BEFORE THE INDIANA
RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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PUBLIC MEETING

JULY 24, 2025

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PROCEEDINGS

in the above-captioned matter, before the Recycling Market Development Board, Bruce Burrow, Chairman, taken before me, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., a Notary Public in and for the State of Indiana, County of Shelby, at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 2525 North Shadeland Avenue, Conference Room C, Indianapolis, Indiana, on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 9:02 o'clock a.m.

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APPEARANCES:

BOARD MEMBERS:
Bruce Burrow, Chairman
Kelly Weger
Terry Guerin
Matt Gratz
Andrew Nunan
Debbie Hackman
Sandy Whitehead
Tara Wesseler-Henry
Rep. Sue Errington

ON BEHALF OF IDEM:
Deanna Garner
Tom Leas
Pat Daniel
James French
Aidan Whitney

ALSO PRESENT:
Dave Massengill
David Hirschler
Andrew King

- - -

9:02 o'clock a.m.
July 24, 2025

- - -

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, good morning. Let's call the -- what is it? -- July 24th meeting of the Indiana Recycling Market Development Board to order. Welcome, everyone. And with that, I'll turn it back over to Deanna to do her housekeeping.

MS. GARNER: Yes. We have some people joining us on Teams today, so thank you for joining us. I am Deanna Garner, Recycling Market Development Program Manager for IDEM's Office of Program Support.

All microphones are currently muted. For attendance tracking, please take a moment to write your name and affiliation in the chat box. We will be taking questions and comments from participants at today's meeting. All participants will be able to unmute themselves and ask questions or make comments at the appropriate times. If you have a question or a technical issue during the presentation, please use the raised hand or chat features.

For those on the phone, if you have a question or a comment, you can raise your hand by pressing star nine, and we will call on you at the appropriate time. When called upon, you'll need to unmute your phone by pressing star six.

If any members of the media have joined us, please utilize the chat feature, or you may e-mail rmdpgrants@idem.in.gov with any questions or if you would like to schedule an interview. This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on IDEM's Web site at recycle.in.gov.

And with that, I'll turn it back over to you, Bruce.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All right. The first order of business is the consideration and approval of the February 19th meeting summary and transcript. Everybody have an opportunity to review?

MR. NUNAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: With that, a motion to approve?

MS. WHITEHEAD: I make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: And a second?
MR. GUERIN: I'll second.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Second by Mr. Guerin. Any discussion?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Any modifications, changes? Nothing?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. With that, all in favor?
(Board members responded, "Aye.")
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Those opposed?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Hearing none, motion carries unanimously. Thank you.
Next on the agenda, IDEM Office of Program Support Update, Mr. Wodrich.
MR. WODRICH: Good morning.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Good morning.
MR. WODRICH: I wish I had news on the Board appointments, but I really don't. We've been talking about it a lot, and our Commissioner really is trying to, you know, move

that ball forward, but I do know that the Governor's Office, the Statehouse has somewhere in the neighborhood of like 700 different board and commission appointments that they've been sorting through, so I don't know how they're prioritizing those and going through those. But as far as I know, we're still operating under, you know, "You're appointed until you're not."

(Laughter.)

(Rep. Errington entered the room.)

MR. WODRICH: So, I know technically, I think the letters that Deanna shared with me that I passed along to the upper chain, I think, were from 2020, so I think they expired in 2024. I've been talking about this with our leadership for probably pushing two years, quite honestly, because Pat and Deanna were talking to me about it long before we knew that those terms were going to end. So, we're working on it.

Our Commissioner has -- Comm. Woods has so many -- some thoughts on how he'd like to see that happen, but I don't know that he's been given sort of the green light on that either, so

I will keep you guys posted. You know, I was with our Commissioner doing a Clean Marina -- we had a new marina that joined the Clean Marina Program in our office. Last week we did that, so I was in the Department for like five hours, and this was one of the topics we talked about.

So, I did impress upon him that I think it would be really nice if we could get the Board appointments completed before the October meeting when you guys do the next round of grant awards. You know, I think it would make all us feel better, but so far there haven't been any questions or concerns about that sort of lacking. So, does anybody have any questions about that? I mean that's kind of what I know at this point and kind of where we're at.

MS. WHITEHEAD: As long as it doesn't affect our pay.

(Laughter.)

MR. NUNAN: I appreciate you taking that question, Sandy.

MR. WODRICH: And I did let our Commissioner know as well that like, you know,

Kelly, your appointment was to represent the university requirement that we have for a Board member, and with Craig's passing, we have a vacancy on the Board there, too.

And Sandy, you changed roles as well.

MS. WHITEHEAD: I did.

MR. WODRICH: So, I don't know how that affects your -- potentially your appointment, but -- so, we have a few things that, you know, I think we'll need to consider, too, when we kind of move that ball forward eventually.

So, other than that, we've been -- in addition to that, I should say, we've been dealing with, you know, quite a few executive orders now that affect our agency, but we've been working through a lot of those at senior leadership in the agency.

I think you guys all knew that the agency was accepting sort of public comments on the one executive order related to our regulations and the burden or overburden of any of those, so we got quite a lot back, and I think a lot of that

has been posted on our Web site. It's right on our main IDEM page if you haven't seen that and are interested in looking at that.

Our Legislative Director, Jake Torrie, who just joined us in February, is unfortunately leaving for another opportunity, I think outside of state government, I believe, so we're going to be looking for another Legislative Director so that person's a little bit up to speed before the next legislative session in January.

We, Office of Program Support, got moved into our renovated space in June, so we're excited about that. We're all back together in the same space and in a nice new office space, which has really been great, because we've been in not the nice place -- not the nicest place a time or two in the last year and a half, so -- and scattered about on a couple of different floors. So, I think it's been nice for everybody to get back in the same space, for collaboration purposes, especially.

And I think since our last meeting in February, I don't think we had General Counsel

filled yet, so Bill Anthony is our new General Counsel for IDEM. He started probably in March, I think, so he is on board.

I think the only position we're still kind of missing, our Controller, Briony Towler, who might be on-line, became our CFO earlier this year, so she's been trying to get our -- the controller position filled, so I think she's getting ready to repost it, because, unfortunately, the person that she offered the position to either took a different offer or where they were working currently might have made them an offer to stay, so she's having to circle back on that.

So, we have -- in OPS, we're getting ready for State Fair, so Stephanie Schuck in our office, and Pat, and I know Deanna's going to be out there, and Jennifer, so a lot of our team will be out there, along with a lot of our IDEM staff, volunteering throughout the Fair. We have a presence in the DNR building again.

And also, DNR's building is celebrating its 75th anniversary, so we're doing a little

thing, I think, on the first day of the Fair on August 1st, so I'm planning to be out there, and Pat's planning to be out there for that.

And so, we're really looking forward to that. We're doing similar to what we did last year, which is each week we're kind of focusing on one of our primary offices, so one week it'll be Water Quality, the next week will be Air Quality, then Land Quality.

So -- and then finally, the -- Jacob Schmicker is working on getting the word out on a couple of e-waste collection events that he's coordinating. The first one is August 2nd in Owen County, and then another one the following weekend, on August 9th, in Vermilion County. So, I believe ERI -- is that correct? -- is our vendor for that.

MR. NUNAN: We're collaborating again.

MR. WODRICH: Yeah. So, I think you guys did that for us last year as well, so --

MR. NUNAN: Yeah.

MR. WODRICH: We're looking forward

to those. Jacob always does a really good job at getting the word out, and we've had really good turnouts for those in the last couple of years, so --

MR. NUNAN: He's bringing some stuff over tomorrow to help us get those set up for the --

MR. WODRICH: Great.

MR. NUNAN: -- event.

MR. WODRICH: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: Did you say one was in Owen County?

MR. WODRICH: Owen County, yes.

MS. HACKMAN: Good, good.

MR. WODRICH: Yes.

MS. HACKMAN: They need -- they need that.

MS. GARNER: Yeah.

MR. WODRICH: Yeah. I think we've been talking to you a little bit, too, maybe --

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MR. WODRICH: -- about that, so -- and I think that's all I have, Bruce.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All right. Thank you, Carl.

The next item on the agenda, Deanna with an RMDP Grant Update.

MS. GARNER: Yeah.

So, we go back to Fiscal Year '24. That was the first year that we started doing grant agreements for 18 months versus the 12-month grant agreement. It just kind of -- we'd started, you know, encountering a lot more equipment purchase delays and projects taking longer, so instead of having to do an amendment for each one of them, we gave them a little bit more time at the front end.

So, instead of having them all closed out, we have three closed, four ongoing, is where I'm leading with that. One is about -- one more is about to be closed out. I just need to do the final reimbursement and site visit. We have Indiana Shingle, they're going to be on track to finish in November. Their grant agreement kind of started a little late.

And CW Recycling is a

construction/demolition grant that we awarded. They did just reach out to me and are having trouble with permits with the city, so they are still quite delayed and are going to need a year extension for that one that I just started working on.

So, Fiscal Year 25 that we awarded -- that would be the ones we awarded in October, are all executed and in progress. One of them has even started purchasing equipment and getting reimbursements, so moving forward well on those.

And then I do have -- we're going to take a moment now for the Board to talk to Floyd County Solid Waste. They are in Fiscal Year 23 as well. Although that grant closed out, some of you guys -- a lot of you guys probably already have heard that their Commissioners are looking at either just defunding them, dissolving them.

I'm going to have their Director, Dave Massengill, he's on our -- remotely, fill you in a little bit more, but we did fund them for a total of $52,255 for drop-off recycling trailers, so one trailer with open-top roll off and one

roll-off box and trailer, as well as some outreach and education planning costs, which not too much concern at IDEM.

But the -- you know, the education costs, those were used for their mailers and other things, but there needs to be kind of a discussion now, if they do dissolve at the end of the year, what do we ask for regarding the trailers that they -- that we just helped fund 50 percent of the cost on.

So, Dave, do you want to provide a little bit more detail at this time?

MR. MASSENGILL: All right. Can you hear me now?

MS. GARNER: Yes.

MR. MASSENGILL: Yes; okay.

So, like -- like Deanna was saying, our Board has voted to dissolve our District. The Board voted back in, I think it was, May. The first vote was to dissolve the counsel, has had two votes. The recent one was last Friday the 18th, so they also are voting with the Commissioners to dissolve us at the end of the

year. So, we're on the 180-day clock right now, which pushes us into January, but I'm being told that they want us probably shut down by mid-December.

So, that being said, I mean we've had a lot of public outcry, a lot of public support at our meetings, but, you know, the guys behind the desk, the guys and gals, are not listening. I mean they are still moving forward with dissolving us. So, I don't -- I don't know what else to say. I mean we just need to know, I guess, the direction of what to do. We have the trailers, and then we also have the baler, Deanna, that we --

MS. GARNER: Right, right.

MR. MASSENGILL: -- bought with the grant.

MS. GARNER: So --

MR. MASSENGILL: So --

MS. GARNER: -- the Recycling Market Development Board that's meeting today funded the trailers, and they actually -- in the same year as the Community Recycling Grant funded them

money to purchase a baler. So, I have talked to our legal counsel, I've talked to Michael, I've talked to our finance. They are kind of basically saying that they will go with whatever the Board decides.

Some options we've thrown out there, just so you'd have an idea, is, you know, Board asks back 50 percent of the sale cost of the equipment, so whatever they can sell the equipment for, we'd get that 50 percent back, or -- I mean ideally, they -- the Floyd County finds another -- which is challenging with trailers -- another municipality, another Solid Waste Management District, or someone who could use the trailers for their intended purpose. And if those trailers are still being used for the intended purpose, then, right, that's a win-win for everybody.

So, those are some options that have been thrown around, but I'm going to leave it to the Board to discuss more.

MR. NUNAN: Is that something you can help with, Debbie, in the southern part of the

state?

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah, I think we can find homes for that equipment that would be used in an -- I wish there was something we could do to stop this action, though.

