

Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 20, 2026

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, Ms. Monty Ross, Mr. Gary Hendrix, Dr. Steve Bartell
 - **Commission Members Absent:** Mr. Andy Lawson
 - **Legal Representation:** Ms. Elizabeth Murphy (not noted as present)
 - **Republic Services:** Mr. David Hollinshead, Mr. Stoddard Pickerell
 - **Public:** Mr. Chris Kirby, other attendees
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CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Ms. Ross conducted roll call confirming four commissioners present with Mr. Lawson absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Waller noted no public comments were received in the packet. The meeting proceeded.

FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES

Motion: Approve February 2026 minutes as presented

Motion by: Mr. Hendrix

Seconded by: Dr. Bartell

Result: Approved unanimously

HYDRAULIC LEAK INCIDENT - MARCH 16, 2026

Stoddard reported a street sweeper hydraulic leak on Monday. The operator parked on the roadside when the hydraulic line lost pressure. Less than five gallons of agricultural-grade hydraulic fluid spilled (below the 25-gallon reportable threshold). Republic contained the spill with oil dry, scraped the top four inches of affected area, backfilled with clean topsoil, and matted the area per TDEC recommendations. TDEC was contacted throughout the incident and approved the response actions.

MONTHLY PUMP REPORTS

Chairman Waller noted monthly pump reports were accidentally omitted from the packet. David Hollinshead acknowledged his mistake and committed to providing reports later this week.

EAST DITCH POND UPDATE

Stoddard reported the east ditch remains plugged pending toe drain installation. The toe drain installation is coordinating with waste relocation for the capping project. All survey information is verified, and they know the edge of liner location. The main goal before starting other work is installing the toe drain, which should reestablish flow back to cleanouts and modules one and two. Weather appears to be improving for construction to begin.

BORROW PIT REZONING UPDATE

Chairman Waller reported Planning Commission approved the rezoning on March 10th. County Commission held a workshop this week and will vote on the rezoning April 6th. Once approved, the commission can begin extracting soil from the borrow pit for closure activities.

Stoddard provided initial estimates of 700,000 cubic yards of soil available, with expectations of an additional 500,000 yards as the site develops. He requested guidance on handling lumber resources on the property, which are owned by the Solid Waste Commission. Options include marking valuable hardwoods, having an ecologist identify species, or processing everything into firewood or mulch. Chairman Waller stated the commission will decide by the April meeting.

FY 2026 AUDIT

Chairman Waller noted FY 2024 and FY 2025 audits are with the state. He recommended engaging Ben Vance again for the FY 2026 audit given his knowledge and history with the facility over the past few years, despite health issues earlier in the year.

Motion: Engage Ben Vance to complete FY 2026 audit

Motion by: Ms. Ross

Seconded by: Mr. Hendrix

Result: Approved unanimously

SECOND SEMIANNUAL 2025 GROUNDWATER MONITORING REPORT

Monitoring Well Network Adequacy

Ms. Ross asked about monitoring well adequacy. Stoddard explained the current network is "a little bit skinny" and doesn't capture lateral, cross-gradient, or upgradient features adequately. MW-4R has a history of being dry, and a temporary well (TMW-8) installed in 2024 also proved dry due to bedrock. New wells will

be added with the next permit application as part of the 2022 amendment permit expansion covering an additional 19 acres within the existing 152-acre footprint.

Groundwater Flow Characterization

Dr. Bartell questioned the history and quality of groundwater flow characterization. Stoddard explained groundwater gradient hasn't changed significantly—it follows topographic contours and flows toward the Tennessee River and streams. They've identified high gradients from Tennessee National (localized due to proximity to Tennessee River) and similar features near Monterey Mushroom. These cross-gradient influences will be captured in updated groundwater monitoring plans with the part one and part two permit applications.

Well Maintenance Issues

Ms. Ross raised concerns about well maintenance issues referenced in Miss Plout's general comments, including well three needing to be raised with no cap, lock, or lid present, and wells 4R, 5, and 7 requiring access improvements and signage updates. Stoddard confirmed these issues are being addressed and coordinated with the permit process to resolve loose ends before submitting applications to the state.

