Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission

Regular Commission Meeting — Minutes

Date: May 21, 2026

Meeting Type: Regular Commission Meeting

Location: Courthouse Annex Building, Loudon, Tennessee

Time: 6:00 p.m. EST

Chairman: Mr. Adam Waller

Attendees:
Commission Members Present: Mr. Adam Waller (Chairman), Dr. Bartell, Mr. Hendrix, Mr. Lawson, Ms. Monty Ross
Commission Members Absent: None noted
Legal Representation: Ms. Elizabeth Murphy
Republic Services: Mr. David Hollinshead, Mr. Stoddard Pickerel
Public: Chris Kirby; Pat Hunter (county attendee); Viars; additional unidentified members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Waller called the meeting to order and Ms Ross conducted roll call. All commission members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Waller invited public comment. The following individuals addressed the commission:

Chris Kirby

Mr. Kirby offered several observations and questions:

- Commended Chairman Waller for the improvements to the commission's website, noting it is easy to navigate.
- Reported that he visited the landfill that day and observed that the first section of asphalt looked good, but the wheel wash was not operational. Trucks were bypassing it, resulting in debris tracked out of the facility.
- Raised the question of perimeter fencing maintenance around the landfill property, noting that a maintenance program does not appear to be in place. Mr. Pickerel confirmed that some perimeter fencing exists (barbed wire along the old Tennessee National boundary and neighboring properties) but acknowledged the issue. He agreed to review the contract language and take notes.
- Asked about the status of the seven-acre property boundary correction and the broader property survey. Chairman Waller reported receiving an additional surveyor quote that was very high, and he is seeking two additional quotes to cover the seven acres and a smaller adjoining parcel.

- Raised the distinction between the current contract boundaries and the actual LCSWDC-owned property. Mr. Kirby stated that the commission's current land holdings — including the borrow pit swap and additional acreage — do not match the most recent edition of the operating contract. Chairman Waller acknowledged the point and committed to reviewing it.
- Asked whether the public would be able to view Republic's site plan for the creek-crossing project. Mr. Pickerel confirmed that a site plan will go through TDEC and the county planning and codes office and will be available for public review.
- Raised the question of whether ORNL demolition waste from decommissioned structures would be coming to the Matlock Bend landfill. No discussions with Republic on this topic had occurred. Ms. Ross noted that a Class I landfill could not accept much of that material without evaluation; Ms. Murphy indicated acceptance would depend on special waste status and TDEC approval. Commissioner Hunter noted that the topic had come up at a Loudon County Economic Development Agency meeting, with expected follow-up that had not yet materialized at the county commission level. Chairman Waller asked Mr. Hollinshead to notify the commission if any such discussions arise. Mr. Hollinshead agreed.
- Shared observations from a recent visit to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina's advanced recycling facility, which handles sorting, crushing, baling, and separation of mixed waste streams. Mr. Kirby noted that a smaller-scale version might be worth evaluating for the county in future years and referenced Van Dyke as a relevant equipment designer.

Ms. Murphy

Ms. Murphy noted that the commission had previously explored Waste Away as a potential recycling option. While Waste Away made a presentation, they were unable to provide a plan without an upfront cost for analysis. She suggested that anyone wishing to advance a recycling option should bring a concrete written proposal to the commission — including what the system does, space requirements, cost structure, and contact information — for the commission to evaluate from there.

Pat Hunter

Ms Hunter asked for a status update on the Tennessee National easement. Chairman Waller indicated the language is still being finalized. Mr. Pickerel confirmed that Tennessee National has not yet reached out or begun construction on the 50-ft berm. Mr. Kirby interjected that he believed the berm is already in place on his side of the property.

Ms Hunter also asked for clarification on the scope of the property survey, noting she believed the motion had been for seven acres only. Chairman Waller explained that surveyors recommended combining all three parcels into one, making the full survey more appropriate. Ms Hunter indicated she would review the meeting record on the original motion.

Unidentified Public Member (neighboring property owner)

A member of the public noted that a survey crew (Dean Gerch's group) had come through their farm the previous summer for easier access to the landfill boundary points. They asked whether that survey might be available and useful to the commission. Chairman Waller indicated interest in contacting Gerch's group for a quote, given they already have the data. The public member agreed to share contact information.

Viars

Mr. Viars raised two matters:

- He referenced prior public statements suggesting Republic Services may be interested in purchasing the landfill. Chairman Waller reiterated his consistent position: he has no written documentation or formal inquiry from Republic. Any purchase interest would need to originate with the cities and county and then come to the solid waste commission for consideration. No change in status.
- He noted water accumulation near the Matlock Road entrance and asked about recent excavation activity in that area. A member of the public clarified it was private farm property and the activity was personal/family use of equipment.
- He also asked about stormwater impacts from the borrow pit grading. Mr. Pickerel explained that a full geotechnical analysis was completed and no rock or water was encountered at the proposed depth. A series of check dams will manage storm water runoff, and all sediment is expected to be contained within the constructed pond. Plans have been shared with the county zoning and codes office (Mr. Jenkins).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Waller called for approval of the previous month's minutes.

Motion: Approve minutes from the previous regular meeting.
Motion by: Commissioner Bartell
Seconded by: Commissioner Lawson
Result: Approved unanimously

SURVEY UPDATE

Chairman Waller noted the survey status had been covered in public comments. He is pursuing additional surveyor quotes and may contact Dean Gerch's group given their existing knowledge of the property boundaries.

