

## **Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 15, 2026

**Meeting Type:** Regular Commission Meeting

**Location:** Courthouse Annex Building, Loudon, Tennessee

**Time:** 6:00 pm EST

**Chairman (Acting):** Ms. Monty Ross

### **Attendees:**

- **Commission Members Present:** Ms. Monty Ross (Acting Chair), Mr. Gary Hendrix, Mr. Andy Lawson, Dr. Steve Bartell
  - **Commission Members Absent:** Chairman Mr. Adam Waller (illness)
  - **Legal Representation:** Ms. Elizabeth Murphy (not present)
  - **Republic Services:** Mr. Stoddard Pickerell, Mr. David Hollinshead
  - **Public:** Bonnie Coffey, Chris Kirby, Pat Hunter, Brian Viars, Larry Jameson
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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Chairman Waller contacted Ms. Ross at approximately 3:00 pm reporting illness symptoms and chose not to attend to avoid potentially exposing others. Roll call confirmed four commissioners present with Chairman Waller absent.

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### **PRE-MEETING CLARIFICATION REQUEST**

Pat Hunter requested her name be corrected in audit documents to "Pat Hunter" and notation made that she served on the commission for two months in 2024. This correction will be incorporated into audit revisions.

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

#### **June 2025 Minutes - Deferred:**

Ms. Ross explained the June 2025 minutes require verbiage corrections requested by Ms. Murphy for clarification. The June meeting involved a period when recording equipment was not operational, requiring reconstruction from notes and memory with Gary Busch's assistance. Corrections will be addressed at February meeting when Chairman Waller returns.

#### **November and December 2025 Minutes Approval:**

The commission reviewed November and December 2025 meeting minutes included in the packet.

**Motion:** Approve November 2025 and December 2025 meeting minutes as presented

**Motion by:** Dr. Bartell

**Seconded by:** Mr. Lawson

**Result:** Approved unanimously

**FY 2024 and FY 2025 Audits - Deferred:**

Audits completed by Vance CPA LLC require corrections including commissioner names for respective years and service duration notations. Chairman Waller will return audits to Mr. Vance for corrections. Review and approval scheduled for February meeting.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Pat Hunter - Lawsuit and Audit Concerns:**

Ms. Hunter raised multiple concerns requiring commission response:

**Audit Corrections:** Requested her two-month 2024 service period be accurately reflected in audit documents along with name correction to "Pat Hunter." Also noted Diannah Mullins served couple months and should be similarly documented.

**Lawsuit Questions:** Expressed concern about lawsuit filed (from memory) in October, which she obtained from courthouse. Papers apparently never served, no response received, then withdrawn without board approval. Questioned why lawsuit filed without first ensuring resolution of issues like road conditions to everyone's satisfaction before withdrawal. Requested explanation for this sequence.

**Ms. Ross's Explanation:**

Ms. Murphy filed case, but summons was not issued. Strategy involved having discussions with Republic Services about commission concerns. The filing provided very concise description of commission expectations. After discussions with Republic's attorneys over time, determination made that sufficient response had not been received, and lawsuit would not proceed forward. Ms. Murphy explained this process to commissioners.

**Dr. Bartell's Clarification:**

Understanding indicates board approval not needed for removal because lawsuit never officially filed.

**Public Response (Bonnie Coffey):**

Objected that public was told lawsuit was filed and public paid for legal services based on that representation.

**Ms. Ross's Response:**

Acknowledged legal nuances unfamiliar to non-attorneys, noting Ms. Murphy explained some procedural aspects. Requested other commissioners assist with explanation.

**Mr. Lawson's Position:**

Not being attorney, uncomfortable stating exactly what Ms. Murphy said. Requested Ms. Murphy explain at next meeting.

