NEW RIVER SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2026

The New River Solid Waste Association Board of Directors met for the Regular Board Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on May 14, 2026 with the following members present:

Chairman Chris Dougherty
Vice-Chair Donna Jackson
Commissioner Channing Dobbs
Commissioner Ronald Mann

Others present:
Perry Kent, Executive Director
Joel Woolsey, Assistant Director
Melissa Waters, Finance Officer
Lydia Greene, Office Manager/Admin. Asst.
Russ Wade, Board Attorney

Chairman Dougherty called the meeting to order. Commissioner Jackson led in prayer which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Dougherty called for a motion on agenda item #2, Approval of Expenditures for January, February, March and April 2026. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve the January, February, March and April 2026 Expenditures. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty called for a motion on agenda item #3, Approval of Regular Board Minutes for January 8, 2026. Commissioner Mann made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Minutes for January 8, 2026. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Chairman Dougherty called for discussion of agenda item #5, Discuss Work Order #121 EGC Phase II Closure Construction Services. Mr.

Woolsey said an update on the EGC Closure Project is that about 20% of EGC liner has been placed, about 50% of the toe drain portion has been completed and New River staff has completed approximately 80% of our portion of the construction project. The project is still on track to be completed by end of September or early October depending on number of days added due to rain delays. Mr. Woolsey said Jones Edmunds Work Order #121 is to continue engineering services and engineering personnel to be onsite which is required by permit during the construction project and to carry them through the end of the fiscal year. Work Order #121 is for an amount not to exceed $165,000 and is included in the budget.

Chairman Dougherty called for a motion to approve Work Order #121 in the amount not to exceed $165,000 as presented. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve Work Order #121. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Woolsey added that the new 5 year Landfill Operations Permit which was submitted back in October 2025 was finally received from DEP yesterday, May 13, 2026.

Chairman Dougherty asked for discussion of agenda item #6, Discuss FY 2025 Escrow Audit – James Moore. Mr. Chris Noyes, James Moore, said he would present the Escrow and Financial Audits for FY 2025 to the board.

Mr. Noyes said that the Escrow Audit is due to DEP by March 31st of each year. This was completed and submitted before the due date. Mr. Noyes stated that the Escrow Audit for FY ending 2025 was given an unmodified, or clean, opinion by the auditors which is the best auditing opinion that can be given. The association's funds and account balances are in compliance the Florida DEP. The balance as of September 30, 2025 of total investments restricted for closing is $18,059.009 which includes calculated closing cost balances of $5,672,727 for EGC Closure and $3,000,000 for Traditional Soil Closure (required by DEP).

Mr. Kent asked Mrs. Douglas to confirm that we are in compliance for both account balances and investment accounts. Mrs. Douglas responded that NRSWA is in compliance with FL DEP rules and with Florida statutes. Mr. Woolsey added that DEP responds in writing to the escrow audit that is submitted and stated that we are in compliance for funding and for the types of investments used for escrow accounts.

Chairman Dougherty asked for a motion to accept the Escrow Audit for FY 2025. Commissioner Mann made a motion to accept the Escrow

Audit for fiscal year ending 2025. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty called for discussion of agenda item #7, Discuss FY 2025 Financial Audit – James Moore. Mr. Noyes said he was at the meeting to present the audit for fiscal year ending 2025 and provided a handout with highlights for the board. The audit received an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion given by auditors meaning this was a clean audit. There were no internal control or compliance matters to be reported. The audit found the association is in compliance with Florida Statutes for investment and operating accounts. The required communications to those charged with governance included new standards for compensated absences, significant estimates for OPEB, net pension liability and landfill liability; Significant disclosures for investments, long-term liabilities, net pension liability and OPEB, related party transactions and customer concentrations. There were no material corrected or uncorrected misstatements and no issues or disagreements with management. Enterprise Fund history of unrestricted net position and % of operating revenues for years 2022-2025 was provided which shows a healthy % of unrestricted net position. Other Highlights are Net Pension Liability of $1,121,547 with no budgetary impact and all contributions made. For landfill, restricted cash - $18,059,009; liabilities - $14,856,479; restricted net position - $12,248,381.

Chairman Dougherty called for a motion to accept the Financial Audit for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to accept the financial audit. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty called for discussion under agenda item #8, Discuss Proposed Budget FY 2026-2027. Mr. Kent said that proposed revenues in next year's budget were lowered after review of 1st 6 months of the year which reflects a decrease in tonnage mainly for Alachua and Levy County. When asked, Alachua said that they are receiving same quantity of waste but the weight is down, possibly due to lack of rainfall which makes it lighter. Mr. Kent added that staff expects this to come back up when we start getting rain.

Mr. Kent stated that he is asking for a 5% raise for employees, 3% cost of living and 2% merit.

For Engineering, EGC expenses were removed for next year as we expect the project to be completed this year. Groundwater monitoring was increased slightly.

Contractual Services and other expenditures are basically the same. Recycling expenses have been removed.

Closure Escrow funding has been increased due to significant increase seen in closure costs seen when the EGC bid was received, resulting in New River staff assuming a large portion of the project to reduce the total cost for the project. Also, construction costs are expected to continue to increase.

Mr. Kent said he is requesting purchase of a new 725 Articulating Truck as a replacement, along with purchase of a 309 hydraulic excavator for use on side slopes as a replacement. The air compressor used to feed air to the landfill also needs replacing.

Mr. Kent stated that total expenditures are down almost $300,000 from last year's budget.