Increasing Trends and Low pH

Ms. Ross expressed concern about "increasing trends" noted in the report and particularly low pH of 4.87 in well two, which is very low for Tennessee soils. Stoddard explained they entered assessment monitoring in 2024, which added constituents and lowered thresholds. While they haven't received TDEC's assessment review yet, they're addressing requirements including additional monitoring points and increased sampling cadence. They sampled in late February for Q1 and will present results at the April meeting. They've added Piper and Stiff plots to better understand groundwater composition changes beyond seasonal variations.

Bicarbonate Measurements and Pre-Subtitle D Landfill

Dr. Bartell questioned whether bicarbonate-dominated reference water was actually measured or calculated. Stoddard explained it's the area standard for clean groundwater, manipulated based on site-specific leachate concentrations. He noted the facility has two classes of landfills—a pre-Subtitle D landfill (pre-1994) with only soil and clay liners and no geosynthetics, and the active landfill. Their next step is determining what's being influenced by the pre-Subtitle D hill versus the active hill, though he cannot speak to the integrity of the old soil and clay liner.

PFAS Monitoring

Dr. Bartell asked about PFAS monitoring. Stoddard reported Tennessee has not yet issued PFAS regulations. Wastewater treatment plants have started PFAS monitoring. Knoxville Utility Board indicated the landfill will be subject to at least one annual PFAS leachate sampling event. North Carolina already has full PFAS requirements, so Tennessee is likely not far behind.

REPUBLIC OPERATIONS REPORT

Tire Shredding Initiative

David Hollinshead reported visiting a landfill to evaluate a new tire shredding company competing with Liberty in Tennessee. The compact tire shreds (approximately 1.25 inches) could be used on-site in the working face and on interior landfill roads for mud reduction and traction. Republic will request additional information from the company and state requirements before moving forward.

TDEC Inspection

Chairman Waller noted a March 5th TDEC inspection resulted in no findings and no NOVs.

Engineering Update

Module Operations: Stoddard reported modules one and two are actively filling and almost completely floored in. C&D and sludge waste still goes to the top deck to avoid interfering with the leachate collection system. They expect 100% of waste going to new cells by April. A hard-surface tipping pad constructed as a road extension into module one allows trucks to dump on hard surface while equipment manages waste placement to protect the liner. They're exploring using tire shred material to extend the tipping pad without creating mud trackout. Eventually they'll need a mid-slope road as the cells fill higher.

Capping Project: The capping project began in October with waste relocation. Winter weather slowed progress but they kept the contractor busy. The toe drain is the primary focus—a 1,000+ foot French drain tying into every cleanout to redirect liquids back to the west slope before geocynthetics lock everything in, preventing seepage into the east ditch. The east perimeter ditch work coincides with the capping project, including complete renovation of pond two with a four-bay construction. A sump pump failure at the front of the property in early March slowed progress but was completely replaced the first week of March.

Borrow Area: Initial conservative estimates are 700,000 cubic yards with expectations of an additional 500,000 yards. Rezoning from A1 to CFD focused on adding restrictions for buffers rather than creating legacy situations. The commission needs to provide direction on tree and lumber resources.

Road Paving: The initial 1,000 feet of paving past the wheel wash is complete with catch basins and speed bumps installed. The catch basins filled and were backed out (vacuumed) earlier this month. The middle catch basin near the wheel wash was very wet, capturing significant runoff, while the first (dry slurry) and third (about half full) showed different patterns. Speed bumps are tiered to direct water toward catch basins. A small grate section on the shoulder allows vac truck access without disrupting traffic.

Long-term Paving Plans: Stoddard's March 2025 conceptual design proposed paving the entire stretch and moving the scale house. He dislikes the current wheel wash and believes it should be above-ground with ramps. The initial 1,000 feet was a good-faith demonstration and litmus test. While conditions improved, the problem isn't fully addressed. Next steps include an additional 1,000 feet (possibly 3,000 feet total to the pavement end), relocating scales next to the landfill to eliminate traffic on Highway 72, and moving the convenience site on top of the old pre-Subtitle D hill. Stoddard secured \$550,000 approval last year and has \$1.2 million in next year's budget. He hopes to complete more paving to better apply rock on top of the hill, install a new scale house, and potentially a new wheel wash within the next two years for "full beautification of the front of the landfill."