**Ms. Hunter's Financial Concerns:**

Requested written explanation noting Ms. Murphy did not work without compensation during months of Republic discussions. Had expectations when complaint filed (which courthouse records show was filed) that something concise and decisive would result. If related to road improvements, residents living in area should speak to satisfaction with results. Needs concrete information on what Republic will do since expectations not met for people traveling road daily. Requested itemized costs for Ms. Murphy's work including what exceeded regular monthly fees specifically for lawsuit.

**Commission Response on Payment:**

Ms. Ross indicated invoices from Ms. Murphy previously received identifying regular duties separately from litigation amounts, though detailed breakdown not immediately available. Hendrix confirmed payment made at recent meeting (believed November), noting details would be in approved minutes. Hunter requested documentation showing what resulted from complaint.

**Ms. Ross's Forward-Looking Response:**

Indicated upcoming paving project discussion would address improvements, suggesting things are happening and improving based on TDEC feedback and photographs Brian Viars provided showing some improvement even since recent pictures after rain. Detailed discussion scheduled later in agenda.

**December Meeting Minutes Clarification:**

Ms. Hunter questioned whether December meeting lacked quorum and whether minutes exist. Ms. Ross confirmed minutes were prepared, included in packet, and just approved. Dr. Bartell clarified no quorum meant no actions could be taken, but discussions occurred and were documented.

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**Brian Viars - Road Conditions and Safety:**

Mr. Viars presented detailed photographic evidence and timeline:

**Sunday Conditions (Post-Rain):** Road "super clean" following Saturday-Sunday heavy downpour. Photographs show visible road lines throughout.

**Monday Deterioration:** Time-stamped photographs show road "brown as it can be" by Monday. Gave Republic "benefit of the doubt" over subsequent days to assess whether sweeping/cleanup would occur or conditions would worsen.

**Progressive Worsening:** Conditions same or worse over multiple days. Heavy mud droppings—not smeared mud from backing into wet areas—but "big clumps of mud all the way up the road."

Conditions unchanged from historical patterns. By 5:00 pm meeting day, conditions identical to 3:00-4:00 pm when photographs submitted to commission.

**Conclusion:** "Pictures don't lie." Road returned to dirty condition by Monday and remained unchanged. Sunday's clean road with visible lines now "faded off because of the mud."

**Future Contingency Question:** If paving doesn't work, what is next step? Is Republic prepared for additional measures? His opinion: Paving uphill and back not a fix for mud. "As long as you continue to dump in that mud, there's going to be mud track out whether it's on their road or the highway, the state highway."

**School Construction Soil Question:** Questioned whether contaminated dirt from new school construction site near Lenoir City was brought to landfill and, if so, whether disposed properly. Sought clarification on soil location if delivered to facility.

**Soil Contamination Discussion:**

Extended discussion occurred about school construction site soil. Ms. Hunter corrected characterization from "contaminated" to "unsuitable soil." Mr. Lawson explained unsuitable might mean soil won't pack properly for construction use at school site. Primary concern focused on whether soil delivered to landfill.

**Republic Services Response (Stoddard Pickerell and David Hollinshead):**

Soil has not been brought to landfill. Any such soil would require:

- Analysis at Republic laboratories
- Analysis at TDEC laboratories
- TDEC sign-off after review of results
- Deposition only on lined areas if accepted
- Clean soil required for berm construction (likely sourced elsewhere)

**Ms. Ross's Jurisdictional Clarification:**

Concerns should be addressed to Loudon County Commission, Loudon County School Board, and/or Planning Commission as proper venues. Since not appropriate topic for Solid Waste Commission, moved to next agenda item.

**Bonnie Coffey - Road Conditions:**

Simple statement: "The road is still dirty. That is my comment. And I gave my car wash pass away. What's the point?"

**Chris Kirby - Recent Return Observations:**

Returned to town after one-month absence since last meeting. Understood paving occurred but observed as layman: "Nothing's changed." Mud still present. Expected improvement after month away. Conclusion: "If you paved, it didn't work. I'm sorry."

