services	By Jan 16	Target
Grind remaining brush pile	Republic Services	Late January	Quote Pending
Complete toe drain installation	Republic Services	Upon geotextile arrival	Materials Awaited
Review final audit with Ms. Murphy	Chairman Waller	Before January	Scheduled
Present audits for approval	Chairman Waller	January Meeting	Scheduled
Address convenience center concerns with Chris Parks	Chairman Waller	Ongoing	Committed
Assess paved road effectiveness	Commission	January/February	Post-Completion

Item	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Continue litter control driver notifications	Republic Services	Ongoing	Implemented

Next Meeting

Date: January 16, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Loudon County Annex Building

Anticipated Discussion Items: • Approval of November and December 2025 meeting minutes • FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 audit approvals • Paving project completion report and road condition assessment • New cell module operational status and top deck transition completion • Jurisdictional waters assessment report from Chris Cline • Toe drain installation completion status • Mud mitigation effectiveness evaluation • Brush pile grinding completion and utilization report • Lawsuit status and potential refiling decision • Litter control enforcement effectiveness • Borrow pit rezoning final approval status

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. No formal adjournment motion due to lack of quorum.

Minutes.respectfully.submitted.by.Monty.Ross?LCSWDC.Interim.Secretary
Chairman;Adam.Waller?Loudon.County.Solid.Waste.Disposal.Committee

Note: Full video of LCSWDC meeting available at: Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Meeting, December 19, 2025 (youtube.com)