



# SWANN

## Board of Directors Meeting

### July 17, 2025

Chairman J.W. Geiser called the July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Board of Director's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Chadron City Hall Council Chambers, 234 Main Street, Chadron, NE. Members present for roll call: Chadron, Shane Shepherd; Clinton, Roy Retzlaff; Crawford, Chris Dean; Dawes Co., Vic Rivera; Gordon, Doug Woodbeck; Harrison, Dashiell Rohan; Hay Springs, Charles Toof; Sheridan Co. Dan Kling; Sioux County, J.W. Geiser and Whitney, Fred Raben. Quorum was reached with members present. Members absent: Hemingford, Richard Wacker; and Rushville, Barbara Stava. Chairman Geiser pointed out the Open Meetings Act posted in the rear of the room.

### Approval of Agenda

Chairman Geiser presented the July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 agenda. With no content changes to the presented agenda, Member Rohan from Harrison moved to approve the agenda as presented. Member Dean from Crawford seconded the motion. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

### Approval of May 15th, 2025 Minutes

Mr. Geiser presented the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 BOD meeting minutes. With no additions or corrections to the minutes as presented, Member Retzlaff of Clinton moved to approve the minutes. Member Raben of Whitney seconded the motion. Quorum was reached with members present. Motion carried.

### Approval of Claims/Budgets EOM May 2025 and EOM June 2025 Results

With this meeting covering 2 months of claims/budget, Executive Director, Jake Stewart reviewed the claims/budget for both EOM results with the Board. At the end of the fiscal year 24-25 EOM May 2025, the Agency's revenue closed at 112% of projections for the 24-25 fiscal year. Expenses closed at 102%, just over expected projections for the 24-25 fiscal year. Stewart pointed out areas of review on the budget sheets e.g. expenses – recycling, engineering, and motor equipment. For the EOM June 2025, the Agency's revenue was at 8% of projections for the 25-26 fiscal year. Expenses finished at 11%, just over expected projections for the fiscal budget. Stewart pointed out areas of review on the budget sheets e.g. expenses – baler improvement, wire, motor/repairs. Topics were discussed by Exec. Director and Board members as questions arose. For each respective EOM, Stewart reviewed the money markets/reserve accounts showing the deposits in the bonding, disposal and collection equipment accounts. Stewart reviewed the paid bills and tonnage report for each month. With no additional questions and comments, Member Kling of Sheridan Co. moved to approve the EOM Claims and Budgets. Chadron member Shepherd seconded the motion. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

### Resolution 2025-08 —Consideration to Approve LARM Insurance Coverage

Resolution 2025-08, LARM, League Association of Risk Management, was presented. LARM is SWANN's company insurance that covers worker's compensation, general liability, errors and omissions, auto liability, auto physical damage, and commercial property. Executive Director Stewart reviewed the LARM proposal and asked the board to review and consider approval of the new contributions. The BOD members reviewed the options, it was clarified that this is a continuation add-on to the 3-year commitment or extension of the required termination notice, providing stability of the contribution rates and LARM operation efficiency and associated 5% discount for the Board's consideration and approval. Member Woodbeck of Gordon moved to accept the continuation with the 3-year commitment and associated 5% discount. Member Shepherd seconded the motion; all members present voting aye. Motion carried.

### Storage Unit Policy

Exec. Dir. Stewart opened discussion of policy establishment regarding Storage Units in SWANN's service area relates to and is outlined in Title 132 Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations. It was noted that renters of storage units come from within and outside of the service area, the policy being developed will be sent to owners of the storage units within SWANN's service area, outlining compliance to the policy. Stewart explained that Storage units are considered a commercial business and shall be charged tonnage at the rates set by the Swann Board of Directors each year in May. Storage Unit businesses shall be responsible for all waste that is generated by their units and pay a tonnage fee for disposal. All disposal fees that are not paid at the end of each calendar year shall be subject to special assessment to the property. When storage unit customers can show proof of paying a current residential SWANN bill with their local city utility bill or rural trash account are allowed to dispose of their household waste as part of their residential fee. Special waste, tires, liquids, appliances, or metal must be approved by Swann for disposal and may be associated with other tonnage fees for proper disposal to protect the permit issued by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. Stewart provided examples of some storage unit owners and how they contact their local city office and SWANN agency to determine the status of the resident prior to billing their rental customers for storage unit use and disposal of solid waste. Stewart informed the Board that policies of this nature are always reviewed with legal advisors as well. After active and informed conversation ensued with the members, the general consensus of the Board was that establishment of the policy was in the best interest of the Agency. The Board did ask Mr. Stewart to move forward with the SWANN Storage Unit Policy.

