



Minutes of March 19, 2026 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on March 19, 2026, at the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa, California.

Board Members Present:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez
City of Cotati – Susan Harvey
City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer
City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter
City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – Mark Stapp
City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – ABSENT
Town of Windsor – Sam Salmon

Staff Present:

Counsel: Ethan Walsh
Staff: Leslie Lukacs, Thora Collard, Xinci Tan, Courtney Scott, Kristen Sales, Rajesh Jyothiswaran, Katie Cushwa
Agency Clerk: Amber Johnson

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting

Regular session was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Introductions

2. Agenda Approval

Motion: For approval of the agenda.

First: City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

Second: City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

- Allan Tose, Stage Gulch Organics – Facility design hearing has been approved, and it is onto the planning commission. There hasn't appeared to be any issues thus far, and the process is ongoing.

4. Consent (w/attachments)

- 4.1 Minutes of the February 19, 2026 Regular Meeting
- 4.2 February, March, and April 2026 Outreach Calendar
- 4.3 Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Redwood Landfill, Inc.
- 4.4 Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Republic Services, Inc.
- 4.5 First and Second Quarter ZWS FY 25/26 Financial Reports

Board Comments:

- None

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: For approval of the consent calendar.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Santa Rosa – Mark Stapp

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. Public Hearing for the Consideration of Organics Disposal Fee Increase

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Direction to staff to look at future expenditures. Reserve funding will be needed in the future.
- What are the organics tipping fees in neighboring counties?
- Are there reduced rates for low-income folks? Are there reduced rates available for low-income individuals?

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: Approval of the increase adjustment tipping fees, effective April 1, 2026.

First: City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

Second: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on the Fiscal Year 2026-27 ZWS Final Budget

Board Comments/Action Items:

- What impact does SB 1383 have on the budget?
- How much effort does staff put into a 3–5-year plan?
- When the grants expire, how are we going to maintain these programs?
- With two major projects on the horizon, the HHW facility and the compost facility, we may need to update the strategic plan.
- Working with the county on the job classification study may also impact the budget.
- What is the timeline for the job classification study?

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: For approval of FY 26-27 Zero Waste Sonoma Final Budget.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

7. Consideration of Loan Agreement Terms with SPI for Financing of the New HHW Facility

Board Comments/Action Items:

- When this is shared with the member agencies, will it be made clear that this has already been decided?
- ZWS would be paying the county with funds received from the county, which appears to be circular. It is hoped that some flexibility would be granted regarding late fees given this arrangement.
- With this potential agreement, is it possible that we would need to increase our fees to meet these payment obligations?
- What is the current agency surcharge rate?
- Was there any discussion about the possibility of the county deducting the amount they owe us? Would it be more beneficial to have funds deducted rather than waiting for payments?
- Is the \$16 million loan cap consistent with R3’s findings?
- Do we feel confident that R3’s findings show tipping fees will adequately cover our debt obligations?
- Because we have not implemented an increase in several years, there is a concern that delaying adjustments could widen the gap and lead to a larger, sudden increase later. A gradual, incremental approach is generally easier for ratepayers to absorb than significant spikes.

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: To approve the First Amendment to the JPA Agreement to allow ZWS to enter into the Credit Agreement with the County for financing the construction of ZWS’s future Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility located at 5885 Pruitt Avenue in Windsor.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

8. Boardmember Comments

- The City of Cloverdale appreciates ZWS staff, Phoebe Schenker, and Amanda Cronkright for putting on the first repair fair in Cloverdale. The event was well received by many.
- The Climate Ready Cotati Fair is scheduled for March 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Healdsburg compost hub has been a huge success. The community has come to rely on it, but it has come to our attention that commercial businesses have been taking large quantities. ZWS staff are working on a resolution.
- Leslie's presentation for the climate action commission in Petaluma was well received.
- The City of Sonoma held its City Council meeting on April 15th, where the climate action report and zero waste initiatives were discussed. A free e-waste event was also held on April 10th and was well received by the community.

9. Executive Director Report – VERBAL REPORT

10. Staff Comments

- Cotati Repair Fair is being held on March 29, 2026, at Cotati City Hall.
- In April, UCPNB will install a new "drop-and-go" automated system at the Windsor HHW facility site. There will be an overlap period with the existing weigh-and-pay system before the transition is completed. Rohnert Park and Sebastopol are expected to transition to the new system in May.
- There will also be three new drop sites operated in Gualala and Santa Rosa, along with two days per week of CRV acceptance using the weigh-and-pay system.
- Hours remain limited, and in most cases the system requires an app and interaction via a mobile device.

11. Next ZWS meeting: April 16, 2026

12. Adjourn: 9:40 a.m.

Submitted by: Amber Johnson