

MEETING NOTICE
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026

Time: 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Commissioners, Key Staff, Presenters:

Ramsey County Environmental Center | 1700 Kent Street | Roseville, MN | [Map](#)

Public: Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely or may attend at the Roseville address.
[Microsoft Teams](#) | Phone Conference ID: 943 084 138# | Call in (audio only) +1 323-792-6297

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda Action Page 1
3. Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2025 Action Page 2
4. Business Action Page 7
 - a. 2026 Governing Board Leadership
5. Updates and Reports Information Page 9
 - a. 2026 Legislative Session Preview
 - b. County 2026 Legislative Platforms
 - i. Hennepin County Platform Sharing
 - ii. Ramsey County Platform Sharing
 - iii. Washington County Platform Sharing
 - iv. R&E Platform Sharing
6. Other
7. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2026 | 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center, Newport

**PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025**

A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board (Partnership) was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Commissioners and staff participants met at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC), 505 North Sixth Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Other participants and the public joined remotely or in person at the Minneapolis address.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Fran Miron – Washington County
Commissioner Debbie Goettel – Hennepin County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire – Ramsey County

ATTENDING AT THE HERC

Max Dalton, Dan Donkers, Graham Faulkner, Melissa Finnegan, Nancy Haas, Chandra Dee Her, Sam Holl, Courtney Jackson, Caleb Johnson, Kathryn Jordan, Ben Knudson, Cassie Lefeber, Callie Lehman, Dave McNary, Deb Orth, Jim Redmond, John Ristad, Daniel Schmidt, Angie Timmons

ATTENDING REMOTELY

Leigh Behrens, Gabriel Arechigo, David Brummel, Alison Cameron, Mikaela Campbell, Hannah Coyle, Tutu Fatukasi, Sam Ferguson, Rae Eden Frank, Annalee Garletz, Jamie Giesen, Sam Hanson, Filsan Ibrahim, John G. Jaimez, John Klapperich, Trista Martinson, Andrea McKennan, Kirk Pederson, Matt Phillips, Alissa Schmidt, John Springman, Rob Vanasek, Margaret M. Vesel

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miron called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Introductions of attendees at the HERC were made.

AGENDA OF DECEMBER 18, 2025 PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL

Staff recognition is added under Other.

Motion by Goettel, seconded by McGuire, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

Ayes: Miron, Goettel, McGuire.

Nays: None.

MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2025 PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL

Motion by McGuire, seconded by Goettel, to approve the minutes from June 12, 2025. Motion passed.

Ayes: Miron, Goettel, McGuire.

Nays: None.

BUSINESS

Adoption of Bylaws

Presented by: Dave McNary, Hennepin County Environment & Energy Assistant Director

Bylaws were presented at the June 12, 2025, Partnership Board meeting. Bylaws were developed to clarify roles and responsibilities due to the 2024 restructuring of Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E).

One change was made to the bylaws presented on June 12: In the first sentence of Section 6 (a), “and the Administrative Agent” was added.

Motion by Goettel, seconded by McGuire, to approve Resolution PWEB-2025-01, Adoption of Bylaws.
Motion passed.

Ayes: Miron, Goettel, McGuire.

Nays: None.

2026 Budget Approval

Presented by: Daniel Schmidt, Ramsey County Environmental Health Division Manager

An updated version of the budget was presented. The original budget in the packet showed Hazard Waste Online Training at \$4,250. The corrected amount is \$5,750, bringing Total Appropriations to \$200,463. The online hazardous waste training is a scientific training for hazardous waste generators whose first language is other than English.

The budget includes \$2,200 for Administrative Staff for meeting facilitation. Funds for Communications & Graphic Design are not included in the 2026 budget. Money allocated for the Partnership website design was allocated in 2025 and will roll over to 2026. The Partnership's website is currently hosted as part of R&E's website. A stand-alone website for the Partnership is being developed. Hosting costs are included. Links between the R&E and county sites were requested. Lobbying and PUC Monitoring Services will have an \$11,000 decrease in 2026 due to the results of the recent solicitation for lobbying services.

There is a minor reduction of \$600 in revenue for 2026. A \$13,000 surplus is expected at year end.

Motion by McGuire, seconded by Goettel, to approve Resolution, PWE-2025-03, 2026 Budget Approval.
Motion carried.

Ayes: Miron, Goettel, McGuire.

Nays: None.

2026 Legislative Platform

Presented by: Melissa Finnegan, R&E Strategic Partnerships Manager

The 2026 legislative session will be convened on February 17, 2026. The Partnership lobbyists will present a review at the January 8, 2026 Partnership meeting.

