

Solid Waste Administrators Association

Presentation to the
Association of Minnesota Counties
Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee
September 15, 2022

Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) Executive Team

Full members are county, solid waste management **district**, or **sanitary board**, established by the legislature, or a governmental **joint powers** having legal statutory responsibility for solid waste management

Affiliate members are:

- Other government officials and staff
- Consultants
- State agency solid waste officials
- Private industry representatives
- Other waste management organizations



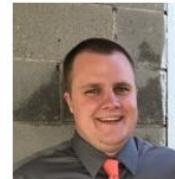
EXECUTIVE BOARD



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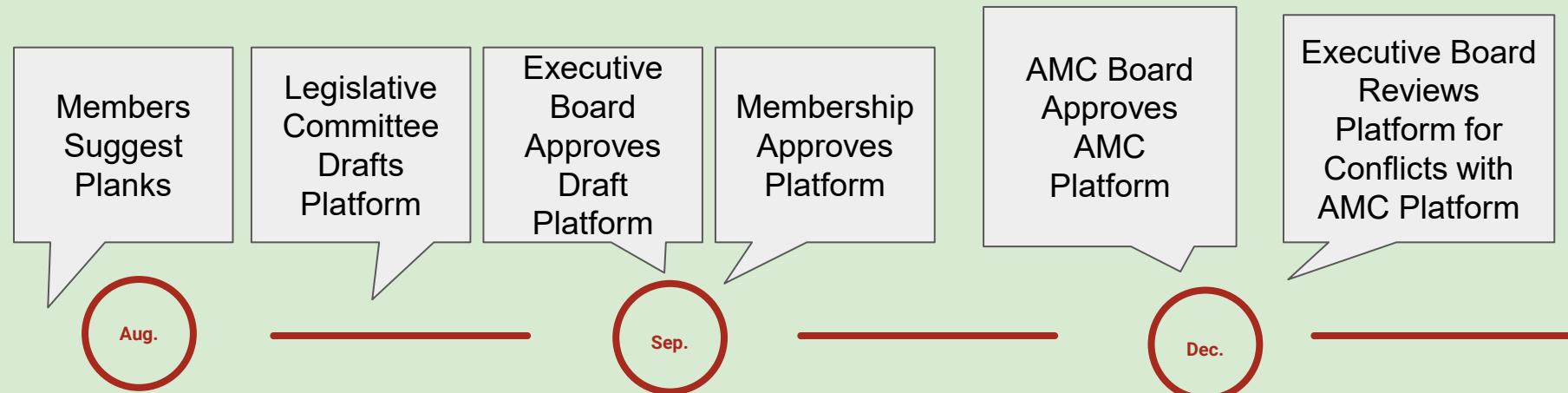
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[Anne Morse](#)

Winona County (Retired)

Current Executive Board Alternate positions open in district 6, 8, and 9.
(Follow AMC districts)

SWAA Platform Process



Legislative Priorities for 2023

- SCORE funding increase
- Capital Assistance Program (CAP) funding
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)
- Facility Permitting



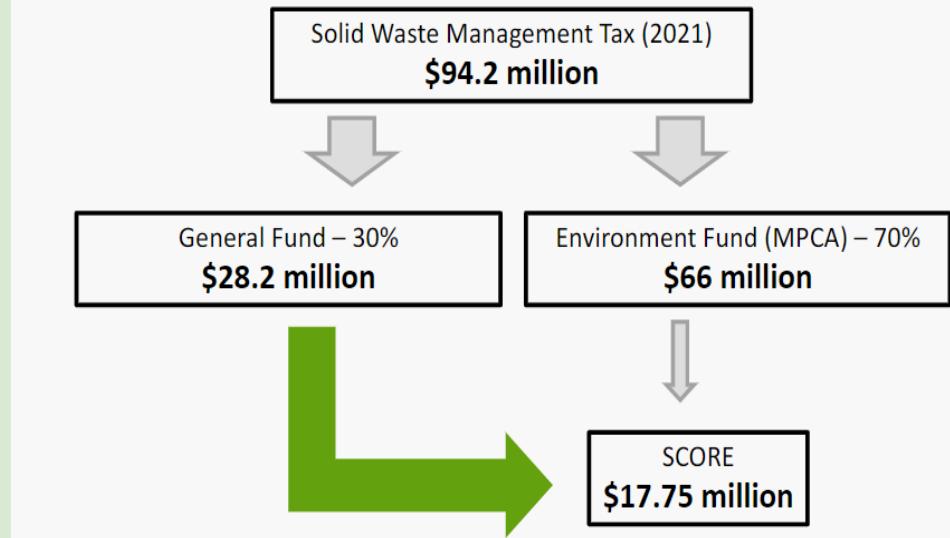
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SCORE FUNDING INCREASE:

