

Item Title: FY2019 Tip Fee Waiver at the South Wake Landfill and East Wake Transfer Station for the Wake County Big Sweep

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners waives the tipping fee to “zero charge” at the South Wake Landfill and East Wake Transfer Station for waste collected by Wake County Big Sweep and all participating partners during Fall 2018, Spring and Summer 2019.

Item Summary:

Purpose: Wake County Solid Waste Ordinance Section V (C) requires that the Wake County Board of Commissioners regulate and govern the fees to be charged by licensed operators of disposal facilities for garbage, refuse, solid wastes and recyclables. The proposed action will allow Big Sweep and other partners to remove solid waste from designated watersheds and dispose of it without paying landfill tipping fees as required by the ordinance.

Background: Wake County Big Sweep is a county-wide volunteer effort to make our watersheds litter-free. All Wake County municipalities are welcome to participate. Wake Soil and Water Conservation District coordinates the Wake County Big Sweep in partnership with city, county & state governments, parks, civic organizations, youth groups, schools and universities, churches, and businesses. Supplies are provided by the Solid Waste Division of Environmental Services and the international nonprofit Ocean Conservancy.

Proper trash disposal and recycling is coordinated with each participating Zone Captain and municipality in Wake County, especially the City of Raleigh. Municipal trash trucks collect the volunteers' trash, delivering them to the South Wake Landfill or East Wake Transfer Station. Recyclable material is taken to one of the County's multi-material drop-off facilities.

Board Goal: Wake County Big Sweep assists in achieving the Commissioners' Objective GS2.2: Update comprehensive solid waste plan to extend the life of the landfill through recycling and technology and improve strategies to reduce litter. The removal of litter is also the removal of a non-point source pollutant that impairs water quality and threatens human health and economic vitality.

Fiscal Impact: Fiscal Impact due to not collecting tip fees associated with this effort is expected to be in the range of \$350 to \$500 for FY2019 (this represents between 8-12 tons).

Additional Information:

Each year Wake County Big Sweep, through Wake Soil and Water Conservation District, leads a partnership to remove solid waste from designated watersheds in Wake County. Numerous volunteer-led cleanups of designated watersheds are scheduled in fall and spring of each fiscal year. Watersheds include streams, creeks, lakes, and wetlands that are tributaries to the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers.

Wake County Big Sweep works closely with the City of Raleigh's Solid Waste Services Department, Parks & Recreation Department, and Community Services Department to ensure that volunteer-collected trash is properly disposed of and that recyclables are properly recycled to comply with the state's landfill ban on plastic bottles, wooden pallets, etc.

In FY2017-2018, Wake County Big Sweep diverted a total of 5,260 lbs. of recyclables from the county landfill. Thus, Wake County Big Sweep increases the longevity of the South Wake Landfill. For the Fall of 2017 and the Spring of 2018, Wake County Big Sweep's 1,122 volunteers collected 19,075 lbs. or 9.5 tons of solid waste from 23 waterways in 7 municipalities that equates to a fee waiver of \$390 (calculated at \$41 per net ton).

All participating municipalities appreciate and need a Wake County Landfill Tipping Fee Waiver, so they do not incur an additional disposal fee for the solid waste that their volunteers collect as a critical community service.

Attachments:

1. Preliminary 2018 Fall Schedule for Wake County Big Sweep