MS. GARNER: Yes.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah, I'd like to know just, like in a hundred words or less, what -- what's the reason for dissolution? Why does the County Executive want to dissolve the Solid Waste District?

MS. HACKMAN: They are funded by EDI funds, and have said that they're going to use those EDI funds to replace the property tax funds that they're going to lose due to Senate Bill No. 1.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Uh-huh.

MS. HACKMAN: However, Scott Stewart, who was the previous Director --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: -- he mentioned this was going to happen a year ago, and that was before Senate Bill 1. So, you know, it's one of

those, "Well, we'll just wait and see what," you know, but there's 80,000 people in that county, and they have a pretty progressive --

MS. GARNER: And I've gotten --

MS. HACKMAN: -- program.

MS. GARNER: -- the results back from Dave. This program has been very successful. They --

MS. HACKMAN: With increasing --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Good.

MS. GARNER: Yeah, it's very popular. They've increased their tonnage of collected, they've increased revenue.

MS. HACKMAN: Yes.

MS. GARNER: So, it is -- I mean we're all pretty sad to hear that --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MS. GARNER: -- the Commissioners are not supportive of the District. And unfortunately, though, there's new -- well, not new, but the latest code says that, you know, districts can dissolve now.

MS. WHITEHEAD: It's been like that

for a while.

MS. GARNER: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. GARNER: It's not new, but --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Soil and Water's getting hit hard, and then pre-extensions are getting cut as well, so it's all over.

MS. HACKMAN: You know --

MS. WHITEHEAD: The counties are, too.

MS. HACKMAN: -- we've presented to them, you know, maybe doing a special assessment, like some counties do, and it would be a minimal charge to residents, and not charging residents of New Albany/Georgetown, which have curbside for that fee, you know, charge them a smaller fee, and it -- I mean it wasn't even like, "Oh, let us see the numbers," or "Let's sit down and talk about it." It's just a done deal, and --

MR. MASSENGILL: Yeah, there's been no attempts for them to sit down and discuss this. There are no -- there's been no -- no, I guess, requests to sit down and see where we can,

you know, save money. It's just a decision that they've made, and like Debbie's saying, when Scott was here, there was talks of it happening two years ago.

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MR. MASSENGILL: And we had Board members that were very pro-recycle, and those are the Board members that prevented it from happening, and now that those people are off the Board, then the Commissioners that we have now that were voted in, they -- they support the dissolving of the District.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: So, it's all --

MR. MASSENGILL: It's unfortunate, because our numbers are up. I mean we're having a record year, you know, both with product and with revenue, but again, they -- they really don't want to talk about it.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: So, no spark of hope whatsoever within the voting body; correct? Is that --

MR. MASSENGILL: The voting body was the Commissioners, the three Commissioners was --

are the ones that began this; right? And then the Solid Waste Board voted, I think it was four to three, to do this, and then the Council, City Council, voted along with them twice, and both times they voted four to three to dissolve.

(Discussion off the record.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: So, what's the pleasure of the Board? I don't know that there's anything we can do, other than -- is there any opportunity for somebody to use these trailers, Debbie?

MS. HACKMAN: I can find somebody to use the trailers, I'm sure.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Question: Is this county property, though? Does the county own it?

MS. HACKMAN: No, the Solid Waste District.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Okay. So, they would be able to do it. Okay.

MR. NUNAN: So, they would just go back to the Solid Waste District and say, "Okay. We've got --" I don't know what it is -- "-- four

trailers and a baler," and we could go to another Solid Waste District person, and they could disburse? Debbie, is that how it would work? I don't know.

MS. HACKMAN: I don't know. I mean in my head, I'm thinking if some other district would take it and use it for the same purpose as the -- you know, that they --

MR. NUNAN: What's what I'm thinking.

MS. HACKMAN: -- you know, for recycling, then it probably could be transferred over. Terry just asked me why the Solid Waste Board voted against it. Oh, well, it's true. One of the Solid Waste Board appointed members works for the Commission -- one of the Commissioners in his day job.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Well, the Solid Waste Board is comprised of the Commissioners.

MS. HACKMAN: It's a correct board, yeah, they have all of the correct members, but that's --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Well, that's what I mean, it's the same people, the Commissioners and

the Council.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah. And then when you have -- when you have three Commissioners and then you have, you know, this appointed official, which is a town official --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: -- who is appointed, but he also works in his day job for one of the Commissioners --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: -- which, you know, kind of puts him in a tough spot sometimes, you know.

MS. WHITEHEAD: So, I mean not every Solid Waste District does this kind of thing, but --

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. WHITEHEAD: -- Dearborn County does, so --

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MS. WHITEHEAD: -- I would, you know, be happy to, you know, help you check with them and see if they would be interested --

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. WHITEHEAD: -- because they use trailers and balers.

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MR. NUNAN: And then that way we keep the money that's already been allocated out, would keep it within the district, and we won't have to worry about that piece of it, and so, it'll stay within the realm is my thought process.

Am I going down the right path, Bruce?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, my concern is: Legally is there going to be any requirement to reimburse the state for the fair market value of the equipment, and then have another transaction with the receiving district?

MS. GARNER: There -- so, it's more if they sell it; right? Then, of course, that -- we gave them money to purchase it, and they go back and sell it. That's where we run into issues.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: So, we can put

in the motion that if they sell it, then we want -- we have to have the recouping of the 50 percent.

MS. GARNER: (Nodded head yes.)

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: But if they --

MS. HACKMAN: If they transfer it --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: -- if they transfer it to another solid waste or county, then it's good on our end.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Absolutely.

MS. GARNER: Yeah.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Well, I make that motion, then.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All right.

MS. HACKMAN: Did you just say "Solid Waste District, or did you --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: I said "county."

MS. HACKMAN: Okay.

MR. GRATZ: I have one more question: Is this the only county that is dissolving its Solid --

MS. HACKMAN: No.

MR. GRATZ: -- Waste District

besides -- I know Allen County did --

MS. HACKMAN: No, there's others.

MR. GRATZ: -- but they still have --

MS. HACKMAN: Elkhart County.

MR. GRATZ: -- a department that does recycling. They just --

MS. WHITEHEAD: They -- they -- they dissolved their -- Allen County dissolved their District, and then --

MR. GRATZ: Uh-huh.

MS. WHITEHEAD: -- they reformed.

MS. HACKMAN: And they're doing -- they're doing exactly what's supposed to be done if you dissolve the --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MR. GRATZ: Yes.

MS. HACKMAN: -- District. It's supposed to be --

MR. GRATZ: Well, I know. I'm in Allen County, but --

MS. HACKMAN: -- "We dissolved the District, but we're still going to have these programs for the residents." And they do -- they

do a great job. They're a really good example.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yes.

MS. HACKMAN: Elkhart County had two departments. They had landfill, they had Solid Waste, and the same people were doing the job, so they kind of combined them and dissolved their District. They're still doing recycling. Perry County dissolved, I believe it was Montgomery County dissolved.

MR. GRATZ: Wayne-Union.

MS. HACKMAN: Wayne --

MR. MASSENGILL: So, Perry --

MS. HACKMAN: -- Union --

MR. MASSENGILL: So, Perry County has reached out about our equipment. I think I was talking to you about that, Debbie.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MR. MASSENGILL: And he's actually supposed to come to our location this afternoon to see what we have. I don't know -- again, I told him I did not know how this was going to work yet, so that's yet to be decided, but even though Perry County dissolved their District,

they still have a recycle program that they're trying to rebuild, from what I understand.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah. So, there are other counties. Clay and Owens kind of -- they're seeing -- they were getting their electronics, because they're -- they've been kind of on the bubble for a while. They just don't have any income, but --

MS. WEGER: I have a question: Do -- would we need to have any kind of relationship with wherever the entity the equipment goes to, to get reporting and data back from them?

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah, I think so.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I think that would be up to the Board, however they want to word the motion that's awarded at this point, Ms. Henry.

MS. GARNER: Yeah, and that was brought up, that question of, you know, what if they sell it for scrap and it's a hundred dollars, you know.

MS. HACKMAN: What's -- when she --

MS. GARNER: Right.

MS. HACKMAN: -- said "county," I

couldn't --

MS. GARNER: Yeah. So, you want to, yeah, be careful exactly how you word the motion, and do you want approval of the sale or --

MS. HACKMAN: I think --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Yeah.

MS. GARNER: -- something, yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I think it's a great idea to try to transfer the equipment to another Solid Waste District that would use it in a similar fashion.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: You said not all have Solid Waste Districts or groups as a county running it.

MS. HACKMAN: That's true, a few of those --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: You know, you --

MS. HACKMAN: -- that --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: -- you mentioned, though, I think, they don't have a district, so how can we allow the transfer in the motion? So, we have to say "the county." That's why I said --

MS. HACKMAN: Well, if they don't have a district.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: That's why I said "county," because a lot of them, like they don't have --

MS. HACKMAN: I just was thinking, you know, if the county takes it, and like you said, they think, "Oh, it's not worth anything, so let's sell it for scrap." So, yeah, we need to have some kind of -- some type of agreement to what that -- it continues to be used, because it's new stuff.

MS. GARNER: Yeah --

MS. HACKMAN: I mean it's pretty new --

MS. GARNER: -- new stuff.

MS. HACKMAN: -- as far as its life's concerned.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Uh-huh.

MS. HACKMAN: So, you -- yeah, some kind of accountability.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Gratz?

MR. GRATZ: Why don't we just tell

the county they have to make us whole for the total amount, whatever, if they sell it to -- for another district, or if they want to scrap it for a hundred bucks, that's fine, but they're giving the state back the entire money. I mean you can call it a penalty or whatever, but you're getting rid of your recycle program. You're going against -- the hold the state has, what, we're trying to do 50 percent --

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MR. GRATZ: -- recycling goal. You're going against the state. I think we just tell them, "You pay us back what we gave you, because you're getting rid of your district," and go from there, personally.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, I think that's -- that's another way of looking at it. I think it's a clean way of looking at it, be done with it. We don't have to worry whether it goes to the county or solid waste, you know, whatever entity, or if they scrap it.

MS. HACKMAN: The only -- I think that might -- I mean I agree with you, I agree

with what you're saying, but I think that might hasten them to dissolve the district before those hundred and eighty days, because they need to have that dollar amount left in their treasury; you know what I'm saying?

MR. NUNAN: Or look --

MR. MASSENGILL: Yeah, if we --

MR. NUNAN: -- the other way.

MR. MASSENGILL: -- if we do that and the county forces us to pay that back out of our budget, then that will shut us down way earlier than December, because we won't be able to make payroll.

MS. HACKMAN: Which is unfortunate. We were trying to --

MR. GRATZ: Do we have to make a decision now? Can we wait until it gets closer and then the county has to pay?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, we still have --

MR. MASSENGILL: Well, believe me that the Commissioners are watching every penny. I have to sit down with them every month, trying

to make sure that we have enough money left over to pay. That's why I'm trying to get a dollar figure, so I know if I'm going to be able to keep people employed until the end of the year, or are we going to have to shut down so we can pay back the money for the equipment. The county's not going to pull any money out of their pocket.

MS. HACKMAN: Dave, does your board members know you're on this call today?

MR. MASSENGILL: I don't know that they know that I'm on this call. I never invited any of the board members.

MS. HACKMAN: Okay. I -- okay.

MR. NUNAN: Hey, Dave, how many people is this affecting from an employment standpoint?

MR. MASSENGILL: Thir -- fourteen people.

MR. NUNAN: Okay. So --

MR. MASSENGILL: And I'm the -- I am the only full-time person. Everyone else is part-time.

MR. NUNAN: Okay. So, we are looking

at 14 people. If we ask the state for the money, we would affect -- or ask the county for the money, we would affect 14 people being laid off earlier than what was anticipated; correct?

MR. MASSENGILL: Plus the program would shut down earlier. I mean there's -- I mean if you want to say that the 180-day clock has started, I mean I don't know -- is there a slim chance that they may change their mind? I know they're trying to get pricing and quotes from other companies to do this, but I don't know if they're ever going to find someone to do it for what we are doing it for.

