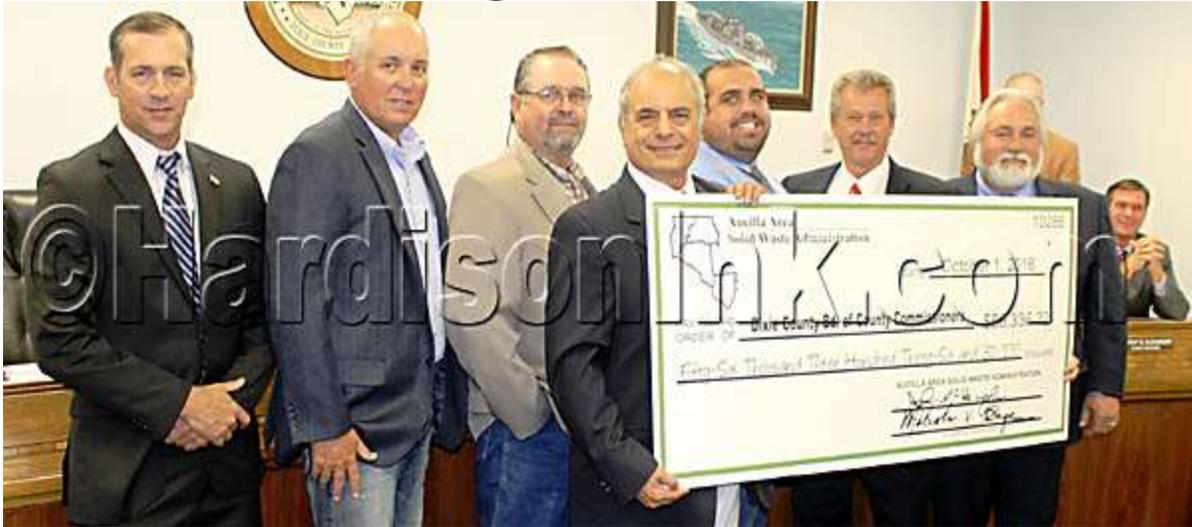


# HardisonInk.com

## Dixie County Accepts Check From Landfill's Progress



Frank Darabi, founder and president of Darabi and Associates, a Gainesville-based firm that provides environmental engineering services, presents a check for \$56,366 on Thursday morning (Aug. 4) to the Dixie County Board of County Commissioners. Standing with the engineer are the County Commission members and Landfill Manager John McHugh.



Preparing for the Thursday morning meeting are (from left) Dixie County Board of County Commissioners members Gene Higginbotham, Jody Robson, Chairman Ronnie Edmonds, Jason Holifield, and Dixie County Manager Timothy Alexander and County Attorney Rhett Bullard. (Not seen, but also at the long desk at the front of the meeting room is Dixie County Clerk Dana Johnson).

# HardisonInk.com

---



This amount of money presented Thursday is the share Dixie County earned by the tonnage it sent to the regional landfill, Darabi said. Checks to participating counties are decided by percentages of total weight brought during a 12-month period. Darabi, an engineer, has made significant contributions to local government solid waste management through the creation of the first regional landfills in the state of Florida.



(The degree of orange and blue on the shoes was enhanced to counterbalance for what the flash from the camera took away when they were photographed.) The innovations continue with efforts to make landfills a source of income into the future by incorporating solar and gas energy extraction. So a liability has been transformed into becoming an asset. Darabi presented the check on behalf of the Aucilla Waste Association. Last year

# HardisonInk.com

---

**the association announced its intent to distribute \$200,000 to member counties, Darabi said. This year, he said, the group added another \$140,000 to equal \$340,000 to distribute to the various participating entities. Joining Darabi during the presentation was Landfill Manager John McHugh. Dixie County has one of the lowest solid waste fee schedules anywhere, Darabi said. The engineer said he is blessed to have Dixie County agree with him to build a regional landfill. Some counties build their own landfills, he said, and those counties are suffering from results of that decision by them. As an engineer, Darabi said it might benefit him more to build more landfills for individual counties, however, he believes in giving the best options to the counties he serves, and a regional landfill is better management than individual county landfills. In regard to the two differently colored shoes he wore Thursday to Cross City, the engineer noted that he is not color blind. He purposefully wears orange and blue shoes when he makes check presentations to the School Board or to any other entities, he said. Certainly there are garnet and gold shoes -- 'someday, somewhere, but not here,' he said.**

*Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 6, 2016 @ 7:57 a.m.*