### Interlocal Agreement Discussion

Chairman Geiser introduced the interlocal agreement discussion, Ex. Director Stewart reiterated information regarding the Interlocal Agreement that binds the SWANN Agency together as a cohesive unit under which to operate. This agreement has been in operation since the inception in 1992. Stewart, along with senior residing board members, discussed the makeup of the operations that are in place with this program and how it only works if all entities are in tandem with one another. It was discussed how the Agreement allows the residents, communities and municipalities in the service area to share the costs of the disposal of solid waste, this has kept the rates at the lowest in



the State and surrounding areas where similar processes are completed. Stewart provided example of the all the services that SWANN provides for each of the municipalities without charge to that entity, in turn the municipalities provide similar types of services that SWANN would need in maintaining operations in the respective area, primarily heavy equipment to keep operations moving forward [e.g. Loaders, trucks, equipment, etc.] These types of cooperating services are in lieu of entities and SWANN sending each other billing/invoices to cover the costs of these services. Senior Board Member Retzlaff explained that this primarily stemmed from municipalities taking on the invoicing of local residents for the solid waste disposal expense, which is what created this shared cost process. It was reinforced that this was a type of utility, and through this cooperation, is the only way to keep rates at a minimum. Board members discussed amongst themselves how each community needs to coordinate the processes of SWANN to their respective municipal boards that these shared cost processes are clear and indeed in-kind processes. Stewart went on to describe that the only service that the Agency would need actual value recouped, would be construction debris (CD), which is an expense to SWANN through the State's charge of burying CD in a permitted landfill, such as that of SWANN. It was reiterated by board members that services were consistent amongst all locations and that CD is handled the same in all communities so that no one entity felt there was inequality occurring. After informative discussion, the Board had general consensus that no charges/bills would start to be passed back and forth between agencies, and that Stewart reach out to any entities that may be under the impression that values should be incurred for expenses e.g. household, office or normal shop waste placed in brown dumpsters. Communication and education were key points in making the interlocal agreement for the Agency work as it has historically.

### Public Comment

Chairman Geiser opened the floor to those members of the public who attended. Exec. Dir. Stewart explained how the public has the ability to voice their thoughts on aspects of trash disposal or topics that they believe SWANN BOD should be aware of. This open time will be made available on agendas moving forward, to comply with State Open Meeting act. With no comments from the public, the open session was closed, with Chairman Geiser continuing with BOD Meeting Agenda items.

### Rates Discussion

General discussion of the General discussion of the new rates and expenses to customers was discussed noting once more how LB 247 affected rates, as the State of NE double the rate of disposing (or burying) solid waste in the State and how this impacted Agency services. Examples were discussed with the Board as to actual expenses in a neighboring community, outside the SWANN service area, where costs were tripled for similar services on a 3 yd dumpster with twice a week pickup. Stewart encourages the board members to be sure to share the value benefit of being part of the SWANN service area and how rates are some of the lowest in the nation.

### Director's Report

Exec. Dir. Stewart began the report with conversation regarding the following topics.

**Old Baler Update:** Exec. Dir., Jake Stewart discussed status of the old baler; that the conveyor belt/baler was down for a couple of days, due to conveyor belt issue. Operations Director Waldron discussed the efforts that it took to get the conveyor/baler back in operation. It was discussed how, when the new baler is in operation, that the old baler will be maintained and utilized in the manner as to keep the unit operational in the event of needed use in any number of different scenarios. The public was notified of the down time of the processes with the baler. It was noted how the website is the primary location for this information or by calling the SWANN administrative offices.

**Landfill Update:** Exec. Dir. Stewart provided update on current status of the active cell being used at the landfill; and how it is almost to the point of not being able to hold any additional solid waste. The current phase [cell] is beginning to be closed in, and staff are looking to develop the new phase at the landfill location. To open a new cell, bids will be called for to complete the dirt work that is necessary to develop and utilize the new phase of the landfill. Other topics discussed with the board was the status of the new landfill loader, wind fences to catch any wayward debris that may end up loose and blowing.

**New Baler Updates:** For this agenda item Exec. Dir. Stewart, invited the Board to come out and look at the status of the building project. Stewart discussed new activity associated with new building, with weather permitting, stem and foundation/footing walls were in place, with flooring concrete being prepped and ready to be poured the following week. Baler pit is in place and prepared for the next steps in the process. Board members discussed when and how the new baler would be set into place as the new building is being constructed. New tasks are increasing in nature with Chief Industries handling all bidding processes in an efficient process. Mr. Stewart advised board he will continually provide updates as activities develop.

### Executive Session

With there being no need, the Board of Directors did not find it necessary to enter into executive session for the present meeting.

### Board of Directors Comments

Next board meeting will be held in September on the 18<sup>th</sup> as was previously set by the Board. With no other Agency business; BOD Comments were asked for; Board Representatives did not have many topic comments to discuss; some questions were presented with Mr. Stewart providing additional information or details regarding topics that were brought up.

### Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board at 7:55 p.m., Chairman Geiser declared the meeting adjourned.

Secretary/Treasurer

Chairman