So, you know, is there a slim chance? I guess there's a very, very slim chance that they could -- they could change -- be forced to change their minds. I don't know. They're not listening to the public right now, so I would --

MS. WEGER: So, is the current plan, if the funding remains to the end of the year, that you would actually continue to recycle until the end of the year?

MR. MASSENGILL: That's what I'm

being told, that we're not going to be touched until the end of the year, so I would still have my -- the remainder of my budget for 2025. We're supposed to have a special meeting next month to discuss the '26 budget, which has been given to the county auditor, but I don't foresee them approving that. It will be a -- probably be a quick discussion.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Would they --

MR. MASSENGILL: They'll sit and tell you that it's not over yet. You know, if you ask one of the Commissioners, they'll say, "It's not over yet. We have still have to wait for the 180 days," but this -- the feel that we get is they want it to be over.

MS. WEGER: So, if you were to identify a recipient of the equipment now, let's just say, and then they would wait until December, and if it does -- if nothing miraculous happens and it does close down, it would transfer after that time?

MR. MASSENGILL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: And I think with

that --

MR. MASSENGILL: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- what Kelly's leading into, I would agree that if there's a binding -- a legal binding document that states, "After the 180-day period, if your program goes under, this is going to -- this equipment is going to transfer to another solid waste district that signs on as the receiver of that equipment for the same general use and purpose," then we would be okay with that.

But on the flip side, if we don't have that, in lieu of that, you know, we're going to have to have an understanding that there's going to be an amount expected to be reimbursed back to the state, and it's going to be whatever the fair market value of that equipment is, 50 percent of.

MS. WEGER: But what I don't understand is if they're dissolved, does the county then have legal responsibility to repay those funds?

MS. GARNER: So, here's -- here's --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: There's our

attorney.

MS. GARNER: I'm going to read the --

MR. FRENCH: That's a great question. We'll have to look into that.

MS. GARNER: Yeah.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: The county would get everything that was left behind.

MS. GARNER: It says here, grantee -- so, the grantee, so it's whoever, you know, signs the grant agreement, but -- I don't know how that happens when they dissolve, but for tangible property over a thousand dollars, under the terms of this agreement, shall be owned and utilized by the grantee for the purpose consistent with the intent of this grant agreement for the useful life of the equipment.

In addition, the state shall maintain an interest in any tangible property purchased under the terms of this grant agreement to this date at the extent of the state's contribution. So, that's where we have that weird -- we have -- it says that we have interest in the tangible property, and it must be used for its useful

life.

Go ahead, Mike.

MR. FRENCH: Yeah.

No, I -- James French, by the way. Yeah, I think we have a successors and assignees clause in there that says that anybody who comes after them and takes over, whatever that might be, and so, we might rely heavily on that in order to say the county, being the successor, would be the one on the hook there.

MS. WEGER: If that --

MR. FRENCH: If they check -- but it might be -- yeah, we'd have to look into that to make sure that that would be an automatic process and not one that they would take on or, you know --

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MR. FRENCH: -- what the ramifications would be there.

MS. WEGER: Yeah. I mean given everything that we've discussed, I think my preference would be, one, it just gets reassigned at the end of the 180 days, and then if they're

unable to do so, if it could transfer, and then the county has a final responsibility to repay the funds, that would be my preference. I wouldn't want to do that now and, you know, stop the program short. I know it's going to eventually end anyways, but --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, we do have a motion on the table.

MR. NUNAN: Do we need to reword it first?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, it wasn't my motion, so I'm going to ask Tara to reword it.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: There's a motion on the floor, you can have discussion, and then you can do an amendment. So, the motion was that we would say that if they go to sell the equipment, that we want our 50 percent of the funds back, and, of course, that includes when they sell something like that, they have to go through the state process. And then -- so, then if they want to, they can also pass it on to another county program.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: So, that was the

motion.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: And I said "county program," because not every county has a solid waste management district, and that was the motion.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: That was the motion.

MS. GARNER: That's the motion; okay.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: And our discussion is now, as Kelly just outlined, we have her version, we have Matt's version of just asking for the money back.

MS. WEGER: (Nodded head yes.)

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: And if there's no second, then the motion just dies, too.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I'm sorry?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: If there's no second to that motion, then it just dies.

MR. FRENCH: Yes.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: So, just a heads-up there.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: So, what's the pleasure of the Board?

MR. GUERIN: Is it permissible to say something before the --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Sure. This is a discussion period.

MR. GUERIN: I'm agreeing with what she's saying, but if you just remove "county" out of that and say "solid waste district" --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: How many solid waste districts are in the State of Indiana?

MR. GUERIN: I'm sorry?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: How many solid waste dist --

MS. HACKMAN: About 50.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Fifty in the state of Indiana?

MR. GUERIN: Yeah, it just --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: I didn't think there were that many.

MS. HACKMAN: There's 70, no, 70.

MS. WHITEHEAD: I didn't think there were that many either. There's 70?

MS. HACKMAN: Seventy, yeah.

MS. GARNER: And there's -- my

question is: What if a municipality wants to use it for a recycle program? Because some municipalities are trying to help counties out.

MS. DANIEL: And we did get a request from Scottsburg that was -- they're interested in the equipment.

MS. WEGER: Well, couldn't it --

MS. HACKMAN: Already?

MS. WEGER: -- couldn't it be any of them? Couldn't we say county, solid waste or municipality?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: We can say whatever we want. That's the beauty of it.

(Laughter.)

MR. NUNAN: That's what I'm trying to get to.

MR. GRATZ: I'd like to include a municipality, because they -- I mean not that I'm looking for this, where we go after this equipment, but I might be helping our solid waste district out a little bit in the future, too. So, like you said, there might be some municipalities.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. So --

MS. HACKMAN: Has this -- has this motion been seconded?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Not yet, no.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: No.

MS. HACKMAN: Okay.

MS. WHITEHEAD: We're just --

MR. NUNAN: Reworded.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. With the discussion held, do we have a second to this motion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All right. With that, the motion dies. Now, is there a motion to come up with a solution that would be better worded to the Board's pleasure?

MS. WEGER: I can take a stab.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Do it, Kelly, do it.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: You were just published, so --

MS. WEGER: I would like to make a motion that the equipment, at the end of the 180

days, be transferred to another county, solid waste management district, or municipality. If it is not, if it is sold, that we would recoup 50 percent of that sale price, or if it is neither of those, that the transfer responsibility would go to the county, and they would refund the moneys that were owed, or that were granted.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Oh, I think she got it all.

MR. GUERIN: Kelly, you didn't -- intentionally, I think, did not put county in there?

MS. WEGER: I did.

MS. HACKMAN: She did.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: She did, she said "county."

MR. GUERIN: You said "solid waste and --"

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: She said "county" and "solid waste" and "municipality."

MS. WHITEHEAD: And "municipality," yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. With that,

we have a motion by Ms. Weger. Do I have a second?

MS. HACKMAN: Second.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Second by Ms. Hackman. Any additional discussions?

MR. NUNAN: Who --

MR. MASSENGILL: I've just got one question. So, what if -- what if the selling price of the equipment within the county is $200, and you're only going to get a hundred dollars back as 50 percent?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: You can set a cap in the state process, the bidding process, that you will not accept less than a certain amount.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Basically, what --

MR. MASSENGILL: Yeah, I just think you need to -- I just think you need to understand what the equipment is worth and not have any open-end loops that will -- because they will take advantage of them.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Well, I think the --

MR. MASSENGILL: If you say 50

percent of the selling price, you know, then what keeps them from selling it to someone for a low price?

MS. HACKMAN: Dave, they have the opportunity first to go to a recycling program --

MS. WHITEHEAD: And trans -- and just transfer it out there.

MS. HACKMAN: -- just to transfer it, and if we can't find somebody to take it to use it for its intended purpose, then it would go back to the county.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: And --

MS. HACKMAN: So, we would -- you know, we would be confident that we will find somebody to take it for its intended use.

MR. NUNAN: How many trailers are there, Dave?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: What if we add the wording, "fair market value of said equipment"? Would that give us a little bit of protection?

MR. NUNAN: I think it would be.

MS. WEGER: With terms --

MR. FRENCH: Yeah, I would say -- I

would say yes. I think you would want fair market value or, at the very least, the prorated value.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay.

MR. FRENCH: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. Can we amend your motion?

MS. HACKMAN: I'll amend the motion by adding after the -- after -- read the motion back, please?

MS. GARNER: You I think I'm that good at reading it back? I try to take notes.

MS. HACKMAN: Well --

MS. GARNER: We have a recording.

MS. HACKMAN: Add the fair market value, be sold by the county at fair market value.

MS. GARNER: I have "The equipment, at end of 180 days, would transfer to the county, solid waste management district or municipality. If not, then we would recoup 50 percent of --" you said "sale price," so we want to say --

MS. WEGER: Tame.

MS. GARNER: -- "fair market value."

MS. HACKMAN: Okay. I move that we delete --

MS. WEGER: "Sale price."

MS. HACKMAN: -- "sale price" and insert "fair market value."

MS. GARNER: And then something about transferring to the county, asking them to pay back the --

MS. HACKMAN: That was what I'm -- that's what I'm amending.

MS. GARNER: Yeah. Okay.

MR. NUNAN: And will this go for the baler also, to have --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: No, really that's not in our purview.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: That's not ours.

MS. HACKMAN: That's Community Market Grant.

MR. NUNAN: Okay.

MS. GARNER: More than likely we'll follow the example of the Board, but that will be, yeah, IDEM's decision.

MR. NUNAN: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Any other comments or discussion?

MS. HACKMAN: I don't think my amendment's been seconded, because nobody understood it.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, we have a motion, we have an amendment to the motion, and is the amendment -- do I have a second for the amendment?

MS. WHITEHEAD: I'll second the amendment.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Second from Ms. Whitehead. Any additional discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Hearing none, Ms. Weger?

MS. WEGER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Ms. Wesseler-Henry?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Guerin?

MR. GUERIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Ms. Hackman?

MS. HACKMAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Gratz?

MR. GRATZ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Ms. Whitehead?

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Nunan?

MR. NUNAN: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: And I vote yes. Thank you. That motion carries unanimously.

So, use your equipment, try to get them to change their mind.

MS. HACKMAN: Wait a minute. We have -- we just voted on the amendment, we didn't vote on the motion, did we?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I'm sorry?

MS. HACKMAN: We just voted on the amendment, we didn't vote on the motion.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, maybe I got carried away.

MS. HACKMAN: Yes, you did.

(Laughter.)

MR. GRATZ: I thought they were all rolled together.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Now, we --
MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- need to vote on the motion.
MS. HACKMAN: Yeah, we've got to vote on change first, and then --
MS. GARNER: Yeah.
MS. HACKMAN: -- vote on the motion.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: And so, Ms. Weger's motion, and --
MS. WESSELER-HENRY: With the amendment.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: With the amendment. Ms. Weger?
MS. WEGER: Yes.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Ms. Wesseler-Henry?
MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Guerin?
MR. GUERIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Ms. Hackman?
MS. HACKMAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Gratz?
MR. GRATZ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Ms. Whitehead?

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Nunan?

MR. NUNAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Myself, yes. And so, now we're complete. The motion carries unanimously.

Now, you have the opportunity to use that equipment until the end of the year, and if you can convince them to breathe life back into the recycling program, you can continue.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Deanna, is that grant still open, or is it closed?

MS. HACKMAN: It's closed.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: It's closed?

MS. GARNER: Closed.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Okay. That's right. So, we don't need more reporting, correct?

MS. WHITEHEAD: Can we, as a Board, provide just a little statement for Dave to take back to his board, imploring them, just as your statement said, that, you know, we hope, as a

board, that they can find life in their solid waste district and funding, and we hope that they have a change of heart?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I would love to make a statement, but I have a personal conflict in making that statement, so it's going to have to come from someone else.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Well, Dave, I just made that statement. Do you want to --

(Laughter.)

