

# Jefferson County Solid Waste Committee

Jefferson County Courthouse  
311 S. Center Ave., Room C2003  
Jefferson, WI 53549

## April 7, 2026, Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Callan at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Roll Call (Establish a Quorum)** – Committee Members: Joan Callan, Mark Groose, Dan Herbst, and Bob Preuss. Matt Tracy was absent. Staff Present: Kim Buchholz. Waste Collection Partners Present online: Colin Barrington, Veolia; Kyle Badtke, Waste Management (Deer Track Landfill), Stacy Winkelman, City of Watertown Public Works Director and James Kuckkan, Watertown Daily Times.
3. **Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law** – In compliance.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Approved
5. **Public Comment** – None
6. **Approval of Minutes – February 3, 2026, Solid Waste & Air Quality Committee Meeting** – Two corrections were noted: Bob's name was spelled wrong, and 23 tons should be 23,000 tons. Motion by Herbst, seconded by Preuss, to approve February 3, 2026, Solid Waste & Air Quality Committee meeting minutes with 2 voiced changes. Motion approved, 4-0.
7. **Communications** – Buchholz read the below update from Elizabeth McGeary, Director/Health Officer on the avian influenza outbreak. Callan also noted that the County has created a dashboard for Avian Influenza on the website that is very helpful.

The Jefferson County Health Department's role in the avian influenza response is to help protect the health of nearby residents and the broader community. While animal disease response activities are led by agricultural and regulatory agencies, our focus is on monitoring potential public health impacts and providing clear, timely information to the public.

At this time, we are conducting air monitoring and water sampling near the site to assess any potential environmental concerns and to ensure conditions are being closely monitored. Air monitoring includes the use of portable instruments such as the MultiRAE and ToxiRAE, which measure potential air hazards including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), oxygen levels, methane, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, and ammonia. We are also working to identify a location for a PurpleAir monitor, which provides real-time data on particulate matter in the air, such as fine dust, smoke, and other airborne particles. This type of monitoring helps track local air quality trends over time. A final location for this monitor has not yet been determined. To date, air monitoring results have not shown any levels exceeding human health standards.

As a continuation of efforts following the 2025 outbreak, we are continuing to monitor private wells for bacteria and nitrate to help ensure drinking water remains safe for residents in the surrounding area. This sampling focuses on wells located near the site, particularly those that may be more vulnerable to surface contamination. Results are carefully reviewed to identify any changes from baseline conditions and to detect early signs of potential impact. If elevated levels are identified, the Health Department works directly with homeowners to provide guidance on next steps, which may include confirmatory sampling, well inspection, or

treatment options. Additional testing is recommended as needed based on these results, and we encourage well owners in the area to remain engaged and proactive in testing their water.

We also continue to advocate for expanded water sampling at the composting site to better understand and monitor any potential impacts to groundwater.

8. **Departmental Update** – Buchholz stated that the 2027 Household Hazardous Waste, Agriculture Hazardous Waste and Unused Prescription Drug grant applications were just released and are due May 22, 2026. She provided copies of the 2027 program brochure for committee members to distribute. Buchholz updated the committee on the upcoming events for the program:
  - Drug Take Back Events:
    - i. Jefferson County Employee, Thursday, April 23 from 7:30-8:30 a.m.
    - ii. Watertown Event at Watertown Walmart, Saturday, April 25 from 9-Noon.
    - iii. Lake Mills Event at the Rock Lake Activity Center, Wednesday, April 22, 11-1 pm.
    - iv. Johnson Creek Event at Johnson Creek Police Department, Saturday, April 25 from 10-2 pm.
  - Electronic & Appliance Recycling Event:
    - i. May 13, 2026, Jefferson County Fair Park. Buchholz reminded the committee that this is a PM event that we are trying this year to see how it works. The event is from 3-6 p.m. \$10 per vehicle. Traffic should enter from Spangler Road.
9. **Discussion on Solid Waste Departmental 2026 Financial Report** – Buchholz distributed current copies of the budget to committee members. Budget is currently on track.
10. **Update from Waste Collection Partners** – Kyle Badtke, Deer Track Park Landfill Operations Manager, reported that the wind continues to be a daily issue, controlling the litter. Extra paper pickers are on site. Landfill tonnage is down due to the loss of LRS. The landfill just completed their WI DNR semiannual inspection and there were no negative findings.

Stacy Winkelman asked if we would consider including fire extinguisher recycling with our clean sweep events. She thought maybe we could reach out to H & H Fire Protection to see if they would partner with us. Buchholz stated that the cost is prohibited through Veolia where it is \$66 per fire extinguisher to properly dispose. Buchholz will contact H & H Fire Protection to inquire further.
11. **Discussion and Possible Action on 2026 Events and Fees** – Buchholz stated that more volunteers are needed for Friday's and Saturday's events. Let her know if you can assist.
12. **Discussion and Possible Action on future Meeting Dates and Possible Agenda Items** –
13. **Next Solid Waste Committee Meeting** – Callan thanked Herbst for his service and wished him well as he did not run for County Board. Callan explained that committees will be established by the County Board Chair after that is established at the County Board's next meeting. Further information will be sent to committee members at the next meeting once the committee is established.
14. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m. Motion by Herbst, seconded by Preuss. Motion approved.