Commissioner Mann asked how the decision to accept or not accept non-member county waste would affect the budgets. Mr. Kent said not accepting contract waste would significantly affect operations as was discussed when the rate study was presented to the board in January. Less waste would slow down cell construction and allow for reduction in staff and equipment but it will not be a one-to-one reduction. Commissioner Mann asked how the budget would be affected by less waste. Mr. Kent said it would definitely affect the budget along with significantly increasing the member county's tipping fees. Funding for Closure and Long-Term Care could be pushed out and the life of the landfill would be increased. Mr. Kent added that the board of directors at New River have a done a good job of keeping the money in the system. Mr. Kent said that there are certain regulated activities at the landfill that will never go away and will have to be continue to be funded. Ms. Douglas added that Alachua County's waste brings in over 60% of total revenue.

Mr. Kent asked if there were any questions from the board on the budget. There were no further questions.

Chairman Dougherty called for a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2026-2027. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2026-2027. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty called for discussion of agenda item #9, Discuss Approval to Pre-Order the Purchase of the New 725 Articulating Truck for

2026-2027. Mr. Kent said it takes 6 to 7 months for new equipment purchases to be delivered so he would like the board to approve the pre-order to purchase the 725 articulating truck for an amount under state contract of $565,136. Purchase would be completed at the time of delivery which is estimated to be in October. This will replace the older equipment that is currently parked and not in operation due to the need for a new transmission which is too costly to repair due to age.

Chairman Dougherty asked for a motion to approve the pre-order of a new 725 articulating truck for an amount of $565,136. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve the pre-order to purchase the 725 articulating truck under state contract for $565,136. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty called for discussion under agenda item #10, Discuss Approval to Pre-Order Purchase of New 309 Hydraulic Excavator for FY 2026-2027. Mr. Kent said this equipment is the rubber track excavator to replace the older one that we currently have. Mr. Kent added that this may not need to be pre-ordered now and if not he would wait on this one but would like the board to approve the pre-order for purchase in case it needs to be done. The purchase price under state contract is $152,369.

Chairman Dougherty asked for a motion to approve pre-order of purchase of new 309 hydraulic excavator. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve pre-order for new 309 hydraulic excavator under state contract price of $152,369. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty asked for discussion under agenda item #11, Discuss New Executive Director Effective 2027. Mr. Kent said he is approaching the end of his DROP deadline under Florida State Retirement. He would like to initiate the transition now for Mr. Woolsey as his replacement as Executive Director as some internal changes will take some time to complete. Commissioner Jackson asked if Mr. Kent is making a recommendation under the association's policy guidelines for the board to appoint Joel Woolsey as the new Executive Director and if so, what date would that be. Mr. Kent said that is correct and right now his plan is to retire around January, 2027 unless the back surgery date he is waiting on is scheduled before then. Mr. Kent said he will be out after surgery for 6 to 8 weeks. Commissioner Dobbs asked Mr. Woolsey if he accepts the appointment for Executive Director. Mr. Woolsey said that if the board has confidence in him, he would appreciate the opportunity to lead New River as Executive Director. Chairman Dougherty said he believes Mr. Woolsey brings a lot of experience and knowledge to the position and he would highly recommend him to be the next Executive Director. Commissioner Jackson asked about any change in salary. Mr. Kent stated that he would expect any salary adjustment to be made after Mr. Woolsey is in his new position. Commissioner Dobbs recommended using Mr. Kent in a consultant position if needed after he retires for contract negotiations with Alachua County or any other projects to be clarified at a future date.

Chairman Dougherty asked the pleasure of the board. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to appoint Mr. Woolsey as Executive Director when Mr. Kent retires and to begin the transition process now. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dougherty asked for discussion under agenda item #12 Attorney Issues/Items. Mr. Wade said he did not have anything to report.

Chairman Dougherty asked for discussion of agenda item #13, Executive Director Issues/Items. Mr. Kent said since the last board meeting in January staff has met with Gus Olmos, Allen Betz and Tommy Crosby from Alachua County about the new tipping fees from the new rate study. Mr. Kent said their biggest sticking point was the fact that they would not be paying the same tipping fee as the member counties. Mr. Kent said he had been asked by Mr. Olmos for an update to which he replied it would be discussed at this board meeting to see if the board was interested in making any changes to the tipping fee as presented. The board was not interested in discussing any changes to the tipping fee included in the new rate study.

Mr. Kent said that staff also met with City of Gainesville who wants to bring their residential waste directly to New River. They had no problem with the tipping fee rate of $47 per ton which is same rate given to Alachua County. The City of Gainesville indicated they want to start October 2026. Mr. Kent explained this is not new waste but is waste we are currently getting through the Alachua County transfer station. Mr. Kent said that he did disclose this discussion with City of Gainesville to Alachua County. Mr. Woolsey said he has been in contact with City of Gainesville who is moving forward and has provided the number of direct haul loads we should expect to see. Mr. Kent said this would be brought back to the board when it is time to discuss entering into an agreement with the City of Gainesville.

Chairman Dougherty asked for discussion of agenda item #14, Board/Chairman Issues/Items. Commissioner Jackson asked for budget to actual reports monthly. Ms. Waters provided an example for 2025 to show our budget to actual reporting and ask if this is what is requested. Commissioner Jackson said she would review and let Ms. Waters know.

Commissioner Dobbs thanked staff for all they do.

Chairman Doughtery thanked Mr. Kent for all his years of service and for everything that has been accomplished while he was at New River.

Chairman Dougherty asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mann made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Dougherty adjourned the meeting.