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## **BORROW PIT REZONING UPDATE**

Stoddard reported Chairman Waller provided zoning application around Christmas. Republic submitted application with fee payment after New Year. Hearing scheduled February 10th at 5:30 pm before Planning Commission. Chairman Waller will lead presentation with Stoddard providing support for questions. Upon rezoning approval, Republic will file general construction permit to develop borrow area.

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## **PAVING PROJECT STATUS AND MUD MITIGATION**

### **Stoddard's Comprehensive Update:**

**Initial Framing:** Referenced November announcement specifically characterizing project as "step in the right direction"—explicitly not presented as complete fix. Recorded meetings document this characterization. Acknowledged as step one of series of improvements needed to mitigate problem.

**Investment and Construction:** Republic funded almost \$500,000 for project initiation based on Stoddard's business case. Initial road paved after substantial excavation removing unsuitable material (to be reused around landfill with rock fill). Installed two catch basins with 1,000 linear feet paved stretch from scale house past wheel wash. Goal: Remove sediment from Highway 72 and retain on landfill property.

**Third Catch Basin:** Installation scheduled this weekend upgradient of paved road, pending snow conditions potentially arriving tomorrow and Saturday.

**Friday-Saturday Monitoring Results:** Teresa photographed all tires leaving hill Friday-Saturday. Review showed tires "almost spotless" with "virtually no sediment tracked out" across scales. Same practice not executed Monday.

**Ongoing Monitoring Commitment:** Will continue monitoring practices to ensure consistency.

**Legacy Mud Issue:** Highway 72 has "legacy mud" existing on road—coating built over time. Referenced previous correspondence showing Republic offered pressure washing to return road to original state; offer denied to preserve stormwater conveyances leading to Tennessee National property. Silt fencing could provide sediment capture for washing operations, but previous approach was not permitted. Street sweeper remains only allowed method for Highway 72 cleaning.

**Current Operations Context:** Still working two working faces. Top deck operations continuing until dedicated transition to new cells. Once in new cells, "fully rocked road all the way around the hill" with "very minimal interaction with sediment." Current situation reflects Q4 project execution entering winter months.

**Final Characterization:** "Doing the best we can, but in all reality, this was posed as a step in the right direction, not the fix all that it's being laid out to be, I guess."

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**Commission and Public Discussion:****Mr. Hendrix - Pressure Washing History:**

Questioned pressure washing reference.

**Larry Jameson Response:**

Recalled water truck historically washing road. Process washed sediment into stream faster, eroded road shoulders in locations. Once mud leaves landfill and reaches road, something must be done. Commended Republic for efforts to date, but "it has not worked"—sediment still appearing on tires. Rode beside trucks leaving landfill; not large cake mud but quarter-size pieces still reaching road. Rain provides reset by washing road clean. Past water truck operations occurred when mud was "much much much heavier."

**Mr. Hendrix - Historical Context:**

Recalled past mud being "almost basketball size literally"—requiring vehicles to dodge clumps. Situation improved significantly since then, but "obviously we still have more work to do."

**Mr. Jameson - Traffic Hazard:**

Emphasized ongoing traffic hazard. Even with sweeper truck, adding water truck creates same problem—"which one's heavier?" Road simply needs cleaning. Entering rainy season where Mother Nature will help, but problem persists.

**Mr. Hendrix - Sweeper Effectiveness:**

Questioned sweeper effectiveness.

**Group Discussion on Sweeper:**

Multiple voices characterized as "waste of time." Sweeper operates without water—just sweeping, "blowing it around." Saturday mornings after road dries, sweeper creates "huge dust cloud." Following sweeper makes seeing oncoming traffic impossible while swerving around it. Dust combined with eastern sunrise creates challenging conditions—"surprised y'all haven't had more wrecks out there."

**Stoddard's Clarification Question:**

Asked gentleman in back whether preference would be washing off mud now despite kickback to stream.

