

R&E Governance Decision Tree - for Board Discussion

Revised March 19, 2026

Timeline

(Subject to change)

Oct. 8, 2024

Sep. 25, 2025

Jan. 29, 2026

Mar. 31 & Apr. 28, 2026

Est. Q1 2027

Est. Q2 2027

2027+ [timeline depends on leg. session outcome]

Decision Point #1:
Should **R&E and the counties** evaluate alternative governance structures?

Decision: Yes.
Ramsey and Washington County Boards both approved Solid Waste Management Plans in 2024 that include a policy to evaluate governance, stated in Ramsey and Washington Counties Partnerships Priority #6: "The R&E Board will continue to evaluate and implement appropriate changes to its governance structure and size to ensure effectiveness."

Decision Point #2:
Should the **R&E Board** adopt the R&E Strategic Plan, which includes an element on exploring alternative governance?

Decision: Yes.
R&E Strategic Plan adopted with **4A. Strengthened governance that maximizes nimbleness:** "i. Identify and implement a sustainable governance structure (e.g., waste management district or enhanced JPA) that increases nimbleness and impact."

Decision Point #3:
Should **the R&E Board** approve a platform that includes working with other entities on legislation that modifies the language for solid waste management districts in Minnesota?

Decision: Yes

TASK: Work with AMC and other interested parties to pass proposed legislation

Decision: No

TASK: Monitor legislation supported by other entities

Decision Point #4:
Should **the R&E Board** recommend that R&E and county staff work together to evaluate alternate governance structures including an enhanced joint powers agreement and a solid waste district?

Decision: Yes

TASK: R&E staff & board members bring recommendation to County Boards

Decision: No

Process ends with no governance evaluation

Minnesota 2026 Legislative Session: Feb. to May 2026

Decision Point #5:
Should **both County Boards** direct county staff to work with R&E to evaluate governance structures 1) enhanced JPA and/or 2) a waste district compared to the current R&E JPA?

Decision: Both counties say yes to evaluation of both alternatives

TASK: Evaluate both alternate governance structures using dimensions of governance change, outline each transition plan, and deliver reports to R&E Board.

Decision: Both counties say yes to evaluation of one alternative

TASK: Evaluate selected alternate governance structure using dimensions of governance change, outline a transition plan, and deliver report to R&E Board.

Decision: One or both counties say no to all evaluation

Process ends with no governance evaluation

Decision Point #6:
Should **the R&E Board** select an alternative waste management governance structure to recommend to the Ramsey and Washington County Boards for implementation?

Decision: Yes to recommending solid waste management district

TASK: R&E staff/board members bring recommendation of solid waste district to County Boards

Decision: Yes to recommending enhanced JPA

TASK: R&E staff/board members bring recommendation of enhanced JPA to County Boards

Decision: No

Process ends with no governance change

Decision Point #7A:
Should **the Ramsey and Washington County Boards** direct staff to work with R&E to begin to implement a solid waste management district?

Decision: Both counties say yes to solid waste district

TASK: Begin implementation process to transition to solid waste management district

Decision: One or both counties say no

Process ends with no governance change

Decision Point #7B:
Should **the Ramsey and Washington County Boards** direct staff to work with R&E to begin to implement an enhanced JPA structure?

Decision: Both counties say yes to enhanced JPA

TASK: Begin implementation process to transition to an enhanced JPA

Decision: One or both counties say no

Process ends with no governance change

Did proposed legislation pass in the 2026 session?

No

TASK: Counties/ R&E work with interested parties pass proposed legislation next year

Next Minnesota Legislative session: Jan./Feb. to May

Did solid waste district legislation pass?

Decision: Yes

TASK: Begin implementation process to transition to solid waste management district