The 2026 platform is not fundamentally different from 2025. Changes made were grammatical or rephrasing for clarity. Three focus areas are: building on waste management goals, creating a more sustainable economy and investing to keep waste out of landfills. The platform is a guiding vision statement. The policy team will create issue-specific policy position statements.

More information on individual county platforms was requested for the January 8, 2026, Partnership meeting, as well as ongoing updates during the legislative session.

Motion by McGuire, seconded by Goettel, to approve Resolution PWE-2025-03, 2026 Legislative Platform.
Motion carried.

Ayes: Miron, Goettel, McGuire.

Nays: None.

Poul Haas Contract

Presented by: Caleb Johnson, Washington County Senior Environmental Health Program Manager

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There are three Partnership contracts that will expire on December 31, 2025. A request for proposals (RFP) went out in advance of the expirations to solicit firms to provide one, two or all three lobbying services for the Partnership. Ten proposals were received and reviewed in a written scoring session. Finalists were interviewed, and lead staff made a final recommendation to select Poul Haas for all three lobbying services.

Poul Haas has a strong record at the Minnesota State Capitol. The contract will be for a term of three years, with the option for a two-year extension. The contract states that neither party will terminate the contract during session. Poul Haas will collaborate closely with staff. Nancy Haas introduced her team to the board.

Appreciation was expressed to the current contracted lobbyists.

Due to use of boilerplate language, the contract erroneously lists R&E in several places instead of the Partnership. This will be corrected. If there are any significant changes needed to the contract, it will be brought back for additional review. Staff will also review the contract.

Motion by Goettel, seconded by McGuire, to approve Resolution PWE-2025-04, Poul Haas Contract, with correction of R&E being replaced with the Partnership in the contract, and subject to attorney review. Motion carried.

Ayes: Miron, Goettel, McGuire.

Nays: None.

2026 Meeting Schedule

Presented by: Caleb Johnson, Washington County Senior Environmental Health Program Manager

Lead staff worked with support staff to coordinate the 2026 meeting schedule. Section 5.3.1 of the Joint Powers Agreement requires three meetings per year. Traditionally, there have been four meetings scheduled each year. The R&E Center in Newport and the Ramsey County Environmental Center in Roseville have been added as meeting locations for 2026. The November 5, 2026, meeting will be held at the HERC. Resolution PWE 2025-05, 2026 Meeting Schedule, will be amended to include the schedule as Exhibit A.

Motion by Goettel, seconded by McGuire, to approve Resolution PWE-2025-05, 2026 Meeting Schedule, as amended. Motion carried.

Ayes: Miron, Goettel, McGuire.

Nays: None.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

Commercial Recycling Measurement Study Update

Presented by: Ben Knudson, Hennepin County Waste Reduction and Recycling Manager

The Partnership contracted with Foth to complete a study on commercial recycling and reuse. The study was funded by the Partnership budget with additional funding from Hennepin County for the reuse portion. The study included all metro counties and utilized Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Counties are required to report data to the MPCA; however, reporting practices are complex and vary across counties. The study identified instances of both double counting and under counting. It also noted that

reuse data is difficult to measure, enforcement is limited and hauler reporting is incomplete. There are large gaps in data. In addition, facility data is not consistently used or is incorrectly interpreted, and volume-to-weight conversions are outdated.

Next steps include coordinating efforts to improve reporting consistency, holding regular meetings to share data and information and encouraging the MPCA to play a bigger role in the process. Work will continue in collaboration with the seven metro counties. An update was requested for the June 25, 2026, Partnership meeting.

OTHER

Infectious Waste

Presented by Sam Holl, R&E Facility Director

The issue of infectious waste arriving at the R&E Center dates back to at least 2023. Specific facilities have been identified. Some hazardous waste came from outside of Ramsey and Washington Counties when the HERC was down, and waste was diverted to the R&E Center. This type of waste is required to go to a specialized facility; however, it is coming in mixed with regular waste, creating a safety hazard for R&E employees.

The issue has been reported to haulers, facilities, the MPCA and the Minnesota Department of Health. Although fines have been issued in previous years, the same facilities continue to violate requirements. Legislative intervention is needed to support compliance. Medical facilities have plans in place, but they are not being implemented effectively. Hennepin County is facing similar challenges.

Coordinated efforts will continue, and the topic will be discussed further at the January 8, 2026, Partnership meeting.

Staff Recognition

Caleb Johnson will be leaving Washington County. He and his family are relocating to New Zealand, where he will serve as the environmental protection services manager for the City of Palmerston North, New Zealand. Johnson's spouse has taken a position as a sustainable nutrition research professor at a local university. His career has encompassed all three Partnership counties. The Partnership Board expressed gratitude for his commitment to environmental stewardship.

