

# Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex  
1801 27th Street, Building A  
Vero Beach, Florida, 32960-3388  
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## **Solid Waste Disposal District Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

**Commission Chambers**

### **Board of Commissioners**

*Bob Solari, Chairman, District 5  
Susan Adams, Vice Chairman, District 1  
Joseph E. Flescher, District 2  
Peter D. O'Bryan, District 4  
Tim Zorc, District 3*

**Jason E. Brown, County Administrator  
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney  
Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Randi Wardlow, Deputy Clerk**

## 15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

### B. Solid Waste Disposal District

#### **15.B.1. 19-0609** Single Stream Recycling Contamination

**Recommended Action:** For informational purposes only at this time

**Attachments:** [Staff Report](#)

Himanshu Mehta, Managing Director, Solid Waste Disposal District, and Sue Flak, Recycling Education Coordinator, appeared before the Board to present their findings on the extent of single stream recycling contamination in Indian River County.

Director Mehta began his report by announcing that Indian River County's recycling rate had reached 66 percent in 2018, making it the second most effective County in the State of Florida with regards to recycling.

The presentation continued by recounting that in April 2019, the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) received reports of residents placing garbage in their recycling carts which is a violation of the County code. Details of the Recycling Contamination Action Plan, designed to curb violations and educate residents, were reviewed.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners and staff regarding the cost of contaminated recycling, education efforts, problems with returning to open-top bins, and the number of residents who may be using recycling carts in lieu of paying for garbage collection. Commissioner O'Bryan raised the suggestion of moving to universal garbage collection to eliminate contamination problems.

Brian Katz from Tropical Recycling appeared before the Board to report that the level of contaminated loads had risen to 35-40 percent. He advised that this level may jeopardize the County's recycling program and advocated for universal garbage collection.

Commissioner Zorc received answers from Ashima Wild of Republic Services regarding the lower recycling contamination levels in the City where garbage collection is mandatory. He suggested further discussion of mandatory service and streamlining the county's convenience centers.

Commissioner O'Bryan returned to his suggestion of universal garbage collection and requested that staff contact Waste Management for a ballpark cost to provide service for all County residents.

**No Action Taken or Required**