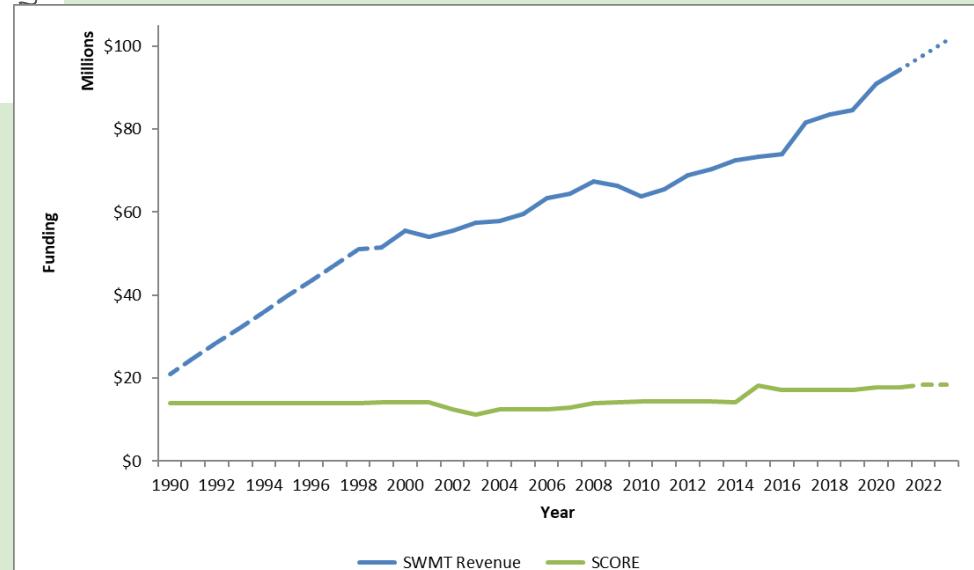
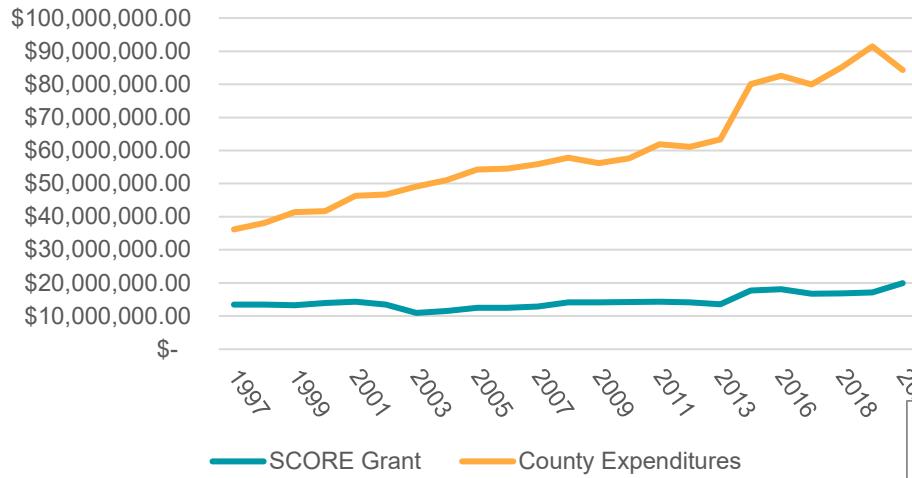
SWAA supports allocating 100 percent of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county waste management activities, including increased funding for SCORE (Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants to counties.

Solid Waste Management Tax

Based on cost of trash services



SCORE Grants and Total SCORE Spending



CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

- **SWAA supports fully funding the bonding requests for proposed solid waste management projects** as a partial match to the funds that counties invest in infrastructure for safe, environmentally sound management of solid wastes mandated by the state.
- **SWAA supports significantly increasing** the current \$2 million limit on the size of CAP grants to account for increases in construction costs of the past three decades and allow for greater flexibility in projects to boost recycling and waste diversion.

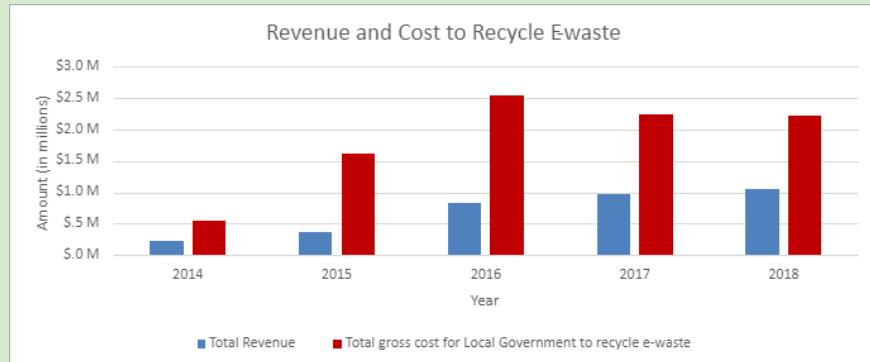


EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility)

SWAA supports product stewardship among manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, with an **emphasis on industry** through an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework.