Lithium Batteries

Battery-caused fires continue to be a problem at facilities. A Florida waste-to-energy facility was destroyed by a battery-induced fire. Hennepin County is partnering with the fire department to accept batteries recovered from fires. Education and outreach are underway by Partnership counties. Consumers should be educated on the use of battery bags. Packaging is an issue as many single-use items are labeled to be put in the trash. Washington County's cannabis ordinance requires business to have a take-back program on single-use items.

ADJOURN

Chair Miron declared the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., at the Ramsey County Environmental Service Center, Roseville.

ATTEST:

Debbie Goettel, Chair
January 8, 2026

January 8, 2026

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	January 8, 2026	AGENDA ITEM:	4.a
SUBJECT:	Governing Board Leadership for 2026		
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff		

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) states the Governing Board shall include the Chair and Vice Chair of the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E) Board and a commissioner appointed by Hennepin County, resulting in a representative commissioner from each of Ramsey, Washington and Hennepin Counties. Partnership Board members serve two-year terms.

- The 2026 R&E Board members on the Partnership Board are Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire and Washington County Commissioner Fran Miron.
- The 2026 Hennepin County Commissioner on the Partnership Board is Commissioner Debbie Goettel.
- Since leadership of the Partnership, for Chair and Vice Chair, rotates annually by county name in alphabetical order, the 2026 Partnership Chair is Hennepin County Commissioner Goettel, and the Partnership Vice Chair is Washington County Commissioner Miron.

The Partnership's alternate board members serve a two-year term through 2026.

- Alternates from the R&E Board for the 2025-2026 term are Ramsey County Commissioner Kelly Miller and Washington County Commissioner Karla Bigham.
- The alternative for Hennepin County for the 2025-2026 term is Hennepin County Commissioner Heather Edelson.



ATTACHMENTS:

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

SUBJECT: *Governing Board Leadership for 2026*

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County 	12/23/25
Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy 	12/23/25

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	January 8, 2026		AGENDA ITEM:	5.	
SUBJECT:	Updates and Reports				
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff				

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

a. Legislative Session Preview

The 2026 regular legislative session will begin on February 17, 2026. Partnership contract lobbying firm Poul Haas will provide an update on activities and issues that may be addressed in the months ahead. The State Constitution requires the legislature to conclude business by May 18, 2026.

b. County Platform Sharing

Staff from Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Washington County and Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy will share information about their respective legislative platforms for 2026.



ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2026 Partnership State Legislative Platform

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

SUBJECT: *Updates and Reports*

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County 	12/23/25
Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy 	12/23/25

2026 State Legislative Platform

Build on Waste Management Act goals

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) supports policy and regulatory approaches that encourage emerging technologies, promote new markets for waste and align energy and sustainable materials management strategies.

The Partnership supports maintaining Minnesota's hierarchy of waste management practices.

Invest to keep waste out of landfills

The Partnership supports increased state funding at levels that allow local governments to carry out statutory responsibilities.

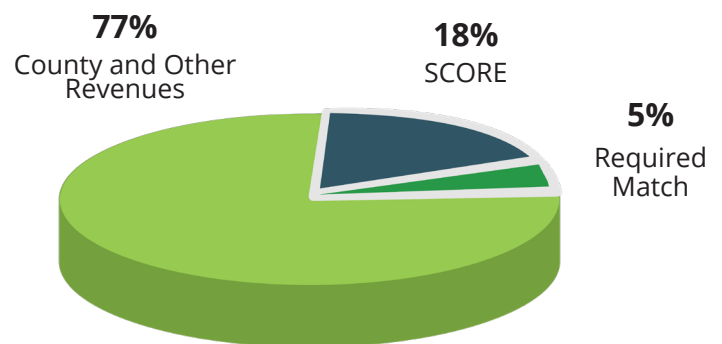
The Partnership supports policies that create effective incentives and prioritize resources to achieve climate, public health, environmental protection, waste reduction and diversion goals.

Create a more sustainable economy

The Partnership supports measures to design waste, toxicity and pollution out of the marketplace and keep products and resources in use for a robust circular economy.

The Partnership supports strong, innovative partnerships between the state, local governments and private entities to maximize the benefits of recovering resources and collaborating on energy and climate initiatives.

County Recycling Spending and SCORE Grants, 2023



State grants cover only 1/5 of county spending for recycling.

Need more information?

Nancy Haas | Poul Haas Government Relations

651-274-5166 | nancy.haas@poulhaas.com



The Partnership on Waste and Energy—a collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties—seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.