

MINUTES

West University Place Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Location: Community Building, John Neighbors Room, 6104 Auden, West University Place, TX

Chair: Monte Edlund

Acting Secretary: Corrin Davis

Board Members Present: David Castillo, Corrin Davis, Monte Edlund, Susan Hawkins, Kathy Hayward, Andrew Hung, Allison Kozdron, Lauren Salomon, Helen Schilling

Board Member(s) Absent: Michael White

Staff: David Melgoza

Council Members: None

Visitors: Micki Mastin (City of Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Board), Bill Schriber (resident interested in recycling education)

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the January 2026 RSWRB meeting were approved. Hung motioned, and Kozdron seconded. Approved unanimously.
- III. **Board Business Items:**
 - a. **Event Reports:**
 - i. **WUES STEAM Night – Kozdron, Davis, Solomon:** Kozdron presented the STEAM Night Event report. This year the event was the typical STEM Night plus Arts Night combined and it was a large turnout. We did a textile recycling craft (arts) and a water conservation math game (math) for the kids. It was proposed that the school provide a liaison to the Recycling Board to help coordinate. Edlund will plan to meet with WUES principal to discuss event protocol when the board participates.
 - ii. **WUSA Carnival – Kozdron, Hayward, Edlund, Davis, Salomon, Hawkins, Schilling:** Kozdron presented the WUSA Carnival report. There were more event attendees (approx. 1,100 girls and their family members per the event organizers) than in previous years. There were many items thrown away that the board may mention to organizers in future years, including tutus, noise makers, decorative headbands and sunglasses. There was a large amount of recycling, food waste, and landfill waste collected at the event. A large bag of chip bags was also collected from the event. Schilling will coordinate whether the City needs a new TerraCycle box ordered. It will take some liaison with the WUES janitors before next year about the waste center that the Board will have in the cafeteria.
 - b. **Events Upcoming – Chairs Needed:**
 - i. **WULL (2/21, 11a-2p):** Davis & Hayward will chair, waste stations only. The Board will reach out to PW about delivery of the waste stations prior

to the event (morning of or the day before). It was proposed to purchase an additional waste station for our events, ideally before WULL event.

- ii. **Arts in the Park (2/28, noon-3p):** Castillo will chair, waste stations and a table. They are expecting 20 vendors and will have food trucks and hydration stations.
- iii. **Easter Spring Festival (3/28):** Castillo will chair. We typically host a seed planting event for the kids and will also staff waste stations.
- c. **Schedule WM Recycling MRF Tour – Melgoza:** The Board proposed new possible dates of Friday, February 20th or Friday, February 27th. Melgoza will liaise with WM. It was suggested that Council members be invited to join the tour.
- d. **HHW Options:** It was agreed that the Board will present two options to Council – adding HHW collection to the Semi-Annual Recycling Event or adding citywide At-Your -Door HHW collection. Melgoza noted that the cost for adding contract for HHW collection at the Semi-Annual Recycling Events would be approximately \$55k per event, limited to 500 cars. This might not be feasible due to the space required (for example, they would bring 18-wheelers for certain chemicals). Melgoza will attempt to get the Board on the calendar for the City Council Meeting on March 23rd to present HHW options to City Council. Melgoza confirmed that the City handed out 110 HHW vouchers to residents in 2025; there were five months during the summer that there were no vouchers available to City residents. It was observed that the amount of vouchers does not serve a significant percentage of City residents. Melgoza will research how much the City pays for electronics recycling at the Semi-Annual Recycling Event as well.
- e. **New Neighbors Report – Kozdron:** Doorhangers have been distributed to the most recent available addresses.
- f. **New PW Facility Update – Melgoza:** We need the Recycling Board room organized and cleared out before the move occurs. The building is scheduled for April completion and possible May move.
- g. **Waste Center Procedure Checklist – Kozdron:** Kozdron covered the new checklist that Board members will complete before Public Works brings the waste center items for events.
- h. **Recycling Guidelines – Melgoza:** Melgoza shared the draft of the new recycling guidelines and will send to Board members for comment.
- i. **New Data Spreadsheet – Davis:** Currently in process and waiting for historical monthly figures from one former Board member and from Melgoza (some 2025 figures).
- j. **Google Drive Document Management – Hung:** The Drive can be modified as and when Board members provide feedback. Board members to follow the link from Hung's email to review the structure of the Board's Google Drive

- k. **Master Recycler Course – All:** Feb 21st is the Curbside Recycling Reminders course and the Beyond Curbside Class is Feb 28th. In March, there will be a Composting Workshop. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

IV. **West U Staff Report:**

- a. **City Recycling & Waste Statistics – Recent and YTD:** Melgoza reviewed the yearly recycling tonnage report from WM as well as the yearly aggregated audit report.
- b. **Food Waste Statistics:** Still waiting for statistics from Zero Waste. Moonshot no longer running a residential collection business and therefore no longer collecting from West U. They are instead focusing on their commercial business. Melgoza spoke with Zero Waste and we now have pricing options to obtain monthly weights of composting as well as diversion reports for special events (like composting barrels from the Full Moon Fest and the Easter Spring Festival, etc.).
- c. **Blue Bin Reorder Status:** The City is still attempting to order new recycling bins from the company that stamps them and has produced them for the City in the past. It is uncertain whether their printing machine will be fixed anytime soon. There are some remaining bins in the meantime.

V. **Any Other Business:**

- a. **Composting in Other City Facilities:** Edlund met with the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief about composting their food waste and they agreed to start. The Board may help supplement the cost until the next budget is approved for the Fire Department. The cost is \$30 per barrel pickup. Melgoza will talk to communications about producing a poster showing what can be included within the barrel. Melgoza will set up a meeting with the Police Chief as well about potentially composting food waste in the Police Department.
- b. **Currents Articles Deadlines:** The Recycling Board's upcoming Currents submissions are due: Fall (5/26/2026 – Seasonal Recycling – Davis); Winter (8/19/2026 - Solomon).
- c. **Water Conservation – Castillo:** Impactful suggested first items are: incentivizing smart irrigation systems, enhancing the H2Online and the water bills to show comparative data for a "water wise" household, and resident education about native plants and other ways they can reduce landscaping water use. It was proposed that the Board consider reaching out to residents, possibly on social media, about comparisons to a West U median water usage figure. Castillo will reach out to Mayor Sample about the possibilities of incentivizing residents to install smart irrigation systems.
- d. **Recycling Education:** Discussed a way to reach residents to encourage recycling. Attendee and West U resident Bill Schriber mentioned a goal of creating a recycling education video.

VI. Adjournment: By unanimous consent at 7:46pm. Next meeting March 10, 2026, 6:00pm.