

Meeting Minutes

Sitka, Alaska

April 22nd, 2005

12:00 PM

- I. **Call to Order** by Greg Goodale at 1:04PM
- II. Meeting agenda approved.
- III. January 2005 minutes approved
- IV. Board and general membership issues

1. Committee Reports

A. Treasurer's Report –

- Cory Hinds reported that the balance in all accounts is approximately \$36,000 that includes SWANA dues reimbursements and dividend income.
- Recent expenditures included the January 2005 meeting costs at the Glacier Brew House and the cost of reproducing RALO course manuals
- Cory submitted a draft 3 year budget for consideration. The 3 year cycle was chosen to reflect the MOLO cycle

B. Program Committee –

- Kenai Peninsula Borough to host an all day event for the next quarterly meeting in Homer/Seldovia on July 22nd (details attached)
- Municipality of Anchorage to host the October meeting including a visit to Cell 7 gas extraction system construction. Biennial elections.
- Greg Goodale suggests that e-waste be the technical topic for the January 2006 Annual Agenda setting meeting in Anchorage.

C. **Membership Committee** – Mike Blair stated there are currently 75 chapter members. RALO attendees in Sitka were invited to join SWANA. Greg Goodale mentioned that the website <http://www.swana.org/> has a lot more free content for members than previously.

D. **Scholarship Committee** – Lanie Hughes presented two applications for the Alaska SWANA scholarship. Evan Mayer was selected for the \$1000 chapter scholarship. Both applications were submitted to the national headquarters for consideration.

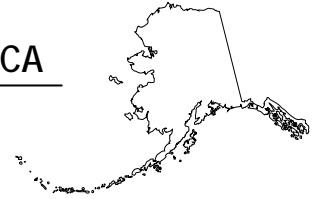
E. **Legislative Liaison** – Leslie Simmons stated that the TRS/PERS issue has taken priority so that there are no significant legislative actions to report related to SWANA.

2. **Director's Corner** – Greg Goodale stated that the big topic is WasteCon – the annual



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solid waste symposium / training / convention / trade show. Locations are selected 3 years in advance. SWANA's WasteCon is in direct competition with Waste Expo. Some vendors don't like two different industry events. Even with budget cuts, SWANA funds are low. SWANA created a reserve fund that is accumulating but is also still low.

So SWANA is considering raising dues as a one-time event to bridge the shortfall due to WasteCon losses. WasteCon may cease or may be merged with some other organizations event... these options are being explored. The shortfall is about a quarter of a million dollars. It is anticipated that it could be correct with a \$2 dues increase. SWANA appears to be proactive about the shortfall. The next regional SWANA meeting in Boulder will include a lot of brainstorming.

Greg then stated that SWANA needs to better define itself as to whether is for solid waste education vs. trade shows (for example).

Greg was actually on a return flight from the Northwest Symposium meeting in Portland, Oregon and stopped in Sitka for this Alaska Chapter meeting. The next symposium is slated for British Columbia. Greg would like to bring a Northwest Symposium to Anchorage, perhaps in early May, 2007. If we want this, we need to propose it soon. It represents a lot of work.

If we do this we need about 10 volunteers to be committed. We can get support form other chapters in regards to format. Typically the attendees arrive on a Wednesday and the event runs all day Thursday and Friday. We may want to piggyback a RALO course. Presentations could include Transfer Stations, Solid Waste Planning, Recycling, Landfills, Special Waste, E-waste, Composting, etc. Some presenters should be Alaskans.

Greg advocates for this direction. It always makes money. The host chapter receives 50% of the fees and other assisting chapters get a share as well.

- V. **Technical Meeting:** *RALO course in Sitka, Alaska.* Mike Blair and Greg Goodale thanked Brian and Rich for the landfill tour and their efforts in hosting the RALO course. There were 13 attendees and they actively participated in the class. There was a wide representation from Alaska, not just southeast.

As a coincidence, there was an EPA Tribal event ongoing the same week, which provided some synergy to the RALO course. In fact, if these are in Alaska again we may consider intentionally scheduling together.

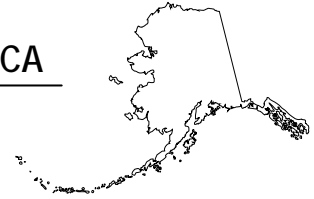
Rural communities often need to be more creative in solving fundamental solid waste challenges. For example they may not have a source of traditional cover material and they may be quite remote.

Mercury Thermometer Exchange: Mercury disposal can be expensive. Larger communities would probably have to sponsor smaller ones. The goal is to allow folks to exchange old mercury thermometers for digital thermometers, perhaps with the SWANA



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logo emblazoned thereon. SWANA could purchase the digital thermometers, but larger communities would have to commit to helping the rural communities if this is to work statewide. We won't commit to a detailed program at this time, but we will continue to develop the concept.

VI. **Member Comments:**

Lanie Hughes asked about what to do now that we have two applications for the scholarship (up until now we only received one at a time). Should we limit our scholarship to high school seniors only? One applicant is already in college. Do we divide the money amongst qualified applicants? With input from Mike Blair it is determined that scholarships will be for high school seniors only and the \$1000 will not be split. We should evaluate and choose one applicant.

The SWANA members then voted that **Evan Mayer** shall receive this year's \$1000 scholarship.

Two adjustments to the standard agenda were suggested for implementation at future quarterly meetings. A "Training Committee" section will be added to the committee reports section. A "New Business" section will be added between "Technical Meeting" and "Member Comments".

Lanie Hughes said that Fort Yukon is interested in having a RALO.

Mike Blair stated that a minimum number of registrants for a RALO to occur need to be established. Recent experience dictates this need. St. Mary's only had 1 confirmed attendee until the last second. The Training Committee will take up this question and report back to the larger body.

A Training Committee meeting was suggested for May 2nd at 10:00AM.

VII. **Next Meeting Date & Agenda**

SWANA Quarterly Meeting: Friday, July 22nd, 8:00AM – Homer, Alaska

VIII. **Adjournment** – meeting was adjourned at 2:25PM.