STATEMENT/PURPOSE
This item is before the Town Council to present the idea of a Zero Waste Resolution for discussion or action and also to ask the Council to appoint a liaison to the Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling (ISWR) board in an effort to keep the Council more informed of the issues being addressed at ISWR and how they affect the Town and how the Town can be supportive of initiatives at ISWR.

BACKGROUND/ALTERNATIVES
ISWR is asking the Town of Jackson to adopt a Zero Waste Resolution (draft attached). Teton County adopted a similar resolution. However, ISWR will not be able to meet the County goals set forth in the resolution without the Town of Jackson also participating and working towards those goals. There are several key initiatives outlined in the goals that can only be implemented within the Town limits including grocery bag fees, and Pay as You Throw (PAYT) provisions for trash haulers.

ISWR’s plan for moving forward within the Town limits is outlined as follows:

Step 1. Adoption of Resolution and Designating a Liaison to ISWR
There are no financial implications to adoption of the resolution. Financial implications would be identified once specific programs are under consideration and they would be program specific. ISWR would like a liaison named from the Town Council in order to encourage collaboration and communication between ISWR and the Town Council. Staff already works closely with ISWR but Council communication is key to success. ISWR meets the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm at ISWR.

Step 2. Adoption of Broad Goals and Strategic Recommendations.
There are no financial implications to adoption of goals and strategic recommendations. Adoption of the goals would be a statement by the Town Council that they agree with the direction and strategic intent.

Step 3. Adoption of Individual Programs as they are Proposed.
Individual programs and initiatives would be proposed that work towards meeting the short, mid, and long term goals of Zero Waste. Each program or initiative would be reviewed and presented to the elected officials for adoption and at that time, the financial and staff implications of each initiative or program would be identified. Examples of individual programs include adoption of green purchasing policies, grocery bag fees, amended building code requirements, Pay as You Throw, mandatory cardboard recycling, etc.

Staff recommends the Town Council adopt the Zero Waste Resolution as presented and designate a member of the Town Council to serve as a liaison to ISWR.

The Town Council has many options for moving forward including:
1. Approve Resolution 15-18 as presented and designate a member of the Town Council to serve as a liaison to ISWR.

2. Review and discuss Resolution 15-18 and continue the discussion to the August 17 Town Council meeting.

3. Designate a member of the Town Council to serve as a liaison to the ISWR Board but take no action on the Zero Waste resolution at this time.

4. Take no action.

5. Other.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC INTENT
Adoption of a Zero Waste Resolution and goals is in direct alignment with the Council’s Statement of Strategic Intent related to Environmental Stewardship and is listed specifically as a strategy.

ATTACHMENTS
Resolution 15-18

FISCAL IMPACT
There would be no direct fiscal impact associated with adopting the Zero Waste Resolution. Adopting the goals would also have no direct fiscal impact. But there would be fiscal impacts once we get into approval/authorization of specific initiatives and programs to reach those goals and support our Zero Waste initiative. Those specific fiscal impacts would be outlined once each individual program or initiative is brought forward for action. However, it is understood that should the Council continue to head down the path of environmental stewardship through adoption of this Zero Waste Resolution, funds will need to be expended to realize the goals and initiatives. It is unrealistic to expect to reach these goals without changing how we operate and implementing regulations with fiscal impacts.

The fiscal impact of approving the resolution itself is negligible and would be included in the body of the minutes and would make the minutes a larger document and cost slightly more in advertising.

STAFF IMPACT
The direct staff impact of adopting the Zero Waste Resolution is negligible in that it requires printing the resolution into the permanent record books of the Town of Jackson and execution with signatures. The indirect staff impact would be positive in that this would be another action in alignment with the Town of Jackson mission of appreciating our environmental resources and acknowledging our responsibility to future generations.

LEGAL REVIEW
The Town Attorney has not yet been provided the opportunity to review the Resolution. The resolution adopts concepts and supports initiatives but does not take binding action on any individual initiative or program.

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends the Council adopt the Zero Waste Resolution in alignment with the Council’s adopted Statements of Strategic Intent.