MS. WHITEHEAD: Would you like to take that back to your board and just let them know that -- you know, your Commissioners and your council -- that from the Recycling Market Development Board, that we hope that they can find a way to maintain the solid waste district instead of dissolving it? Because we, of course, see great value in the work that you do.

MR. WHITNEY: It looks like Dave is having some audio issues. Yeah, there's some audio issues that he's having.

MR. MASSENGILL: I can't -- I can't hear -- I can't hear. Everything that people are

saying is choppy.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Oh, no.

MR. MASSENGILL: I can't hear clearly. What do you want me to hear?

MS. HACKMAN: Can you send him an e-mail later?

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: That way he'll have it in writing.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah. Is that okay for everybody?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: General consensus, yes.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Dave, can you hear us now?

MR. MASSENGILL: I can hear you now.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. You'll be receiving an e-mail from Ms. Sandy Whitehead expressing the feelings of the Board with regard to the situation, and you can share that with your board. And thank you very much for --

MR. MASSENGILL: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- your efforts. Hopefully you --

MR. MASSENGILL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- can change their mind.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Debbie, I have to get his e-mail from you.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All right. Thank you.

MS. GARNER: Thanks, Dave.

After that, I did want to just give a brief overview of the 2026 grant applicants that we got -- received on June 18th. We received 14 proposal -- proposals, totaling 4. -- a little over 4.6 million dollars in funding requested. We have started those compliance site visits for those 14.

I am providing the proposals to our staff to review coming this next week. We'll review them and score them, and then the Board will receive our scores along with the proposals to review and score on September 3rd, with a due date of October 3rd, and then we will award those

on the October 23rd meeting.

We have -- it's a -- it was an interesting round. We have some industry, but a lot more municipalities and universities this round than other rounds, so a little unique.

Lastly, if there's no questions about those, I did arrange to have two of our past grantees kind of talk to us, just short, 15 minutes, talk about the success of their program, what went well, maybe some things they would do differently next time if they were to do it again.

And first on my agenda, I have Electronics Recyclers International. David Hirschler is on-line to present to us a little bit.

David, can -- are you there and ready to share?

MR. HIRSCHLER: I think you're asking for me. I really can't hear you. You're very choppy.

MS. GARNER: Yes, David we are. It's all you. Sorry about the choppiness.

MR. HIRSCHLER: Okay.

MS. GARNER: We're working on it.

MR. HIRSCHLER: No, no problem. Sorry about that. So, yeah, thank you for inviting me, Deanna. Happy to be here to give an update on our grant that we received two years ago for battery sorting. I'm going to share my screen, if that makes sense.

MS. GARNER: Are we going to need the lights turned off?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Yeah.

MS. WHITEHEAD: That'd be great.

MR. HIRSCHLER: Did that pop up?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Yeah, of course.

MS. GARNER: Yes.

MS. HACKMAN: Yes.

MR. HIRSCHLER: Great. So, again, very much appreciate the opportunity to give an update. I think most folks know who ERI is, so I will skip over the first few slides, just talking about who we are.

And so, historically we've been very focused on electronics recycling over the last few years. The volume of batteries coming into

our doors has greatly increased, and not just within that -- within devices, but also loose, and so, we entered into a partnership with Call2Recycle to help support their program of sorting loose batteries.

And as many folks know, there's been quite a bit of challenges with fire safety issues, particularly with lithium batteries that have a tendency to have what we call thermal events, and then those events can then spread to the other batteries and cause a big issue.

So, there was a system that was developed called OneDrum, that has a special fire-safe material that's used to encapsulate a battery that is potentially causing a thermal event and protect it from spreading to the other batteries. And so, with that, these drums have a special permit to allow for the movement of batteries without having to individually tape each terminal.

And so, as we were growing this program with Call2Recycle, we really needed to work on making this process more efficient at our

facility so that we can actually bring in more batteries and expand the program. And so, the grant that we developed, that we propo -- put in the proposal was to -- first of all, just a set of drums that could be used to launch the program.

So, again, the drum is not just a basic drum, but it's a drum with the cell block pallets and all of the instructions, and importantly, the permit that allows for the movement of this material without extra requirements. So, it's not only -- you can take the terminal -- you know, you don't have to tape the terminals, but also, you can commingle batteries.

But with commingling of batteries and with using this fire-safe technology, there's quite a bit of dust that needs to be sorted through, and, of course, we still need to sort those batteries by chemistry to be able to properly manage.

So, then we developed a sorting table and conveyor that was able to allow us to unload these drums onto a conveyor, have our team sort by chemistry, and then collect the cell block,

which is the fire-safe material, at the end of the process so that that can be reused.

And so, the -- this is the conveyor that was installed at out facility, works incredibly well, and so, as you can see, those commingled batteries get dumped off of this conveyor and goes through that process.

On top of that, we also installed what's called a fire rover, which is a -- some fire-safe equipment to detect a thermal event before it happens, so basically this is using thermal x-rays to constantly look for potential heating -- or not x-rays, sorry, infrared -- to look for any areas that are heating up unnecessarily.

It'll immediately detect it, notify us, our teams can manage it, and then in the event that there is an actual fire that can't be managed, it then has a fire-suppression system, and it can deploy into the facility and put out any fires. And so, this can happen overnight, so even if we are not at the facility, the facility is closed, if something happens, the system will

detect a thermal event, notify us, and then put out any fires in case of any issues.

Knock on wood, it has detected lots of thermal activity, but has not had to be deployed at our facility, which is great news. The best part of this is the detection. We hope to never have to actually empty out all of the canisters.

So, here you can see the inside, the fire safety of the rover, you can see, you know, the -- how many different areas out at our facility it's looking at, and also this is the tank with the fire-suppression system and all of the electric components used to deploy that tank if needed.

So, the program's been incredibly successful. So, first of all, we increased our sorting efficiency threefold, so the amount of batteries that we're able to sort at a time dramatically increased. Since the grant has been launched, we've sorted 800,000 pounds, actually over 800,000 pounds of batteries from OneDrums.

Most of that material is alkaline batteries, but it is still 15 percent lithium

batteries, and then 19 percent other types of batteries. And so, what we've seen is outgoing, they are still the biggest ones out there, but what the OneDrum does enabling this mixed battery sorting, we're able to get more of the lithium as well as everything else.

We have also, because of this grant and the use of the drums that we purchased, we were able to launch the nationwide Staples collection program. Staples has 18 stores in Indiana, as well as well over a thousand stores nationwide, and now all stores in the U.S. accept all batteries for recycling from anybody at no cost.

And so, that's been a huge boon to consumer opportunities to get rid of their batteries, including their lithium batteries as well as alkaline batteries. We still service all of the Call2Recycle collection points that use OneDrum, and we've used these OneDrums at collection events in partnership with IDEM in Allen County and different businesses throughout the state as well.

This is a picture of the OneDrum in action

in Staples, so you see they put their own face on it to make it look more store friendly, but essentially this is that same component, that OneDrum system.

On top of that, because we've been able to launch this OneDrum program, we have installed our own alkaline battery system in Indiana, so now that we realize that over 60 percent of the batteries that are coming in are alkaline batteries, we now have installed our own battery processing in the State of Indiana specifically for alkaline.

And so, not just all of the material from the OneDrum, but we receive alkaline batteries from many, many collectors throughout the country, including Indiana, and we're able to process all of that in-house at our Plainfield facility, which is sort of a good impact of the grant that's kind of expanded from there.

And on top of that, we now are developing and hopefully installing a -- or actually not hopefully -- we're installing a best scan system that will enable us to automate the detection of

batteries by chemistry. So, kind of going further on that conveyor system, we'll then be able to actually automate the detection of each -- each of the battery chemistries and automate that process.

So, that is my update. So, the -- we've been incredibly appreciative of this grant. It really helped kick start quite a few projects, and I think it's been very successful. So, again, we really appreciate the Board's support on this program.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Thank you very much, David. You -- your presentation was very comprehensive. Every question I had I think you touched on; otherwise, you closed it out. So, I was kind of interested in, you know, putting some AI and robotics on your sorting table, but it looks like you guys are well on your way to that. So, great job. I'm very impressed with it.

MS. HACKMAN: Dave, I had a question.

MR. HIRSCHLER: No, thank you.

Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: I had a question, if

you don't mind. In the Staples store, the picture that you showed with their collection containers, those are in the stores and people just put their batteries in with nobody seeing what they are? I mean you throw a bunch of batteries in there, does not -- does that cell block keep them from catching fire if they -- if there's a problem, or --

MR. HIRSCHLER: So, most of the stores actually keep these behind a counter, and then they have the staff accepting them.

MS. HACKMAN: I see.

MR. HIRSCHLER: But -- yes. So, like the way the cell block and other rogue similar materials is supposed to work is that you do a layer. It's almost like a cake, so you're doing a layer of cell block, you're adding batteries in, and then the stores are instructed to add another layer of cell block.

And it doesn't keep the batteries from catching fire, but usually if something happens with one battery, it's not an issue. What happens is: If one battery heats up, it then

spreads to the next battery, then the next battery.

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MR. HIRSCHLER: And so, what the cell block does is: If one battery heats up and gets too hot, it'll actually -- it's a glass material that basically encapsulates that battery and protects -- it protects the heat from spreading to any other battery.

And so -- so, to answer your question, no, this is generally behind the counter, but the cell block is designed to -- I wouldn't say the -- you know, it's -- the staff are trained, but they are still -- you know, your standard staff are able to handle this, because that -- they just mainly have to keep those layers of cell block in the drums.

MS. HACKMAN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. HIRSCHLER: Uh-huh.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: David, do these include batteries for like power tools, like your DeWalts and Milwaukees?

MR. HIRSCHLER: Yes.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Okay.

MR. HIRSCHLER: So, those -- those batteries can be accepted. The only ones that aren't included in this is sort of larger-format batteries, so we don't want your e-bike batteries or anything like that. And then the specific program and this specific drum doesn't -- isn't ask -- it doesn't accept DDR batteries, your damaged defective recall batteries. You do want to -- just because that's higher risk, you want to have those in a separate container. But yes, your power tool batteries, absolutely.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Good to know.

MR. GUERIN: Is the technology available to get mostly away from hand sorting?

MR. HIRSCHLER: So, that's what we're working towards with our bat sort system, where, yes, it will detect the batteries by chemistry and then automate the sorting of that material. So, that's probably going to be installed Q4 of this year or Q1 of next year, and once we really test it out, we'll see the success, but we're excited about that as, yeah, moving away from

sorting by chemistry, yes -- I mean from manual sorting. And that does use an x-ray system as well as AI to be able to look inside the batteries.

REP. ERRINGTON: Does this accept vape batteries?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Good question.

David, were you -- I don't know if you heard that, but the question was from Rep. Errington, vape batteries, and don't ask me. I think that's what they're called.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Yes.

MR. HIRSCHLER: I'm sorry; can someone closer to the microphone repeat that? I can't hear that.

MS. GARNER: Do you guys accept the batteries from vaping devices?

MR. HIRSCHLER: From baking -- baking devices?

MS. GARNER: Vaping.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Like e-cigarettes.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: V, as in Victor, a p e.

MR. HIRSCHLER: Oh. No. So -- well, so if the -- if it is a vape device with a removable battery, then yes, the removable battery could be accepted, but if it is a disposable vape that does not have a removable battery, then those are not accepted because those are hazardous waste or controlled substances, depending on where you are and what's -- what the vape is used for.

And so, we can't accept those devices at our facilities, and Staples couldn't accept those at their locations, unfortunately. So, there's oils and controlled substances and things that make those hazardous materials under the federal law.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Thank you.

Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, very impressive. Thank you very much for sharing with us. Very informative.

MR. HIRSCHLER: No, thank you all. Happy to share.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All righty.

Next, Deanna.