**Group Discussion:**

Acknowledged "double-edged question." Referenced Sunday photographs Mr. Viars provided showing clean road with visible lines, then gradual worsening through week. Sweeper presence noted as less frequent this week than normal. Questioned whether sweeper gets washed. Confirmed Republic still conducts pressure washing after wheel wash. Discussed wheel wash location relative to pavement.

**Stoddard's Infrastructure Description:**

Approximately 40 feet asphalt before wheel wash. Drivers proceed through wheel wash, sometimes required to back up multiple times for additional cleaning, then approximately 50 feet to first catch basin. Approximately 250-300 feet to second catch basin. Smooth stretch continues to scales where trucks wait for traffic clearance. Third catch basin will be installed at asphalt start this weekend—all three designed to shake tires progressively.

**Stoddard's Regional Context:**

Navigated public forums recognizing mud on roads represents common regional issue. Loudon area lithology involves tough clays difficult to shed. Walking on wet clay with boots causes mud caking adding 10 pounds boot weight. Legacy mud on Highway 72 shoulders and medians continues shedding back onto main road over years.

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**Mr. Jameson - Rock Pad Solution:**

Noted best historical results occurred when Republic maintained rock pads for dumping—"least amount of mud that come out of the landfill on the road at that time." Could always identify when pads moved by excessive mud on road. Questions whether this is cure, but "vast improvement when the truck dumped off rock pads."

**Mr. Hendrix - Catch Basin Performance:**

Questioned catch basin installation duration (confirmed approximately one month) and whether sediment accumulation visible. How will cleaning occur?

**Stoddard's Cleaning Protocol:**

Catch basins cleaned during quarterly vac-truck events. Initial December cleaning showed little sediment between installation and December. Vac-truck returning Monday next week to assess cleanouts. Semi-annual obligation exists for cleanout maintenance. This cadence supplements typical wheel wash cleaning—not exclusive cleaning schedule. Upcoming work includes catch basins, cleanouts, wheel wash—complete system cleaning.

**Mr. Hendrix - Catch Basin Specifications:**

Requested dimensions.

**Stoddard's Specifications:** Four feet inner diameter, 16 feet long, approximately five feet deep.

**Mr. Hendrix - Sediment Accumulation Assessment:**

After one month, questioned whether two inches or two feet sediment accumulated in bottom.

**Stoddard's Response:**

Currently retaining water from rain events making precise measurement difficult. Sediment "caked on the bottom right now"—"pretty substantial from weight perspective" but "not overwhelming the catch basin" at all. System is capturing sediment as designed.

**Mr. Hendrix - Performance Expectations:**

Expectations suggested weekly cleaning if first catch basin performed "really great job," with second catching less, third even less, progressing "down to nothing." Acknowledged work remains.

**Stoddard's Strategic Context:**

Reiterated step one of strategy removing sediment as far from Highway 72 as possible. November presentation never sold as "fix all." Motivated to solve problem and fix issue. Confirmed rock pads around wheel wash with speed bump strategy planned for this weekend's catch basin installation.

**Speed Bump Strategy:**

Strategic placement where back tires hit speed bump while front tire over catch basin, then front tires hit speed bump while back tires over catch basin—optimizing sediment capture.

**Mr. Viars' Point on Rain Events:**

Acknowledged laminar flow on asphalt roads during rainstorms very helpful for cleaning tires. Days afterward present concern. "Clearly there." Feel good about initial work but "knew it wasn't a fix all."

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**Dr. Bartell - Industry Context Question:**

Questioned whether this issue particular to Matlock Bend development history or common to landfills generally in Stoddard's experience.

**Stoddard's Industry Perspective:**

"It's trash business"—generally dirty. His job: Take something dirty and "make it as clean and pretty as possible"—difficult task. Any landfill involves mud, rock, or dirt interaction. This region (northern Georgia, western South Carolina) has "really tough clays" difficult to shed. Florida, coastal areas, Texas see less trackout but may have more aggressive leachate issues due to temperatures.

