

## LEWIS COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT No. 1 - MINUTES

### Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, April 27, 2026, Meeting Time 10:30 am

Location: Hearing Room, Lewis County Courthouse, Chehalis, WA

- I. Disposal District Commissioner Sean D. Swope called the meeting to order at 10:30 am, Monday, April 27, 2026.

Those in attendance:

Sean D. Swope	Lewis County Commissioner
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM	Lewis County Commissioner
Scott J. Brummer	Lewis County Commissioner
Rocky Lyon	Lewis County Solid Waste Manager
Geoff Soderquist	Lewis County Public Works Director
Kristen Buckman	Lewis County Solid Waste Office/Business Manager
Karen Hirte	Lewis County Solid Waste Administrative Assistant Sr.
Meja Handlen	Lewis County Public Health & Social Services Director
Ryan Barrett	Lewis County Manager
Fritz Bierle	City of Chehalis
Warren Ayers	City of Chehalis
Matt McKnight	Chehalis Police Department
Stacy Denham	City of Chehalis
Mike Thomas	City of Centralia
Tony Ketchum	City of Chehalis
Rob Snaza	Lewis County Sheriff's Office
Gin Pack, Captain	The Salvation Army
Steven Pack, Captain	The Salvation Army

- II. Quorum verified.

- III. Approval of Minutes.

“Move to approve the minutes from March 23, 2026.”

Motion made by Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, and seconded by Scott J. Brummer. Motion passes three to zero.

- IV. Public Comment on any final-action items listed on this agenda - None.

- V. Public Hearing – None.

- VI. Board Measures and Proposals.

- a. **Resolution 003-26 – Establishing Guidelines for the Solid Waste Disposal District Fund 4150 Cash Flow Balance.**

“Move to approve resolution 003-26.”

Motion made by Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, and seconded by Scott J. Brummer. Motion passes three to zero.

- VII. Transfer Station Operations – Presented by Rocky Lyon, Solid Waste Manager.

- Community Litter Program Report – March.
  - The litter program supervisor spent 31 hours, and the crew spent 62 hours cleaning up 16 road miles. They picked up a total of 1,100 pounds with total supplies, vehicle, and cellphone costs of \$1,774.
  - Illegal dumpsites had 69 supervisor hours, 138 crew hours, 17 illegal dumpsites, and 9,100 pounds cleaned up. Total disposal fees for illegal dumpsites were \$1,592.
- Centralia reported 21 volunteers spent 36 hours cleaning up 42 bags of litter, with an additional volunteer bringing in ten tires from Blair Rd. Chehalis reported 10 volunteers who cleaned up 34 bags of litter.
- Transfer Station Tonnage – March.
  - Centralia had 7,779 tons and Morton had 889 tons for a total of 8,668 tons for the month of March. Total tonnage for the year thus far is 22,089.

- VIII. Financial Reports – Presented by Rocky Lyon, Solid Waste Manager.
- a. Monthly reports – March.
- Fund 4150 beginning balance was 7,398,203. Revenue per the Munis report was \$1,044,167 with expenses of \$725,386 and showed a net operating gain of 318,781. The ending fund 4150 balance was \$7,716,984.
  - Disposal District No. 1 Fund 4150 shows a cash flow balance of 8,810,026.76. The available cash flow in Fund 4150 is \$4,323,294.76.
  - Fund 4010 total revenue was \$310,890, which matches our expenses. Reserves are \$1,305,930.
  - Fund 4020, for February, shows the monthly transfer from Fund 4010 is \$30,039. Total Fund 4020 reserve balance is \$1,272,892.78.
- IX. Legislative Update – None.
- X. Miscellaneous Reports – None.
- XI. Approval of transfer from Solid Waste Disposal District No.1 Fund 4150 to Lewis County Solid Waste Utility. “Move to approve the transfer from Disposal District No. 1 Fund 4150 in the amount of \$725,386.” Motion made by Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, and seconded by Scott J. Brummer. Motion passes three to zero.
- XII. Staff Discussion.
- a. Night-by-night shelter garbage.
- Stacy Denham, City of Chehalis Manager, opened the discussion regarding the trails of garbage left behind to and from the night-by-night shelter. Last year, City of Chehalis had to use a backhoe to help clean up almost 100 shopping carts, which were full of garbage. People are using private properties on the way to the shelter to sleep, defecate, and leave garbage behind and the City is left to clean it up. He adds that while the shopping carts are a problem, the main issue is all the garbage that people are leaving behind in addition to the full carts. They are looking for a cooperative partnership to figure out how to alleviate the issues.
  - Fritz Beierle, City of Chehalis, added that in 2026 alone, he has had 27 shopping carts so far to clean up with 11 needing a backhoe to remove them. He has spent 46 hours cleaning up garbage, 26 vehicle hours and three days mowing so people can’t hide behind bushes. They hired Cabbros Cleaning Service to help clean up and have spent \$4,676.25 with an additional \$181 in dumping fees. He brought in pictures of refuse left behind on Highway 6 and Louisiana Ave to show what they are dealing with.
  - Meja Handlen, Director of Public Health and Social Services, added that there has been an up-tick of people by Chehalis Rentals in the last few months. Their plan is to partner with their Coordinated Entry Teams to help spread the message of “do not take shopping carts” and to help with the cleanup. They will investigate grant funding to help alleviate the costs incurred with these cleanups. They will also work with their coordinated entry teams to acquire data whether individuals are transients or residents. They believe the transient individuals are the ones leaving most of the trash behind. She feels if they can stop the triangulation of messaging out there amongst the transient communities quickly by having the outreach teams, law enforcement and other social service agencies educate and handle the situations that arise, they can lessen the occurrences.
  - Captain Steven Pack, The Salvation Army, added they are willing to give their clients garbage bags upon exiting the facility to have them gather their garbage and deposit it at the facility’s dumpster.
  - Captain Gin Pack, The Salvation Army, stated they encourage their guests to be a “good neighbor”. They ask them to clean up after themselves and if their guests are found to be on a property they shouldn’t be and won’t leave that property, they aren’t allowed to check in to the shelter. She states they are willing to have conversations with guests they see not “being a good neighbor” and let them know they aren’t welcome at the shelter if they continue to litter/loiter.
- b. Commercial side excavator breaks down.
- Last week our commercial side excavator’s boom completely broke off the assembly. Luckily it fell to the ground, and no one was injured. Our facility had to resort to using only one bay during the down time. Our fabricator has reinforced it, and it is now back to work.
- c. New forklift search.
- We have been trying for a few years to purchase a new forklift. We had it in the budget to purchase it last year and now that we have the ER&R, we will move forward with purchasing a new forklift for Centralia. The old forklift will be transferred to Morton.

XIII. Announcements

- a. Geoff Soderquist stated that because Solid Waste is now operating outside of the county ER&R policy, that we will be bringing forward a new, separate policy which outlines the building of rates and expiration times of equipment. He also brought up the trash along Airport Road. They will work on setting up a clean-up schedule to work along with their mowing schedule to make sure the trash isn't mowed with the grass. Another piece of equipment we would like to purchase at Solid Waste is a tire separator to remove the tires from rims. This will allow us to recycle the rims separately and not be charged the fees to have the recycling company do it.
- b. Rocky shared that there is a paint recycling event coming up on May 16, 2026.

XIV. Adjournment.

"Move to adjourn."

Motion made by Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, and seconded by Scott J. Brummer to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Hirte  
Lewis County Solid Waste Administrative Assistant Sr.