



Town of Southwest Ranches Zero Waste Advisory Board Minutes

March 4, 2025

7:00 pm

Board Members

Rose Allbritton, Rick Conrad, Debbie Green,
Harold Gubnitsky

Council Liaison

David Kuczenski

Staff Liaison

Dan Stewart

Members present:

Rose Allbritton
Rick Conrad
Debbie Green

Members absent:

Harold Gubnitsky

Staff present:

Dan Stewart

Council present:

Jim Allbritton
Bob Hartmann
David Kuczenski

Others present:

See attendance sheet

Call to order at 7:03 PM

The members present reviewed the minutes of the February 2025 meeting.

Rose Allbritton motioned to approve the February 2025 minutes. Rick Conrad seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Alessia addressed the board and thanked the board for the opportunity. She gained a great deal of knowledge and great learning experience. Unfortunately, due to all the demands of being a senior in high school and college enrollment process she was not able to continue on the board. She will continue to be involved whenever she is able.

Zoom presentation by Elizabeth DeWitt and Barbara Herrera in regards to Florida Beverage and Single use plastics. Dawn McCormick gave us a WM overview; They are service provider for 12 cities in Broward County. They are recycling processors for 21 cities in Broward County. There is a new \$80m new recycling facility adjacent to the current one. This will be the largest volume recycling facility of WM and one of the largest in North America. Expect to be fully operational in Q1 2026. This facility will include a big educational area for tours. WM has lots of educational opportunities at wm.com/recycleright. Another investment made in Broward County is for \$30m for construction & demolition debris recycling. She gave us the WM spin on their request to Broward County to increase the landfill. The Solid Waste Authority of Broward County had requested that Broward County commission not approve the WM request until the master plan was complete. Now they have taken an asset off the table of what could have been used for resource recovery facility or other. The County Commission's approval also allows for the increase in height of the landfill out by us. Elizabeth DeWitt is president of Florida Beverage Assoc. This group includes non-alcoholic beverages, such as Dr Pepper, Coca Cola, Pepsi... Issues that all are aligned are health and wellness and sustainability. They have grants that can be applied for sustainability/recycling projects. Every bottle back initiative is focused on keeping bottles and cans out of the environment. They use rPET plastics, 100% recycled cans. Raising awareness and supporting recycling by promoting during the Super Bowl and morning shows. Partners with

World Wildlife Fund to measure the reduction of the plastic footprint. Florida is the only state that has built a coalition. They had a recycle project in Jacksonville, where they had a certain community, where they tagged the recycling bins with happy face or what was put in that contaminated the recycle bin. Barbara gave kudos to SWR for its efforts to become more sustainable and lead by example.

Rick Conrad motioned to publish the bullet points below in the March Newsletter and for Debbie to coordinate with Town staff for the article to be included in the Town's March Newsletter. Rose Allbritton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Kudos to SWR for efforts in sustainability and lead by example
Will look into Florida Beverage Association's "Every Bottle Back" program
Continue to look at possible grant opportunities and partnering with other municipalities
Look at possible programs to bring to schools in our area
Invite residents to attend monthly advisory board meeting and input

Old Business – to follow up on RFP draft to be presented next meeting

Staff Comments – There is a board vacancy to be filled. Rancher Academy will be held on March 12th at Town Hall from 7-9pm and March 19th

Next Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting will be held April 9th

Next meeting April 1st

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.