**Matlock Bend Historical Issue:**

"Matlock did not have any pavement historically was an obvious issue." Industry standard for halfway decently run landfills includes asphalt stretch allowing traffic passage.

**Positive Project Byproducts:**

Sat in scale house three occasions since completion. Hearing driver satisfaction coming onto landfill—particularly homeowners knowing they're not requiring wheel alignments. Benefit extends beyond simply addressing trackout.

**Continued Framing:**

"Selling it as a step in the right direction. It's not a fixall. We still have work to do. We're motivated to get it done. It just helps if people work with us."

**New Cell Operations Preview:**

New cell will show "very limited" dirt interaction. Visiting landfill today shows "almost virtually no dirt interaction" wrapping around hill to cell. Not all traffic there yet. Currently approved for two working faces: one for fluffing new cell requiring Tellico-type household MSW for first layer (very limited traffic to new cell currently). Once everyone off top deck with designated roads to new cell, "much cleaner operation." Timing frustrating during winter months. Q4 funding pulled to initiate progress. "No problem spending money. That's my job in Republic is to spend money and try to fix issues. I'm going to keep doing it."

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### **LANDFILL GAS MONITORING REPORT**

Stoddard reported fourth quarter probe report submitted to TDEC earlier this week. No evidence of methane migration to any probes, confirming everything staying contained within liner system.

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### **REPUBLIC SERVICES OPERATIONS REPORT**

Ms. Ross invited questions about Republic's operations report. Noted TDEC called attention to some items but did not require immediate action, indicating TDEC satisfied with Republic's corrective approaches.

#### **Mr. Hendrix Confirmation:**

Confirmed no violations observed in report.

Commission had no additional questions on operations report.

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### **TDEC 10-YEAR PLAN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ms. Ross reported discussing with Tim Hendrick about upcoming TDEC meeting in Knoxville on January 21st (9:00 am - 12:00 pm). After extended waiting period, TDEC finally releasing guidance for 10-year plan Ms. Ross has sought for past two years. Meeting will discuss potential grant opportunities for assistance. Ms. Ross plans to attend and will forward information to commission members, welcoming their participation.

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### **January 2026 Action Items**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Correct June 2025 minutes verbiage per Ms. Murphy	Chairman Waller	February	Pending
Correct commissioner names/tenure in FY24-25 audits	Chairman Waller/Vance CPA	February	Pending

Item	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Present corrected audits for approval	Chairman Waller	February	Scheduled
Provide written lawsuit explanation and costs	Ms. Murphy	February	Requested
Install third catch basin upgradient of pavement	Republic Services	This weekend	Weather Dependent
Complete top deck transition to new cell	Republic Services	Ongoing	In Progress
Install strategic speed bumps at catch basins	Republic Services	This weekend	Scheduled
Conduct vac-truck cleaning of catch basins/cleanouts	Republic Services	Monday next week	Scheduled
Continue tire monitoring photography protocol	Republic Services	Ongoing	Committed
Attend February 10 Planning Commission hearing	Chairman Waller/Stoddard	February 10, 5:30pm	Scheduled
File general construction permit for borrow pit	Republic Services	After rezoning	Pending Approval
Attend TDEC 10-year plan meeting in Knoxville	Ms. Ross/interested commissioners	January 21, 9am-12pm	Optional

### Next Meeting

**Date:** February 20, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Loudon County Annex Building

**Anticipated Discussion Items:** • Corrected June 2025 minutes approval • FY 2024 and FY 2025 audit approvals with commissioner corrections • Written lawsuit explanation and cost breakdown from Ms. Murphy • Paving project effectiveness assessment and catch basin performance data • Third catch basin installation completion report • Top deck to new cell transition status • Speed bump installation results • Borrow pit rezoning Planning Commission hearing results • TDEC 10-year plan meeting report and grant opportunities • Republic operations report and TDEC inspection results

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. by motion from Dr. Bartell, seconded by Mr. Lawson. Motion approved unanimously.**

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, January 15, 2026 (youtube.com)

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