BORROW PIT TIMBER — DISPOSITION UPDATE

Ms. Ross reported that she connected Mr. Larry Gardner (Tellico Village Woodworkers) with Mr. Pickerel, and they have scheduled a time to meet. The woodworkers are interested in the timber from the borrow pit clearing — specifically cherry, walnut, white oak, and pecan — and use salvaged material for community benefit projects including Toys for Tots and ramps for people in need. Mr. Viars, who is affiliated with the club, confirmed the program's community value. Coordination between Mr. Gardner and Mr. Pickerel is ongoing.

LEGAL SERVICES INVOICE

Chairman Waller presented Ms. Murphy's first quarter invoice for $8,400 and called for a motion to approve payment.

Motion: Approve payment of Ms. Murphy's first quarter legal services invoice in the amount of $8,400.

Motion by: Commissioner Lawson
Seconded by: Commissioner Hendrix
Result: Approved unanimously

REPUBLIC SERVICES OPERATIONAL REPORT

Chairman Waller noted the packet included Republic's operational report, which now incorporates leachate volumes alongside standard operations, engineering, and airspace data. The airspace inspection was clean. The first quarter groundwater report was also included for commission review.

Ms. Ross raised several questions:

- TDEC assessment monitoring: Ms. Ross asked whether the TDEC assessment with additional monitoring points and increased sampling frequency had been received. Mr. Pickerel reported that the assessment monitoring report was submitted to TDEC in January 2025 and has been under review for approximately a year and a half. No response has been received; Republic is proceeding as normal.
- Tire shredding: Mr. Hollinshead reported that a new tire processing facility in Louisiana was visited in early March. The shred size is much smaller than the Liberty material previously used and appears promising as alternative daily cover (ADC). Republic believes only a minor permit modification would be needed. No formal progress yet, but the material has been physically inspected.
- Republic budget: Mr. Pickerel noted that the capital investment budget (approximately $1.45 million) is going through the internal approval process now and will be finalized by end of July. This is for the 2027 budget cycle.
- Kimberly Clark ADC deliveries: Ms. Ross relayed that a Loudon County Education Foundation contact employed at Kimberly Clark reported that the ADC delivery process is costly for Kimberly Clark — smaller trucks are sometimes required (resulting in more trips), and wait times at the landfill have occasionally extended to two hours. Ms. Ross asked that Mr. Pickerel and the Kimberly Clark contact be connected to work through these logistics. Mr. Pickerel agreed and noted that the volume of ADC being accepted is also approaching the threshold where it transitions from non-depletable ADC to effectively filling landfill airspace. Republic tries to keep alternative cover material below 15-20% of total volume to preserve airspace.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Waller called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.
Motion by: Commissioner Hendrix
Seconded by: Commissioner Bartell
Result: Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at ~6:40Pm

May 2026 Action Items

Item	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Survey all 98 acres of LCSWDC property. (three lots combined into one parcel equaling 7 acres); obtain quotes from multiple surveyors. Dean Gerch's group which surveyed last summer and results might be useful in saving money.	Chairman Waller	TBD	In Progress
Verify that property boundaries in the operating contract match current LCSWDC-owned acreage; correct discrepancies	Chairman Waller / Ms. Murphy	TBD	Pending
Finalize language in Tennessee National easement agreement	Chairman Waller / Ms. Murphy	TBD	In Progress
Republic Services to confirm status of Tennessee National 50-ft berm construction and whether easement was in place at time of construction	Mr. Pickerel (Republic Services)	Next meeting	Pending
Review perimeter fencing status and contract language; assess maintenance program need	Mr. Pickerel (Republic Services)	Next meeting	Pending
Confirm whether ORNL demolition waste (decommissioned structures) is expected at Matlock Bend; alert commission if any acceptance discussions occur	Mr. Hollinshead (Republic Services)	Ongoing	Committed
Arrange meeting between Kimberly Clark (ADC supplier) and Republic Services to address delivery constraints and wait times	Mr. Pickerel / Ms. Ross	TBD	Committed
Follow up with TDEC on status of assessment monitoring report submitted January 2025 (under review for ~1.5 years)	Mr. Pickerel (Republic Services)	Next meeting	Pending
Commission to receive public site plan for Republic's creek-crossing project once submitted to TDEC and planning/codes office	Mr. Pickerel (Republic Services)	TBD	Pending
Tellico Village Woodworkers to coordinate with Mr. Pickerel for access to borrow pit timber	Mr. Pickerel / Ms. Ross / Mr. Gardner	TBD	In Progress
Commission to consider formal process for recycling/waste reduction options for future agenda	Commission	2027 planning cycle	Pending

NEXT MEETING

Date: June 18, 2026 (third Thursday)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Loudon County Annex Building

Anticipated Discussion Items:

- Survey update and contract boundary correction
- Tennessee National easement — finalized language
- TDEC response to assessment monitoring report (if received)
- Kimberly Clark ADC logistics meeting outcome
- Perimeter fencing review and maintenance assessment
- Republic tire shredding program update
- ORNL demolition waste status (if new information available)
- Borrow pit timber coordination update
- Republic Services 2027 capital budget finalization

Minutes respectfully submitted by Monty Ross, LCSWDC Interim Secretary

Chairman: Adam Waller, Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission

Note: Full video of LCSWDC meeting available at: Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Meeting, May 26, 2026 (youtube.com)