Mr. Hendrix asked about formal schedules. Stoddard explained budgets are approved annually but cannot guarantee complete project completion in any single year—only that something will be done within the calendar year.

Spring Sampling: Q1 spring sampling showed lower concentrations in the spring compared to December, which Stoddard attributes to seasonality and more water in the system. They'll have a full year's analysis by year-end with Q2 and Q3 samples.

Jurisdictional Features: Stoddard provided the commission with approved jurisdictional determination and hydrological determination documents covering both the borrow area and the actual landfill property in combined documentation. Chairman Waller confirmed Chris Cline has it and will distribute to commissioners.

New Leachate Tank: A new leachate tank is scheduled for July-August installation behind the maintenance shop (not moving the current tank). The focus is tanker accessibility—allowing tankers to access the shop area without navigating the entire landfill, particularly when the POTW turns off their system for improvements.

Miscellaneous Items: The brush pile is slated for grinding in June, potentially incorporating Tennessee National's mulch as well, which may push the timeline back depending on coordination. A seeding contractor prospected the site today for seeding the entire interior slope. Once the cap is completed on south and east slopes, those will be completely seeded, and the entire interior slope will be seeded first of next month to create "a little bit more of a meadow as opposed to a dirt pile."

PUBLIC COMMENT - CHRIS KIRBY

Mr. Kirby raised multiple concerns about the borrow pit development:

Property Protection Concerns: He questioned how Republic will protect neighboring properties from the elevation change created by excavating 700,000 cubic yards. He stated the contract documents don't match current property geography and expressed concern about a potential 100-foot drop-off affecting his property and the seven-acre parcel the commission plans to sell.

Stormwater Issues: Mr. Kirby stated the 50-foot berm approved by the commission (when he was out of town) is pressing water down the valley into his property, creating multiple issues that need attention and correction.

Contract Geography Discrepancy: He asserted that contract boundaries and geography don't match what's shown on the Tennessee taxpayers website and questioned whether the commission is negotiating a third contract amendment since "the numbers aren't adding up" and "the boundaries don't add up."

Property Value Impacts: Mr. Kirby stated his property values and neighboring property values depend on these issues being resolved correctly, warning that "all these people are going to take a whooping on their property" when development occurs.

Stoddard's Response: Republic has a grading permit and construction general permit they must apply for to develop this property. Part of that is based on the ability to manage stormwater and grade effectively so stormwater does not leave the property. Republic is not digging 110 feet—there may be a 100-foot difference based on highest point to lowest point elevation change.

Chairman Waller did not address Mr. Kirby's concerns further and called for adjournment.

March 2026 Action Items

Item	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Provide monthly pump reports	David Hollinshead	This week	Committed
Complete toe drain installation	Republic Services	ASAP (weather permitting)	In progress
Provide direction on borrow pit lumber resources	Commission	April meeting	Pending decision
Present Q1 groundwater sampling results	Stoddard Pickerell	April meeting	Committed
Distribute jurisdictional determination documents	Chairman Waller/Chris Cline	ASAP	Pending
Complete well maintenance corrections (MW-3, 4R, 5, 7)	Republic Services	Before permit submission	In progress
Request information from tire shredding company	David Hollinshead	Tomorrow	Committed
Grind brush pile (potentially with TN National mulch)	Republic Services	June (tentative)	Scheduled
Seed interior slopes	Republic Services	Next month	Scheduled
Install new leachate tank behind maintenance shop	Republic Services	July-August	Scheduled

Next Meeting

Date: April 17, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Loudon County Annex Building

Anticipated Discussion Items:

- County Commission borrow pit rezoning vote results (April 6th)
- Commission decision on borrow pit lumber resources
- Q1 2026 groundwater sampling results presentation
- Monthly pump reports review
- Toe drain installation progress
- Well maintenance completion status
- Tire shredding company evaluation results

- Chris Kirby's concerns regarding borrow pit impacts on neighboring properties
- Stormwater management and contract geography discrepancies

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:36 p.m. by motion from Chairman Waller, seconded by Mr. Hendrix. 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, March 20, 2026 ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))