

Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex
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Solid Waste Disposal District Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, October 22, 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
Jacqueline Rizzo, Deputy Clerk**

B. Solid Waste Disposal District

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming Solid Waste Disposal District meeting.

15 .B.1.19-0971 Recycling at Charter Schools

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Solid Waste Disposal District Board approve the funding of up to \$2,000 to support the expansion of the school recycling program to the five county charter schools.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Susan Flak, Recycling Education and Marketing Coordinator, stated that she had been working with the five (5) charter schools in the County on the recycling expansion program to establish a robust campus-wide recycling program at each school. She mentioned that SWDD was awarded a monetary grant of \$2,500 from Waste Management's Think Green Grant Program. Ms. Flak added that the cost for the recycling program would be approximately \$4,500, and was requesting that the SWDD Board approve the provision of an additional \$2,000 needed to support the expansion of the recycling program for the charter schools.

Sherry Matthew, a Science Teacher at Imagine South Vero Charter School, spoke that she had been educating her students on recycling. She thanked the Board and Waste Management for supporting the charter schools.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Adams, seconded by Commissioner Flescher, to approve staff's recommendations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Solari, Vice Chairman Adams, Commissioner Flescher, and Commissioner Zorc

Absent: 1 - Commissioner O'Bryan

15. B.2.19-0972 Ranking of Firms for RFP 2019045 - Yard Waste Processing and Recycling

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board approve the selection committee's final ranking of firms and authorize negotiations with the top ranked firm, and subsequently ranked firms should negotiations with the top ranked firm fail.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)[Letter of Protest from Atlas Organics](#)[Response to Protest from Atlas Organics](#)[Letter of Protest from PJs Land Clearing](#)[Response to Protest from PJs Land Clearing](#)[Mr Mulch 90-Day Notice of Termination](#)

Director of Utility Services Vincent Burke presented the Ranking of Firms for Request for Proposal (RFP) 2019045 for Yard Waste Processing and Recycling Service. He stated that the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD), in conjunction with the Purchasing Department, issued a Request for Proposal RFP2019045, of which there were seven (7) proposals received.

Director Burke announced the top three ranking firms were: 1) Bankers Maintenance and Inspection (BMI), Vero Beach, FL; 2) Justin Industries, Loxahatchee, FL; and 3) Atlas Organics, Spartanburg, SC. He pointed out that the selection committee interviewed the top three ranking firms and developed an overall final ranking of the firms and summarized in detail the proposals submitted, the interview process used to determine the selection of the final ranking firm and recommended that Atlas Organics be awarded the project.

Chairman Solari opened the floor for public comments.

Commissioner Zorc asked whether any of the other firms had included specific dollars for infrastructure in their costs, as did Atlas Organics. Director Burke replied that Justin Industries proposed to put up office structures and a 30' x 40' cement slab for their equipment.

Mike Hooker, representing BMI, along with Jason Disbrow, representing PJ's Land Clearing and Excavating, Inc. (PJ's), bidders of the proposed RFP, stated that they were both local companies and were willing to joint venture the proposed RFP. Mr. Hooker was unaware of the need to include infrastructure, but entertained it. They highlighted the number of years of experience between both companies, emphasized that they were local business owners and would be able to respond immediately if any issues arose, would employ local people, and had the necessary equipment to perform the contract. They asked the Board to re-consider their proposal.

Commissioner Flescher sought clarification from Director Burke on whether part of the Selection Committee's decision to change the ranking was based on the bidder providing additional infrastructure. Director Burke made the Board aware that Atlas Organics was willing to invest \$250,000 in infrastructure on the SWDD property at no cost to the County, but affirmed it was not the only deciding factor. He added that Atlas' price proposal, qualifications, and experience were among the deciding factors.

SWDD Managing Director Himanshu Mehta responded to Commissioner Flescher's concern with Atlas Organics two (2) month start-up delay, stating that they needed time to move their equipment and hire local staff.

A discussion ensued regarding the re-ranking, with Director Mehta explaining that during the interview process with BMI, the Selection Committee was not comfortable with the feedback or the reference review provided by BMI. He added that BMI would need to purchase additional equipment, and there was not a joint venture with PJ's at the time of the bid. He continued that during the interview process with Atlas Organics, there was nothing but positive feedback from other government entities in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Jim Davis, Vice President of Business Development at Atlas Organics, pointed out that they have a positive track record with Municipal governments in North Carolina and South Carolina, and their philosophy was to be involved within the communities, and were very involved in educating students about recycling. Mr. Davis thanked the Board for considering Atlas Organics.

Commissioner Zorc inquired about the end use of the material that was collected by Atlas Organics, with Mr. Davis replying that the product would be turned into compost.

Chairman Solari closed the floor for open discussion.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Adams, seconded by Commissioner Zorc, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Chairman Solari, Vice Chairman Adams, and Commissioner Zorc

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Flescher

Absent: 1 - Commissioner O'Bryan