SUGGESTED MOTION
Should the Town Council be ready to take action on the Zero Waste Resolution and designate a liaison to ISWR, a possible motion would be:

I move to approve Resolution 15-18 subject to any minor corrections by the Town Attorney, and designate ____________ to serve as a liaison to ISWR.
Synopsis for PowerPoint (120 words max):
Background:
ISWR is asking the Town of Jackson to adopt a Zero Waste Resolution. Teton County adopted a similar resolution. However, ISWR will not be able to meet the County goals set forth in the resolution without the Town of Jackson also participating and working towards those goals.
Resolution 15-18
A Resolution Adopting Zero Waste as a Guiding Principle and Supporting the Creation of a Zero Waste Plan

WHEREAS, “Zero Waste” is a whole systems approach that aims to change the way materials flow through society, resulting in no waste; Zero waste is a conceptual ideal rather than a hard target, accepted as a waste diversion goal of 90% or better; and,

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste philosophy accepts that natural resources must be used in the most ethical, economical and sustainable way possible as earth and human systems are interconnected and interdependent; and,

WHEREAS, sustainability is defined as "the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Commission of the United Nations, March 20, 1987); and,

WHEREAS, the guiding principles of Zero Waste are: managing resources instead of waste; conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling; turning discarded resources into jobs and new products instead of trash; promoting products and materials that are durable and recyclable; discouraging products and materials that can only become trash after their use; and using education as a tool to maximize community engagement; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Stewardship Statement of Strategic Intent for the Town of Jackson, Wyoming government is to "Responsibly manage environmental resources for the benefit of present and future generations," which includes "Pursue Zero Waste " as a Strategy; and,

WHEREAS, one of the main tenets of the Mission of the Town of Jackson is to appreciate our unique environmental resources and acknowledge our responsibilities to future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the program mission of Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling (ISWR) is to “Reduce, reuse, recycle, and manage municipal solid waste throughout Teton County, Wyoming, in an efficient and environmentally-sound manner”; and,

WHEREAS, almost 40,000 tons of waste is generated in Teton County and the Town of Jackson each year by residents, businesses, institutions and visitors, and approximately 70% of this amount is sent over 100 miles away for landfill disposal; and,

WHEREAS, current technologies used for incineration and the placement of waste materials in landfills do not meet the goals of zero waste alone and can cause damage to human health and the environment, waste natural resources, and wrongly transfer liabilities to future generations; and,
WHEREAS, recognizing that voluntary recycling has not, and in all probability cannot, achieve Zero Waste goals; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing that some materials in Teton County and the Town of Jackson’s waste stream may not be divertible; and,

WHEREAS, the highest and best uses of waste resources are source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, in accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Waste Management Hierarchy; and,

WHEREAS, local government has the unique opportunity to lead by example and establish criteria needed to eliminate waste, so that manufacturers produce and businesses sell materials that can be safely recycled or composted; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing that capital investments may be required to provide adequate indoor and outdoor space and infrastructure for expanded recycling and other waste diversion programs is essential; and,

WHEREAS, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners, through the adoption of a Teton County Zero Waste Resolution, has directed ISWR staff to develop a Zero Waste Plan for Teton County, which includes the Town of Jackson; and,

WHEREAS, increased recycling and composting have the potential to decrease Teton County and the Town of Jackson's waste disposal costs and ecological footprint.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JACKSON TOWN COUNCIL:

The Jackson Town Council hereby adopts the concept of Zero Waste as a guiding principle for all Town of Jackson operations and for outreach, programs and actions within the community, in alignment with the Town of Jackson's Statement of Strategic Intent regarding Environmental Stewardship and further the Town Council pledges to work cooperatively with Teton County to meet the community diversion goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Jackson will support ISWR's goal of completing the Zero Waste Plan by the close of fiscal year 2015, to address Teton County, “the organization,” Teton County, “the community and geographic area”, and the Town of Jackson, "the community and geographic area."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Jackson in conjunction with Teton County are committed to promoting, facilitating, and modeling Zero Waste in the community with an initial goal of increasing waste diversion for Teton County and the Town of Jackson as a whole, to 60% or better by the year 2030.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Jackson supports ISWR’s effort to have a Zero Waste Plan that will assess the County's (including the Town of Jackson’s) current levels of resource use and wastage; identify objectives; and recommend short-, medium-, and long-term actions to reach Zero Waste goals and that will, within budget constraints, seek to effectively, efficiently, and quickly address the issues identified, as well as allow for a public process to address recommended actions.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this _____ day of __________, 2015.

TOWN OF JACKSON, WYOMING

__________________________________________
Sara Flitner, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

__________________________________________
Olivia Goodale, Town Clerk