Commissioner Aaron M. Harrison called the special meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with Commissioner Stephen D. Hambley and Commissioner Colleen M. Swedyk present. The meeting was held in Balcony Room B at the Administration Building and focused on discussing the Solid Waste Plan Update.

Commissioner Hambley began by explaining that various scenarios regarding flow control and options had been examined. He emphasized the importance of the board's involvement in the decision-making process, as they are the board of directors and need to understand the consequences of their choices.

Jamie Zawila of GT Environmental presented a consolidated summary of the work done by the Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC") over the past few months. She discussed the findings of a benchmark study conducted in 2021, which compared gate rates for counties with and without flow control. The study found that counties without flow control generally had higher gate rates than those with flow control.

Ms. Zawila outlined the benefits of flow control, including:

- A high degree of certainty for future planning
- Financial support for the transfer station and solid waste district
- Provision of significant disposal infrastructure for the community
- Support for curbside collection programs and special collections

She then presented data on Medina communities from 2021, showing that 44% were subscription-based, 45% had community contracts, and 11% represented their own city hall. Ms. Zawila noted that Medina County's gate fee was competitive, and that flow control was effective for the county, supporting public assets and maintaining control.

Ms. Zawila introduced a new study conducted by GT Environmental, which built a flow control model based on the Solid Waste District's concerns. Eight scenarios were presented, ranging from maintaining the status quo to various options without flow control. She explained that all scenarios met EPA and state requirements, but costs would vary.

The commissioners and other attendees discussed the implications of these scenarios, including:

- The potential impact on individual communities, such as the City of Brunswick, which had calculated potential savings if they were allowed to opt-out of flow control. Paul Magovac highlighted that the City found a significant cost-saving opportunity over a 5-year contract by considering bids without the constraints of flow control. This was a pressing concern for the City of Brunswick as it could provide substantial savings to their residents.
- The need to consider the total cost and net impact rather than focusing solely on household costs. It was emphasized that the household cost variations were minimal, and the broader implications on the County's overall expenses and revenues should be prioritized. Commissioner Hambley remarked on the importance of evaluating the total net cost and program support, including ongoing debt obligations and countywide responsibilities.
- The importance of maintaining countywide programs and addressing emerging issues, such as lithium-ion battery disposal. Commissioner Hambley mentioned the necessity to invest in solutions to address frequent fires caused by improper disposal of these batteries, pointing out that such investments would be required regardless of the scenario chosen.
- The current capacity of the transfer station and potential future growth. Concerns were raised about the facility currently operating at near maximum capacity, around 90 to 95 percent, with future growth potentially increasing wait times and delays. Mr. Magovac noted that a reduction in capacity due to one community opting out might slightly alleviate this issue but emphasized the need to consider long-term expansion and efficiency improvements.

Discussions highlighted the complexity of the decision-making process and the need for comprehensive solutions that balance financial, operational, and community needs. Joe Schoffstall from Rumpke emphasized the benefits of the current system, describing it as a "Cadillac program" that benefits all communities. He cautioned against dismantling this system, as it could lead to increased costs and difficulties for some communities.

The commissioners discussed next steps, including:

- Requesting updated charts and illustrations to better understand the financial implications of each scenario. Ms. Zawila will make these changes.
- Exploring the possibility of allowing some communities to opt-out of flow control while still maintaining the overall system
- Considering the potential for accepting waste from outside the county

Commissioner Hambley stressed the need for guidance on who should make the final decision or recommendation, given the board's fiduciary responsibility for the current facility and program.

**Adjournment**
Mrs. Swedyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All commissioners voted AYE; the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting on this tenth day of June, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Beck
Clerk of the Board

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Colleen M. Swedyk

Stephen D. Hambley

Aaron M. Harrison