MS. GARNER: All right. Next, I have asked Andrew King from RecycleForce to talk to us about their grant program. They receive a -- I'm going to say the wrong thing, but it's for their phone recycling program. It compacts the phone to make it easier to recycle, expanded polystyrene.

Andrew, are you -- can you hear us and are you ready to tell us a little bit about your project?

MR. KING: Yeah, I can hear you, and I do not have a fancy PowerPoint; I'm sorry. But that was very cool about the batteries.

So, yeah. So, I'm Andrew. I'm with RecycleForce. We currently just moved into our new facility here, I guess it would have been the beginning of 2000 -- end of 2023-2024, kind of when this grant cycle was happening, so part of that moving in was to try to solve some problems that -- or questions that we continuously got from the public about items that can and cannot

be recycled, "Can we drop these off?" and stuff like that.

So, when we were building the new building, we applied, with help with this grant, and purchased a unique corkscrew styrofoam compactor so that -- and we placed it at the actual drop-off site, our own. Polystyrene is recyclable, but why a lot of the companies do not accept it is because it's basically air, and you can't really afford to touch it, move it, or really do anything with it.

So, we placed the machine basically at our community dock where people drop off, and it allows us then to offer free for the community a styrofoam recycling drop-off. So, we kind of got the machine up and going at the beginning of 2024, so it's been going pretty well for the past almost 18 months now -- and that is my phone.

(Laughter.)

MR. KING: So, I think we have processed about 70,000 pounds of styrofoam from the public. The machine that we got is one of

the smaller versions, so we don't really offer this to a lot of our company corporates that have styrofoam. We do offer it to a handful of solid waste districts that we do recycle for so that, you know, they're all -- they're able to offer those. So, we do have a handful of solid waste districts that collect styrofoam for us and bring it in here.

The machine's throughput's only about 700 pounds a day, which is actually a semi-loadish of styrofoam, so like it takes up a lot of space, but it compacts down into one skid. So, the size reduction is very close to like a 1-to-50 ratio. And so, we're able to do a couple of different things once that styrofoam is compacted.

One option that we utilized is that we are able to send it to Brightmark Energy. They can convert the polystyrene into a napa oil that's used to make new plastic. And then actually today, oddly, we are sending our -- a test load of the styrofoam to a styrofoam recycler that actually makes new styrofoam out of it. So, we're going to see how -- if they like it, and we

might continue doing that with them, too.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Interesting.

MR. KING: And I'm sorry I don't have a PowerPoint.

(Laughter.)

MR. WODRICH: No problem.

MR. KING: I was told like last week that we were presenting, and I was like, "Oh, okay." And then Dave had a very fancy PowerPoint.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, you've got the knowledge. Now we're going to tap the knowledge. So, what do you see as the opportunity here? Is there opportunity as far as more available volume, or you could more implement more units to compact the styrofoam?

MR. KING: So -- so, one, I do want to -- volume-wise, I've got to be very mindful, but when we first -- because I do want to offer free recycling to the public; right? That -- to me, that is a very important thing. We wrote that in the grant. It's -- you know, it's

something that, you know, I think is kind of the focal point.

So, I don't -- I don't want to be able to bring in so much styrofoam -- and I'll give you a project that was asked for us to look at. So, you guys remember the little COVID styrofoam boxes that was used in Project Warp Speed during COVID, where they would put the COVID vaccines in a styrofoam box and mail it to all of the CVS's?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Yes.

MS. HACKMAN: Yes.

MR. KING: So, we apparently -- or somebody found out -- so, we found like 750 semi-loads of the accessed material of that, and, you know, they -- they wanted us to process it, and when -- I was kind of like, you know, "I can't -- I can't take in 12 semi-loads a day." One, the machine just can't go that fast.

So, there's lots of styrofoam out there. There's potential for growth, but it's very challenging; right? It is a lot of air, there's labor involved. You know, so figuring out, you know, do we want to get more machines? You know,

I have talked with a couple of different partners that we have about putting in machines there.

So, it's still -- we're kind of like looking at the numbers, making sure they make sense, but it's definitely something that, you know, we definitely market, talk about, and a lot of the community members and the solid waste districts that are sending it to us, you know, they really appreciate it, because a lot of people think you can't actually recycle it.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I guess one of the questions -- I always look at the economics; I'm sorry, and you're effecting -- you're doing it for free, and with everything, all of the effort that you're putting into it, do you have a positive ROI?

MR. KING: No. I mean it -- not -- yeah, no. It's -- it's styrofoam; right? I mean for me also, we -- in the e-waste world, we regenerates styrofoam; right? You know, today those -- we all get flat-screen TV's. If you get new flat-screen TV's that are in boxes, they all have two pieces of styrofoam. So, we have to

figure out how to manage our own styrofoam. You know, to -- for me, this is the opportunity to communicate, engage with the community, and show them unique solutions.

But we do communicate a lot, because I have a lot of companies that reach out, and they're like, "Hey, we want to send you our styrofoam." And I'm like -- I guess, well, I'm going to be like $50 a pound; right? Like you're not going to be able to afford to do it, nor -- nor do I want to take in so much styrofoam that I can't offer it to the public.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, I guess my question -- my question is: What number would it take for you to be able to do it for a large process -- or a large generator? Is it a $50-a-pound product that -- is that --

MR. KING: I mean I'd have to -- I'd have to run the numbers, because a lot of times, you know -- again, so with all plastic, you know, if you're going to get it recycled, it has to be clean. So, a lot of the plastic that we see, there's tape on it. The tape has to be removed;

right? There might be pieces of plastic embedded into it, I've seen that, or pieces of cardboard.

So, it has to be cleaned, so sometimes there's a labor step in process before we can actually set size and, you know, corkscrew the stuff. So, it's really project specific, but you also have to remember like the machine can only do 700 pounds a day; right? It's not one of the large machines that are out there. There's not a lot of large machines that are out there, because, you know, you just -- the ROI on it is hard; right?

To me, the real focus is not -- again, one of the unique things about RecycleForce is that we are a nonprofit; right? The way we operate is a little bit different than for-profit electronic recycling companies, or just recycling companies; right? For me, we find that we are -- we try to do things for the community if we can get it to break even; right?

You know, and I look at it as the opportunity, if I can get somebody's styrofoam that's -- they're driving it here, dropping it

off, I'm probably getting their computer also, or their printer. Like I'm getting other things, just because they know they can come here. Well, they can also put e-waste with the stuff that they're bringing here too; right? Look, running an actual business for styrofoam, I mean I think it'd be very challenging. I don't -- I -- yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: Andrew, what are you -- where are your markets for the densified styrofoam? What happens to it after it's densified?

MR. KING: So, I could send it to Brightmark Energy, which is in Ashley, Indiana. They use a paralysis process to convert commingled mixed plastics, then they convert it into a napa oil that is used to make new plastics. You know, so sometimes when I have, you know, mixed commingled plastics, it's a great outlet for that.

I am using -- again, like I was saying earlier, I have found a styrofoam company that does take styrofoam to make new styrofoam. I -- we are sending them a load actually today to see

if they can test it, how they like the contamination levels, and if they're interested in continue sending it -- or continue having the styrofoam from us from that.

And that's the other challenging thing is, you know, in the recycling world, plastic is hard to recycle. You know, other plastics contaminates plastics. You know, a little bit of LDPE or film plastic mixed in with the styrofoam can cause problems, and, you know, they really want very clean styrofoam and clean product streams.

And that goes with polypropylene, it goes with HDPE, it goes with almost every plastics. And it's hard to produce a clean stream of a single-source plastic. But we are sending them a test, and hopefully they -- they're able to accept it.

MS. HACKMAN: Thank you.

MR. KING: Yeah.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Andrew, am I correct in that your business, RecycleForce, is a rehabilitation program, like a work -- a work --

MR. KING: Yes.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yes. That's what I thought.

MR. KING: So, we are -- we are considered a social enterprise.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MR. KING: You know, so the -- we are -- well, so the concept of what we do is we -- we applied for grants at the mostly federal level, but some of it's state level, where we tend to -- we use those grant moneys to enroll people that have recently been released from jail or prison. At the current rates that we're running right now, they're actually being selected at their exit of DOC.

We've noticed that we're able to help more people and have better outcomes with the people, that we can get them a job sooner; right? So, we're testing that right now through a grant right now with, you know, the prerelease from DOC. People come into our program. We pay $15 an hour. While you're here, you're working at the recycling company.

The basic stuff that we kind of do is like we do the basic 18 OSHA classes, we do RCRA, we do HAZWOPER 40, we do EPA 608 training for freon reclaiming. Forklift, obviously; right? But then you actually get the hands-on experience of working in a warehouse, "Why do you have to wear, you know, gloves and goggles?" Like, "Because you're working at the recycling center."

Then we have a staffing company that would put people to work, and then goes out and helps people after they cycle through the program to get a better job. Then a lot of times those are a temp job, sometimes they're a temp-to-hire job, and sometimes they're a permanent hire job. So -- and then we bring in new people and do it all over again. So, we're always in a constant cycle of -- we're basically training new people.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah. And I think it's a wonderful program, and I just wanted to bring that to light, because I think that might help some of the Board members who didn't know that, to help --

MR. KING: Uh-huh.

MS. WHITEHEAD: -- understand why you can deal with this hard-to-deal-with material that maybe other businesses, as you said, a for-profit business, might not be able to; am I correct? Like because of the grants that you receive, like this help -- does this help you to be able to do this styrofoam recycling?

MR. KING: So, we don't use -- we don't use the federal grants in that way. We are using the federal grants to pay people --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Right.

MR. KING: -- right? And doing so, we do tend to kind of try to figure out projects that are challenging; right? You know, we're looking at vapes; right? I mean they are a problem. They are catching fires. We were just in California a month ago, and a company that manages recycling streams is having -- I think one of their half-a-million-dollar trucks catch on fire once a week because of vapes.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Uh-huh.

MR. KING: There was a fire on the side of the road in Indianapolis, down south, a

couple of months ago. But they're challenging; right? They've got universal waste, they've got e-waste, they've got nicotines, the acute hazardous waste. And then you have the ones that have probably illegal stuff in them, too; right? So, there are challenging things.

So, we tend to look at unique opportunities, because we have so many people that we're enrolling to work and train. So, it gives us the ability to look at other items that a lot of people are like, "Oh, the margins are too small." We're like, "Well, hey, I need to keep people working. Let's try to solve some of the weird problems that are in the recycling world."

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah. I think it's great, so thank you for the work that you do.

MR. KING: Yep, yeah. Okay. That's fine.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I thought it was very informative. I think Sandy brings up a good point. You have the opportunity to test some product that others won't take the time to do

because they don't want to lose the money on it.

MR. KING: Yep.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Seven hundred pounds a day -- or I think that's what you said, 700 pounds a day is your --

MR. KING: Yeah --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- capacity.

MR. KING: -- absolutely. That's the max for the machine, and I think we're -- I was looking at what we've shipped out, and I think we're roughly around 70,000 pounds of what styrofoam that we've taken in from the public and a handful of solid waste districts.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: And I guess, if I understood you right, that's like a semi-load full of styrofoam cups; correct?

MR. KING: Yeah. I mean -- no, I mean it's like 700 semis; right? Wait a minute. Yeah, it's like seven -- no, that's a hundred semis of styrofoam, basically.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Right. So, I mean you're doing great work, and we appreciate the insight, and the more we can learn from your

efforts, you know, the more we may be able to find a solution eventually.

MR. KING: Oh, definitely. I mean that's kind of -- you know, my boss always talks about like, "Hey, we're -- we're never going to be as big as ERI. Like our focus is different. Our focus is on the people." But why -- why not try to figure out things so that other people can -- you know, we can do it on a bigger scale than the state, you know, or even in the United States, in other recycling centers; right?

Like, "Let's -- let's use this opportunity that we have with the people and the ability to get different grants and explore the different things in recycling to figure out solutions; right?" He's always talking about like, "We're like a little test lab," and I'm like, "Well, yeah." That is kind of what my office looks like. It looks like a little test lab.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: The only thing that made me cringeworthy in your whole presentation was that you take styrofoam for free, and it kind of sends the wrong message out there to the

general public, but --

MR. KING: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Any other questions or comments from Board members?