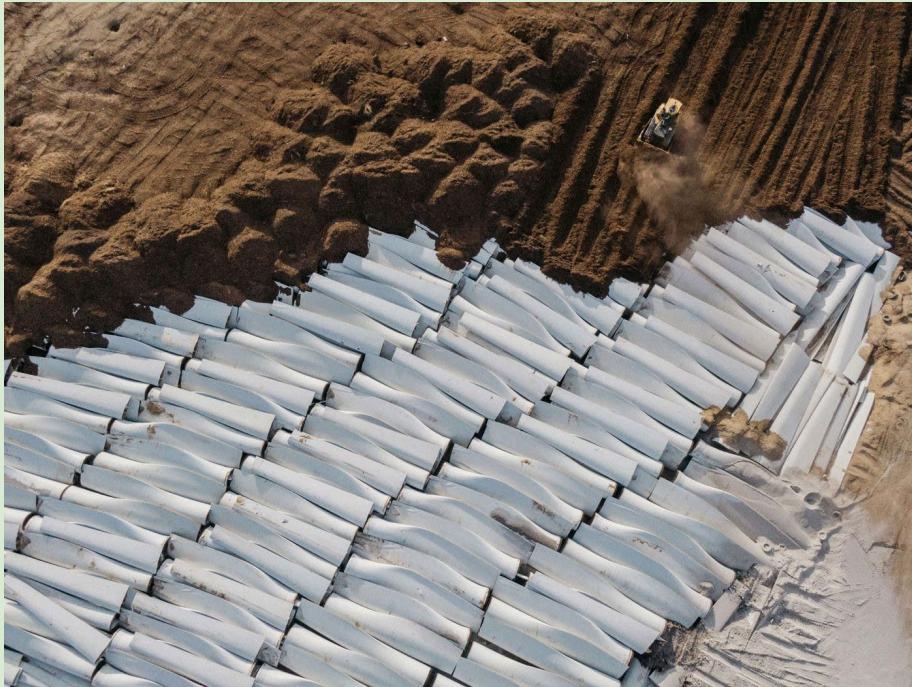
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY programs must...

- Include transparency and accountability measures
- Maximize use of existing infrastructure
- Provide local governments with a voluntary role in development and implementation
- **Not rely on local government financing**



EPR Sectors of Concern

- E-WASTE: Reform the Minnesota e-waste program to meet Product Stewardship Principles
- SOLAR PANELS and WIND TURBINE BLADES: Management of all end-of life materials including difficult to manage and toxic substances.
- MATTRESSES: statewide, end-of-life handling for all mattresses



Benjamin Rasmussen for Bloomberg Green

Developing Issues: PFAS

- **STATE RESOURCES FOR PFAS RESPONSE:** SWAA supports state actions to address PFAS in our environment through producer responsibility. When producer responsibility is insufficient to address the problem, state resources should be used to address this issue of general statewide significance and PFAS source reduction recommendations included in the State PFAS Blueprint. SWAA supports the MPCA working with MDH and an industry stakeholder group (as defined 2021 MN Session Law Chapter 6) to identify PFAS sources received by wastewater and solid waste management facilities.
- **EXEMPTIONS FOR PFAS RECEIVERS:** SWAA supports the exemption for solid waste management and wastewater treatment facilities from MERCLA and CERCLA (The Minnesota/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) liability due to PFAS. Solid waste management and wastewater treatment facilities are both critical for public health but neither manufacture nor use PFAS and should be treated the same. These facilities are passive ‘receivers’ of PFAS from consumers and industry and will continue to manage trace amounts of PFAS, due to historic use and disposal of PFAS, in wastewaters, bio-solids, contact waters, and leachates long after upstream sources have been eliminated.



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Developing Issues: Permitting

- **CLEAR PLAN FOR DISPOSAL CAPACITY:** SWAA supports MPCA's development of a clear plan to address statewide diminishing MSW landfill and processing capacity, and a clearly defined process for the issuance and approval of certificate of need (CON) and subsequent environmental review, disposal facility siting and permitting.
- **FULL CAPACITY PERMIT:** SWAA supports environmental review of solid waste facilities based on the entire site capacity, in phased development, as allowed by rule. In order to make best use of limited resources, permits should be issued for the entire facility capacity



Contact us for more information

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