

**Indian River County, Florida
Solid Waste Disposal District
Board Memorandum**

Date: June 24, 2020

To: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

From: Arjuna Weragoda, P.E., Capital Projects Manager, Utility Services
(In lieu of Vincent Burke, P.E., Director of Utility Services)

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Subject: Solid Waste Disposal Rate Survey

Descriptions and Conditions:

The Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) is operated as an enterprise fund with the two primary sources of revenue being the Solid Waste Disposal Rates (tipping fees) charged at the Indian River County (IRC) Landfill and the fees collected through the a non-ad valorem special assessment for improved residential and commercial properties throughout Indian River County. These fee structures were originally established through a rate resolution for the tipping fees and an ordinance for the assessment fees. These rates were established in 1995 through a waste composition study. There have been some minor clarifications and adjustments throughout the years; however, the overall structure remains the same.

Due to the continued need to increase the annual special assessment to keep up with the increased costs, the County Administrator has directed staff to look at both our tipping fees and the overall assessment program in an effort to reevaluate and modernize the financial strength of SWDD.

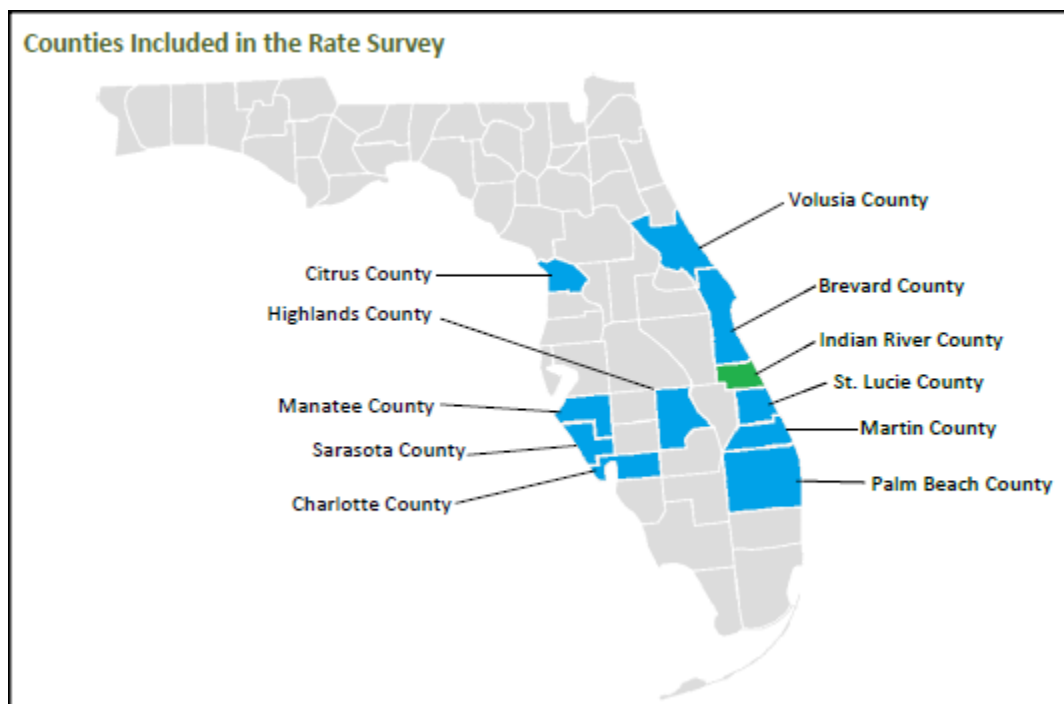
As a first step, a purchase order in the amount of \$10,000 (not to exceed) was issued to Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) on March 27, 2020 to initiate a Solid Waste Disposal Rate Survey to compare SWDD's disposal rates with up to ten other counties in the state. These counties were selected due to their geographical proximity or similar population. Additionally, only counties with publicly owned landfills and/or transfer stations, similar to the SWDD, were considered for this analysis.

The purpose of this agenda is to provide a summary of this rate survey.

Analysis:

KCI has provided the attached technical memorandum to include the results of their rate survey.

KCI did not include Class I waste disposal rates in the survey as this is covered under the SWDD's special assessment. However, since SWDD's special assessment is the primary revenue generator, KCI does recommend that as a next step that SWDD consider a comprehensive rate study to perform a full review of the assessment charged and the composition of materials used to determine the assessments which are over 25 years old.



Below are some key observations in comparing the SWDD's disposal rates to other counties.

- SWDD's construction and demolition (C&D) debris disposal rate (\$31.80) is below the average of the counties surveyed (\$41.53/ton).
- Only two counties have a lower rate for clean concrete, both of which accept it at no charge.
- More than half of the counties surveyed did not distinguish between clean concrete and C&D debris.
- No other county surveyed accepted yard waste at no cost.
- Half of the counties surveyed made no distinction between land clearing and yard waste.
- SWDD's rate for land clearing debris (\$22/ton) is lower than all other surveyed counties rates for either yard waste or land clearing debris.
- SWDD has a rate of \$18/ton for chipped/mulched land clearing debris. No other surveyed county has a separate rate for this. Since chipped/mulched land clearing debris is treated the same was as regular land clearing debris, then it may be worth considering to remove this rate category and charge the same rate for all land clearing debris.
- SWDD has the lowest rate for sludge (\$15/ton). Aside from Broward County (\$25/ton), all other rates were \$49/ton or greater.
- SWDD has the lowest rate for out-of-county waste (\$60/ton), except for Martin, which does not distinguish between in- or out-of-county wastes. For example, Manatee County charges three times their in-county rate of \$61/ton for out-of-county waste, which could be as high as \$183/ton for C&D debris, land clearing debris, dewatered sludge, etc.

KCI recommends a rate revision for yard waste materials to be in line with other counties as well as to revise the out-of-county charges to be in line with other counties. The increase in these rates and the enforcement of limiting out of county materials from neighboring counties will help reduce the disposal of these materials in the Indian River County Landfill. However, at this time, staff is suggesting that we wait to make any rate revisions until we complete a full evaluation of the special assessment fees.

Staff is planning to bring back a proposal from KCI for approval by the SWDD Board at a future meeting to look at the overall special assessment fees as part of a full solid waste rate analysis.

Funding:

Funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the SWDD Solid Waste Rate Survey is budgeted and available in the Other Professional Services account in the SWDD Landfill Fund (411217-033190), which is funded from SWDD assessments and user fees.

No funding is requested in this agenda item.

Recommendation:

Solid Waste Disposal District staff recommends that the Board direct staff to bring back a proposal for a full solid waste rate analysis.

Attachments:

1. Solid Waste Rate Survey from Kessler Consulting, Inc.