MS. HACKMAN: Be sure to let us know when you start making money on styrofoam recycling.

(Laughter.)

MS. HACKMAN: Keep us in the loop.

MR. KING: I mean I can -- I can go back. I could -- I could probably -- I have a couple of models that I've built, and find out what the actual number of what would have to be charged to be able to make a 20-percent margin on it. It's probably not a fun number.

(Laughter.)

MR. KING: But again, this is why -- you know, again, as a nonprofit, we may have -- we have different focus points; right? I -- I'm more than happy to offer it for the public for free. I'm more than happy to offer it to a handful of the solid waste districts that want to do that; right? It's creating those

relationships and bonds.

And honestly, it's one of the biggest questions I get. Between styrofoam and pizza boxes, those are like my top two questions that -- like, "Can pizza boxes be recycled?" and "Can anybody recycle styrofoam?" I mean I've been doing this for 16 years. That's most of the questions I get.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All right.

Anything else?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, thank you very much. I appreciate your presentation, and good luck moving forward.

MR. KING: All right. Thanks.

MS. GARNER: Thank you, Andrew.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: All right. Now I believe we -- the next item on the agenda is the Indiana Materials Management Plan Progress.

MS. GARNER: Yes. I am going to give you guys a sneak peak. I thought this was the easiest way to update you guys.

So, as you guys are well aware, we

contracted with Eunomia at the beginning of the year to develop Indiana State Materials Management Plan, a little bit more comprehensive than our past Solid Waste Management Plan, as well as it was way overdue, since our last State Solid Waste Plan was done in 1990.

So, on -- and I encourage you to sign up for this as well, but coming up July 31st there's going to be a virtual meeting with Eunomia, that they're going to update everybody on the progress, and so I was just going to share some of their slides we have.

We are working towards -- so, kind of like a reminder, this is to advance post-consumer materials management, provide strategy for the state to reach its 50-percent goal, understand our current waste management strategies, where the gaps are, where the challenges are, identify stakeholders, promote economic growth in Indiana via waste management practices as well as local government and solid waste management districts.

So, this basically says that the plan is -- they're currently determining targets and

measurements, and the plan is due to be finished by the end of the year. One of the first things they did was model what we're currently doing to determine our baselines and identify prioritized material streams, as well as then shortlist different diversion levers -- levers -- we had this debate yesterday, whether it's levers or levers --

(Laughter.)

MS. GARNER: -- that would help move that path towards more of our 50-percent recycling goal. This just kind of shows some of the numbers. It's a -- this one I'm going to kind of skip over, because it's a bit misleading on tonnage versus -- our recycling rate that the EPA uses versus what is really being recycled throughout the state. And this, again, shows a little bit of disposal tons per capita.

So, what I kind of wanted to share with you guys here, the materials that they're really going to start focusing on. These are all of the materials in the scope, the top three, that are going to be priority materials that we're going

to identify and leverage ways to move forward are municipal solid waste, including the paper, plastics, glass, metal, packaging, construction and demolition waste, and electronics waste.

So, they've done some calculations on the diversion potential for those, as well as their economic value, potential to recover in those values, and that's how they were able to identify those as the priority materials that they will model further.

And then they have these long lists of levers. They had IDEM staff look at this, they looked at it, we looked at it against these rads, they call it, which is kind of a red/yellow/green assessment for how big their input was, basically, and they looked at it for these potential assessments, so potential for waste diversion, ease of documentation and reporting, time scales for implementation, implementation costs and resources needed, potential stakeholder, political opposition, as well as potential for other co-benefits such as economic development, job creation, emissions reductions.

And this is the overview of the shortlisted levers that they came up with.

So, some of these affect both the commercial and residential sector, as you see. Others that are just more focused on commercial sectors were -- and since the very first one, food waste diversion requirements, would be a commercial-based impact and would have a huge impact on that -- reaching that 50-percent goal, so that's right there at the top.

But we also included other things, you know, recycling requirements, definitely stakeholder, public education campaigns, in addition to our 50-pecent recycling goal, as well as investment, of course, which is kind of part of what we do.

So, other things that are next steps that are coming up, there will be four regional open houses that IDEM is hosting, so people will have a chance in person to come in, walk through. We're going to have basically posters, they'll be like open-house style. So, we'll have posters about some of the results that you're seeing,

some of the graphs, the modeling.

They'll be able to answer questions, and they'll be able to provide feedback to us that will help also put that -- those feedback into the plan as well. And so, those will be occurring between mid-September -- mid-August to mid-September, excuse me -- and we have one northwest, north, southwest, and southeast.

And then there will be a final call for data. They are currently doing surveys as well. They'll continue doing the surveys, because we have a -- of course, you know how surveys are. They get results back from our stakeholders, so they'll continue to take survey results and put that into their baseline modeling.

And that's about it, so -- for that. So, do you guys have any questions about that?

(No response.)

MS. GARNER: I just want to give a little bit more input on how -- how it's going, how they're doing the plan, what it might look like in the end.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Any questions?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Thank you, Deanna. Very good.

Next item on the agenda, Study Review. Basically, we want to talk about a couple of different items. You know, we talk about waste characterization studies and market studies, another program, you know, market development work. We have the opportunity, and I think rather than just focusing on approving what comes in, how can we pool our minds to think of -- what can we go out and touch to generate a market and develop a program to feed that end market?

So, my thought is: Have we really done a good end market study throughout the state to see who is in need of additional raw materials and whereas recycled raw materials could offset virgin raw material? I mean we've got a huge plastic company in Evansville, Indiana, and I don't know what they pay. I'm sure somebody does.

But how much -- how much recycling are they taking versus virgin, and how can we change

those ratios? Would it -- would it be worthwhile to invest in a study to do those kind of things? And what do the other Board members think about that?

Debbie, I'm leaning on you.

MS. HACKMAN: I think if a manufacturer's going to use virgin material or recycled material, it's going to narrow down to price, and that's going to determine how much they're going to use of either product. There might be a few manufacturers out there that'll say, "Oh, let's use recycled because it recycled and we're doing the right thing for the environment," but, you know, at the end of the day, they've got to answer to the city, you know.

MS. GARNER: I guess I'm wondering, like along Bruce's mind, is there a story that we should be telling that's not there yet? Like just from me attending conferences, when you identify end mark -- like Indiana -- and I tell everybody this, and they're shocked -- has tons of end markets for recycled materials.

We're a manufacturing state, and people

are importing it into Indiana to recycle it. Nobody knows that. Nobody knows that that's a huge economic impact for the state. So, that tells a story about not just, you know, where our end markets are, but the economics and that -- the value of recycling as a whole. It's almost a bigger picture of "Why do you recycle?"

Well, it contributes to child growth in the state. It contributes to, you know, more tax base, honestly, like there's -- and so, I'm wondering, if you approach maybe a study along that kind of market development lines -- I just pulled this up real quick from Texas. They did -- their study, they called it a recycling market development plan, because it was asked to be done in the statute that way.

But some of the key topics, as us, in current availability of feedstock, of recyclable materials, identifying potential feedstock consumers, and then, of course, making their recommendations based on findings. But it also includes an education campaign to cover economic impacts of recycling in Texas.

MS. HACKMAN: Do we know what type --

MS. GARNER: This might be -- I'm throwing a lot out there, I know, but it's just some ideas.

MS. HACKMAN: Do we know what materials that are being imported in the -- recycled materials that have been imported? I mean is there any --

MS. GARNER: I mean like, you know, the manufacturers always like to tell their story. I mean --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: That's a fine --

MS. GARNER: -- we know that they -- you know, yeah.

(Laughter.)

MS. GARNER: They always tell us, you know, that most of --

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. GARNER: -- their material comes out-of-state, but we don't know numbers. I -- one of our grants was with like PT Polymers, they import most of their stuff. They actually asked us about that, because they almost wanted to move

their plant, where they were going to put the equipment, to Illinois, closer to where they were importing stuff, or where they were getting their feedstock from. So, I know that plastics get imported. Numbers --

MS. HACKMAN: Types, yeah.

MS. GARNER: Types, yeah, that's a lot harder to gauge. And if we didn't do these recycling market development grants, Indiana would really have no idea; right? Like --

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. GARNER: -- I'm able to keep my pulse on these things because of the work you guys do in awarding these grants and hearing from the people who are doing the work.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Hey, Tom?

MR. LEAS: Yes.

(Laughter.)

MS. WHITEHEAD: I know that you don't get reports from businesses.

MR. LEAS: Right.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Wouldn't that be beneficial if you did? Wouldn't that be

beneficial to this question?

MR. LEAS: It's a -- it would. You know, that information would have to be tracked that way, and --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Right.

MR. LEAS: -- and getting those facilities to submit that information --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Right.

MR. LEAS: -- and --

MS. WHITEHEAD: I mean I'm just thinking -- you know, we're thinking of -- and I'm not saying that's a bad thing. I'm just throwing this out there. We're thinking of spending money on doing a study when really, what needs to happen is businesses need to just report what they're recycling, and wouldn't that answer a big part of that question?

MR. GUERIN: Well, several years ago, when this -- the legislation was passed on all of this reporting --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yes.

MR. GUERIN: -- businesses were successful in getting themselves exempt --

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MR. GUERIN: -- of that.

MS. WHITEHEAD: And I'm curious. Why is that?

MR. GUERIN: They just didn't want -- well, they didn't want to share the information because they didn't want -- they thought some of them would be proprietary. So, somebody needs to go back to the legislature again and include these people. I mean the battle needs to be done again. The last time around, it -- the private sector was the one that pushed it.

The Indiana Chapter of the National Waste Recycling Association was one of the driving forces of getting that data collection statute passed. I've tried to encourage them of going back and trying to include some of these people again, but I'm not sure how much desire there is to do that, but that's what has to happen.

MS. GARNER: I think -- I think we hear this all of the time. Like obviously we're not going to get to 50-percent recycling rate if there's not policy supporting it, in addition to

market development activity, in addition to education and outreach, in addition -- there's all of the key factors; right? But what you're talking about is getting those people to report is a policy recommendation, and we did include that in the last report; right? Yeah.

But I think, to stay focused, we kind of -- what can the Board do; right? The Board does get a dedicated fund of money, and one of the things it says in state statute that we can do with that is research studies, market development activities. So, I -- I just wanted to give this opportunity for the Board, as a whole.

I did also just remind you guys of our -- I gave you the sheet, you know, the visions, the Board priorities that we established in our strategic meetings, some of the recommendations from our last study, and highlighted the ones that we can influence, because I always encourage everybody who calls me -- constituent, Board member, anybody -- to talk to their legislators, but -- and the Board can to that; right? They

can talk to the legislators. But what can we do now? Is there an education? Is there a study? Is there information that we can gather that will help inform policy decisions?

MR. GUERIN: A little side -- a humorous side comment, I guess, of this last round, when people were trying to get exempt from having to report, the incinerator did not want to report, and they were successful in being exempt.

However, when the incinerator here in Indianapolis went after establishing a dirty MRF -- I'll use the term dirty MRF -- then they automatically fell inadvertently under the criteria where they had to report. Now, that never materialized, but it's just an example of where you try to get out of having to report, but accidentally they got themselves back into a situation where they were going to have to report.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I guess my position, what I was thinking, and maybe I'm way off track here, but we do a great job at sitting here reviewing what the outside brings to us, but

we have a pot of money, somewhere between probably ten or fifteen million dollars, sitting in the bank that we can't touch unless we come up with a good idea.

And why don't we put together a think tank that focuses strictly on developing recycling programs or initiatives, and to promote them to market to where somebody would make an investment and do it? And that's what we have to look at is not spending money to hire people to do this work. It's investigating money in these people's ideas that should return, you know, some type of profit to us. Does that make any sense?

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah. I mean I --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I mean we've got a lot of smart kids coming out of college.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yes. So, that leads me to this next statement. I sent -- I forwarded an e-mail to you, Deanna. I don't know if you had time to look at it, but I don't know a lot about Circular Indiana anymore. I kind of lost touch with them, but I get e-mails from them, and they send out a newsletter, and they had a study

done with some Purdue students. And I'm sorry; it fails me right now what it was about. Do you have it, Deanna?

MS. GARNER: I know it's -- it's talking about creating recycling market hubs, I believe --

REP. ERRINGTON: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. GARNER: -- right?

MS. HACKMAN: Like regional sections, I think that's what the idea was, yeah.

MS. WHITEHEAD: So, I think that it would be beneficial to our group to -- and this is a tangent, it's probably not the focus, but for us to reach out to a group like Circular Indiana and have them present. You know, what are they working on? Because I think they're doing some things that might be of value to our Board.

MR. GUERIN: I've looked at this Board -- ever since the Chinese kind to cut off our supply, I've looked at this Board as an opportunity to support innovative technologies,

and the last innovative technology we had come before this Board, we did not fund it. And unfortunately I was not able to talk about that project because we had a -- I had a conflict of interest. But that had to do with automotive fluff.

And that's a big problem, and they had a technology to deal with it, and we -- instead of supporting that project, we supported recycling flat-screen TVs, and then that company failed. So, I think we need to do something to try to encourage more innovative technologies to apply for grants, and I'm not quite sure how you do that.

There have been some collaborative effects between the private sector and universities doing research on projects, and that, to me, is a good source of finding out what some of these innovative technologies are, and that's the universities.

MS. GARNER: How many people are familiar with the NextCycle Program that other states have?

(No response.)

MS. GARNER: Nobody; okay. Well, we need to have maybe -- maybe at the next meeting that we have time, we need someone to present on that. So, Michigan, Colorado, and the State of Washington, I know, are three that have it, and I believe Ohio is starting a version of it, but it is exactly what you guys are talking about.

It's like a market development hub that brings together university, and it brings together investors, and they have -- and it's all about the innovation. So, they actually have different cycles of different priority materials even, so they might have a flow cycle that deals with compost and organics, and then they might have one that is plastics, and there's another group or cohort that's dealing with innovation.

And then these -- these experts from the state, from the university, from investors, they all come together and form a cohort and a group, and they meet for, say, like six months to a year, they talk about their projects, they flesh out their projects, and then at the end of that

time they present to a board or such for funding opportunities.

A few of years back, a couple of Commissioners ago, actually, they -- we were asked to actually look into how we could bring NextCycle to Indiana, and unfortunately it takes a real -- it takes real support from a funding standpoint and just kind of that backing of, of course, the agency to do it, but -- because it was -- I think that they -- the majority of the programs are contracted with RRS, Re --

MR. GUERIN: Resource Recycling, out of Ann Arbor.

MS. GARNER: Yeah, out of Ann Arbor, exactly. And they facilitate, and I think like their contract is a million dollars a year to facilitate the NextCycle for Michigan, and that was several years back. But maybe that is a next step we can do as well is just have a state or someone present on their NextCycle Program, and we can look at how maybe the Board can help.

MS. HACKMAN: Is that N e t Cycle? Is that what you're saying?

MS. GARNER: Next, N e x t.

MS. HACKMAN: Okay.

MR. GUERIN: I know Michigan State had a group several years ago that was comprised of legislators, faculty members and businesses, and the whole idea was to sit down and come up with emerging technologies that they'd want to market. I don't know how -- I would think that most universities have some kind much a group like that, so we need to figure out how to tap into those.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: You know, it's very sad. I know we've got an offered agreement with Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, but in Southern Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky, I don't get a lot of feedback on what's going on --

MS. GARNER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- at Ohio State and our partners at Columbia, at the MRF. So, it's information sharing, it's ideas, and -- but I think this Board could promote some concepts that we may be able to find takers on in the market in the State of Indiana. I mean

somebody's got to come up with the next great widget.

So, would you look into that, Deanna?

MS. GARNER: Yeah, yeah. Matt Fletcher is the one that told us all about the Michigan one, if you guys are familiar at all, so he's the -- he's kind of my counterpart in Michigan. He's --

MR. GUERIN: Who?

MS. GARNER: -- always happy to talk to everybody. Matt Fletcher.

MR. GUERIN: Oh, yeah.

MS. GARNER: But we could also even get a perspective, possibly, from, you know, Washington's program as well, which is more -- I know it's more -- less funded, not as strongly funded, but it'll eventually --

MR. GUERIN: Matt's been around for a long time.

MS. GARNER: Yes, yeah, and Matt's been around for a --

MR. GUERIN: A long time.

MS. GARNER: -- long, long time,

yeah, and he's a great one to hear from. But they do like use it. They partner with the university and do all of that work and encourage innovation as well.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I guess I would challenge every Board member to kind of think of opportunities to be more proactive rather than reactive. If we can promote something out to the community to see if we can get some interest, and then be able to fund it, it would be, I know, very exciting, to me. It seems like it would be more exciting to all of us, rather than sit here and read all of these grants that come in. I mean it's a hell of a lot better now than it was when we started on this, doing picnic tables, recycled wood picnic tables.

MS. GARNER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: We're doing a lot better with this Board, but I think there's an opportunity that we could even, with Rep. Errington's help, get more money --

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- from the

state --

REP. ERRINGTON: Well, I'm happy to help.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- and maybe do some more things with it. So, I always fear for that day when the big broom comes in --

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- and that ten to fifteen million dollars becomes two million dollars and we start all over. So --

MS. HACKMAN: Well, where do we start with this? I mean it's a big project.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah.

MS. HACKMAN: I'm trying to think back. Okay. The starting point would be -- and I don't know what it is. Where are we going to start? I mean we all feel that -- we all agree, but it's a big project. Where do you start?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, and again, this NextCycle, maybe our starting point would be to ask for a presentation from them, just to get our minds going in the right direction.

MR. NUNAN: I think that's key right

there, Bruce, as far as going back to somebody that's done and is doing it, how did they get started? Let them tell their story over a 15-or-20-minute or a half-hour conversation or presentation, "This is where we started, this is where we're at, this is where we're going," and then just divide and conquer and just take it step by step each quarter when we get together. I think that's the best way to attack it.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: That's right.

MS. HACKMAN: Do you think maybe we need -- and then eventually maybe redefine the -- what we're looking for in these grant applications?

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I think we can always -- we always need to evolve. I mean everything's changing. You know, certainly everything's not like it was when I was 18.

MR. NUNAN: No. I mean we're going through it at ERI right now. We just hired a young engineer that's younger than I've been leading people, and it -- the information and technology he's bringing to us has not been seen

in our company, and our company's 20 years old, and now it's -- it's paying dividends, as David showed.

But it's one of those things, too, where it's -- we've got to catch up to him a little bit and we've got to pump our brakes and try to learn that -- he's got to learn the old school and we've got to learn the new school, and that's kind of where we're at with the Board, and that's where I think we need to step back and have Deanna bring in the people that we need and start where they started, so on and so forth.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Yes.

MS. GARNER: I think we're going to find the biggest challenge, this is one -- like you said, this is a big task. The Board meets quarterly.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. GARNER: There's not the resources for me to dedicate to you guys to do more in between, really, besides managing the grants the way I am now. I mean I'll do what I can. It is a chal -- it's just a big challenge

that I see.

And that -- leading to this question for you guys: Our next Board meeting is the October Board meeting. We're going to be looking at awarding the grants. Do you want this NextCycle presentation to con -- you know, occur during that meeting, which usually goes somewhat long anyways, or do we want to -- yeah, someone's already shaking their head no.

MS. HACKMAN: No.

MS. GARNER: So -- so, are we looking at February before we talk about NextCycle again?

MS. WHITEHEAD: Hmm.

MR. NUNAN: Maybe do February, and we take our second quarter meeting also, and we kind of build from the first quarter and the second quarter's meeting to get it where it needs to be, because we don't want to take -- and this is just my opinion -- we don't want to take away from the grant process during our next quarter, I don't think.

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

MS. WEGER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I would agree with you, Andrew.

MS. HACKMAN: And we -- and if we are going to make some changes, we need to do that before that -- the applicants go out --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Well, could we do --

MS. HACKMAN: -- and we don't want to make it --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. HACKMAN: Okay.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Could we do a virtual presentation that -- you know, it's not three hours long, and it's just like an hour and we do it on a Teams meeting or whatever?

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Like a lunch-and-learn type thing? "Today we'll grab you lunch, we going to have this presentation."

MR. NUNAN: Well, we've got 15 million to buy lunch.

(Laughter.)

MS. WHITEHEAD: And I think we don't even have to come here.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Right.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Lunch -- like that's worked for a bunch of -- we do a lot of those with our departments --

MS. WHITEHEAD: Gotcha.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: -- yeah, the lunch-and-learns.

MS. GARNER: Do we -- would that be considered a public meeting?

MR. FRENCH: I think we'd have to be careful about the public meeting laws for that, yeah.

MS. DANIEL: That -- it would have to be advertised as -- I mean it couldn't be advertised as a meeting by the Board or a Board meeting, and think there's rules that more --

MR. FRENCH: Yeah.

MS. DANIEL: -- than so many Board members --

MR. FRENCH: And timing --

MS. DANIEL: -- in the same room together --

MR. FRENCH: -- right, yeah.

MS. DANIEL: -- then it has to be a

public meeting.

MR. FRENCH: Right.

MS. WEGER: Yeah.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: But if it's virtual --

MR. FRENCH: Announced or whatever.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: So, you could advertise it that you're not making any decisions from the Board. You can say you're not -- there's no decisions being made; it's strictly an informational meeting for the Board. You can put that in there, in your open -- your door thing.

MR. FRENCH: We can look into it, yeah.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Yeah. We do it all of the time --

MR. FRENCH: Yeah, I think --

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: -- at the State Conservation Board.

MR. WODRICH: It would have to be an agenda item.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Uh-huh, sure can, yeah.

MS. WEGER: So, I have a question, I guess. I don't have it fully formulated, but I'm percolating. So, I obviously come from the Purdue MEP background. We're the number-one manufacturing state in the U.S., and I am curious. I mean certainly like glass is something that I think we've all been made well aware of.

I guess what I don't know is what historically has been the level of really active collaboration with some of these larger industries. I mean I know that they're out there saying like, "Hey, make new policies that benefit us," but I mean in a time where like my company is, I would say, constantly looking at new ways to divert the inventory, and like we just opened a PV recycling company.

I'm wondering if it's too far outside of the normal scope to like reach out to some of our larger industries that we know are importing materials and trying -- and think outside the box, you know, talk to them about what are some of the ways that we have could support and

collaborate? Like why doesn't Knauf have its own drop-off center for glass that they manage? I don't know. It just seems like there are some dots missing to connect us to the industries.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I hear exactly what you're saying and I agree with it, but I think there's levels that we need to address. None of us are paid to do this, so when we get to a point of developing new products for market, that's going to be an intensive obligation. You know, our Board has the ability, possibly, to fund a think group that would have moneys to fund them to do the work, to do the collaboration, to come up with the ideas --

MS. HACKMAN: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- and then report back to us. So, I would build a bevel there that we're funding through RMDB grants and develop new product. Does that make sense?

MS. WEGER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I mean --

MS. WEGER: Well --

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- because we can't

pay ourselves, but we can pay them.

MS. WEGER: Yeah, yeah, I agree. I agree. Yeah, I'm not saying like this Board is going to solve this.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Pat?

MS. DANIEL: I was going to say a good way to look at it is: Remember a few grant rounds ago we had a gentleman submit a grant application for pallets? Remember that pallet idea, that he wanted to take all of these pallets and --

MS. GARNER: The shipping containers?

MS. DANIEL: -- store -- the shipping containers --

MS. WEGER: Oh, yeah.

MS. DANIEL: -- and do that.

MS. HACKMAN: The collection pallets.

MS. DANIEL: And I think that most of the Board liked the idea of what he was trying to do, but it was severely lacking.

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

MS. DANIEL: I mean he -- there was a lot of information. So, you could get a project

like that that the Board can see a future or can see a product, but you can't develop him into the things he needed to consider and the steps he needed to take to make something like that viable.

But what the Board could do, similar to like the Next program, is hire someone or hire, you know, a collaboration -- or a group to lead a collaboration like that to formulate that idea into something that it marketable, that makes sense, that's something that, you know, could be a viable end-market product that the Board could see. I think that's similar to what -- how Next works.

MS. GARNER: Yes.

MS. WEGER: Could -- so, I might be way too far out in left field here, but like could we fund something that could be essentially an incubator for businesses like that that are not quite ready, but they just need some more support that --

MS. DANIEL: If you was to -- if you are concentrating on the product --

MS. WEGER: Uh-huh.

MS. DANIEL: -- not the business.

MS. GARNER: It says here -- I actually just pulled up state statute, because I thought this question might come up. "The Board [can]...provide funding for studies, research projects, and other activities required to assess the nature and extent of recycling markets in Indiana and the nature and extent of recycling resources to meet the needs of the state."

And then, of course, there's the grant part of it, too. Let's see what that says. So, I think that's "receive," but there is a part where we can grant funds for, you know, recycling activities that further our markets as well.

MR. GUERIN: Is there any way we can maybe integrate with some of these incubator projects? Purdue has incubator projects, I know Michigan State has a facility where they can incubate projects.

MS. GARNER: I mean I think that's the idea, that ask this Board to come to fruition.

MS. WEGER: Yeah. I mean if there are programs that are already out there but, you know, maybe they're not getting to the same questions that we want to get at, if we could work with them -- rather than reinventing the wheel, per se, just get them to dive to that deeper level, because I mean at some level, I feel like there are, you know, plenty of reports that are out there.

And we all have kind of like, I think, a rough idea of what's out there in terms of who's looking for materials, maybe not in exact numbers, but -- and, of course, we don't have a complete picture, but I don't know -- I guess I'd like to try and find something where we can get closer to an actual item instead of just another study.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: We certainly don't want to do another waste characterization study.

MS. HACKMAN: Even if we contract a company to do this, and they call XYZ Company and say, you know, "We're doing this research project. We want to know what kind of materials

you need, you know, that maybe Indiana could provide," and they're going to say, "I don't have to tell you anything. This is my business and it's private information." And I -- you know, that's -- that's why we don't have Tom reporting it, because they don't -- and there might be a few. I mean I guess they'd be the ones that would benefit, I guess.

MS. WEGER: Well, and I think that's where I feel like there's part of this gap. If -- if I'm working for a manufacturer and somebody comes to me and says, "Hey, you -- I know you guys are trying to get recycled glass. There's -- there's a -- there's an opportunity here that we haven't quite fully fleshed out. If we could find a way to get more of that glass collected, to get it to you, then it wouldn't be shipped as far, it would probably cost us much less, you would actually end up saving on your input costs, and if it had a lot of benefits to you as a company, but we need information from you first." I mean I think there's a way to propose it to industry to get their attention.

MR. NUNAN: It's all presentation.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Right.

MR. NUNAN: And trying to explain to them what we're trying to drive to help them is what you're trying to get to, Kelly?

MS. WEGER: Right. "What's in it for me?"

MR. GUERIN: It's still going to come down to economics, and glass isn't a problem.

MS. WEGER: Well, I just used glass as an example, but it could be other materials.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, I think we -- I think it's a good discussion item.

MS. HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Let's get NextCycle scheduled for the first quarter of the year, and just everybody think about being a little bit more proactive rather than just reactive to grants coming up. And we all deal with it every day. Just -- I think it would be exciting to have a think tank working on stuff for the state that would maybe be groundbreaking.

MS. WEGER: Uh-huh.

MR. NUNAN: Could it be possible, Deanna, to have one of the side states help us, come in and talk during the first quarter, or us, as a -- I mean as a group or individuals -- who do we have in our back pockets that can help us, maybe?

You've got Purdue, Kelly, so from that standpoint, someone coming in from Purdue and talking to us during the same meeting, after hearing a person from maybe Ohio talking. That way, you're kind of connecting two things within one meeting, because I'm looking at it, you know, we've got four meetings a year. How can we -- our first two meetings of the year, first and second quarter, those are our two meetings that we've got to make a big bang for the buck as far as, "Okay. Hey, we're going to make a change," because third quarter -- like right know we're kind of all "Okay. What do we do the first part of the year? Reviewing.

And then the fourth quarter meeting -- or the third quarter meeting is basically, "Okay. We're giving the money out." We've got to make a

move in the first two quarters is the way I kind of see it, and this would be a good opportunity to take the one in -- is it January or February?

MS. GARNER: Late January or early February.

MR. NUNAN: February? Well, we can make that one by bringing in you know, if it's Ohio, we bring Ohio, we bring in Purdue or whomever, and then that way we kind of get out in front of it and say, "This is what we're looking for." They can bring their piece, the other company or other, you know, information people bring in their part of it, to give us a better idea of when we go into the second quarter meeting, Okay. What decisions can we make, or what decisions or direction do we want to go?"

A lot said, but just -- it's trying it get the right people into that meeting. We're -- the next time we meet, it's going to be not this, it's going to be, "Okay. Guess what, Sandy? You can't vote on that; that's your company." "Guess what, Terry? You can't vote on that; that's your company." We're giving out money. We're not

going to have time to focus on this.

So, it's like getting it right here to who we bring in for that meeting during the first quarter, because I think it's needed. I think all of us agree it's needed. It's just, "Who are the players we need to bring in to help support us?"

And that's where I'm kind of relying on you guys, because you guys are in it deeper than what we are. We're on the -- we're on the front line battling it and going through it, but you guys are -- you guys have the connections. I mean with all of your years, Terry, you've got a lot of connections that might know something about it and might know who'll bring it in. I don't know.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: That'll be the initiative, then, moving forward.

MS. GARNER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: And maybe we can find a little speck of gold out there somewhere that turns into a fortune. I just -- again, we need to do our part. Hopefully we earn

reappointment, and we can all continue to work on it after we come up with this, and maybe get a raise. We'll go from --

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: -- a cup of coffee to two cups of coffee. All right.

REP. ERRINGTON: I've been -- I'd like to go back a little bit to the Circular Indiana conversation.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Yes.

REP. ERRINGTON: I've been working with them quite a bit, and I know that their focus right now is extended producer responsibility, and they're having a -- their third annual conference on -- I think it's September --

MS. HACKMAN: It's --

REP. ERRINGTON: -- 6th.

MS. HACKMAN: Keep talking.

REP. ERRINGTON: It's coming up.

MS. DANIEL: September 8th.

MS. HACKMAN: 8th.

REP. ERRINGTON: 8th? So, that will

be part of what they're doing, but they've been in conversations with a national recycling nonprofit group that seems to be doing quite a lot of work, and I don't remember the name right now.

MS. GARNER: The Recycling Partnership.

REP. ERRINGTON: Yes. So, I don't know if that's some other organization you would want to have as part of this conversation of what kind of innovations do we need.

MS. GARNER: They've come to talk to you guys a while back, but they have been here, so yeah. And they have -- I mean that's what they kind of talked to us about is how can we structure our grants to benefit the most people, actually. So, they -- yeah, we can see if they can be part of the conversation.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Thank you, Sue, for adding that, because --

REP. ERRINGTON: Yeah.

MS. WHITEHEAD: -- that's -- that's what I'm thinking. You know, there are people

who are doing this kind of work --

REP. ERRINGTON: Uh-huh.

MS. WHITEHEAD: -- and we can tap into them, too.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Do other states have success with getting information from their businesses about what they're importing and exporting, or are they in the same positions?

MS. GARNER: I think there's state laws that -- and policies -- that require them to report, and then with the extended producer responsibility that Sue is mentioning, that's really the Recycling Partnership's like push right now in states. I think there's eight states now that have it. There might be a few more that have added this year, but there is a lot of requiring reporting -- requirements -- wait. Hold on; I'm sorry -- reporting requirements necessary to -- for manufacturers, whether that comes to like EPR or like paper and packaging; right?

MR. GUERIN: Yeah. That's an area that is closely being watched by the solid waste

industry, because there has to be some kind of structure set up to handle the EPR.

MS. GARNER: Right.

MR. GUERIN: And you've got to be careful who that party is. I mean that's our concern.

MS. GARNER: Yeah. A lot of the states have contracted that work, like the produ -- the responsible party that manages the -- you know, once they come in, then how they go back out. So, there's a new Circular Action Alliance that's doing a lot of work in that sector for some of the states.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, we look forward to hearing from NextCycle in the first quarter if we can get it set up. That'd be a good start.

Let's see. The next item on the agenda is just basely our remaining schedule; right?

MS. GARNER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Everybody's on the hook for one more meeting.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Our next meeting will be October 23rd, 2025. Pat'll put on the Christmas party for us early.

I expect key lime pie, Pat.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: But I think, Deanna, you've laid out the schedule for when the grants -- applications will be available for our review and scoring.

MS. GARNER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: We'll get that done. Everybody, please give it your best effort, review all of them. We get -- we have to get our -- Terry's got a lot of problems with them, Michael, so you're going to have a lot of --

MR. FRENCH: I've got the list.

(Laughter.)

MR. FRENCH: I'm looking at the list on my phone as we speak.

MR. GUERIN: You need to hand that other one to Michael.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: I'm going to -- I'm

going to have a few coming your way, too. And so, everybody, please make sure you look at that and get all of those turned in to Michael.

And I look forward to the fun meeting of the year, the fall meeting, and where we actually give people the opportunity to impress us with their efforts, and with a little bit of funding.

So, any other comments or topics of discussion the Board wants to bring up -- Board members want to bring up?

MR. WODRICH: Bruce, I forgot one thing in my report. Our Community Inspection Grant Program has -- the RFP is open right now. It closes August 8th. So, I forgot to mention that earlier.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. Thank you, Carl.

And Michael?

MR. FRENCH: Yeah. I did connect with our AO expert, Tara, and your point about the lunch-and-learn, we would be able to do a luncheon without considering that a meeting.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: Uh-huh, yeah.

MR. FRENCH: So, yeah, agreed.

MS. WESSELER-HENRY: That's good.

MS. GARNER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Pat, do you have anything else for us?

MS. DANIEL: No, I don't. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Does anybody else have anything?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Tom, how -- you've been quiet as a mouse over there.

MR. LEAS: I've been listening. I always like to listen in. It's good. A lot of activity going on, I will say that. There's a lot of activity going on, very exciting times to be in the -- really the waste recycling business. Just really tremendous opportunities.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Well, I thank everyone for their time today, and everyone on-line for joining us, whoever's still there, but I think the last remaining item is a motion for adjournment.

MR. GUERIN: So moved.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Guerin. Do I have a second?

MR. NUNAN: Second.

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Mr. Nunan. All in favor? Any discussion first?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: They'll be complaining.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Okay. All in favor?

(Board members responded, "Aye.")

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN BURROW: Imagine that. Nobody opposed. Motion carries unanimously. Thank you.

Thank you, everyone.

- - -

Thereupon, the proceedings of July 24, 2025 were concluded at 11:12 o'clock a.m.

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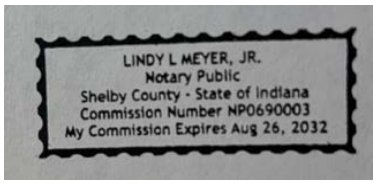
CERTIFICATE

I, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., the undersigned Court Reporter and Notary Public residing in the City of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me on Thursday, July 24, 2025 in this matter and transcribed by me.



Lindy L. Meyer, Jr.

Lindy L. Meyer, Jr.,
Notary Public in and
for the State of Indiana.

My Commission expires August 26, 2032.
Commission No. NP0690003

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