

# BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Tyden Center Conference Room  
121 South Church Street, Hastings, MI

## Approved Meeting Minutes December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Call to Order

Chairman Frank Fiala called the meeting of the Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee to order at 9:00 a.m.

### Members Present:

Frank Fiala  
Jodi Pessell  
David Hatfield  
Tom Mawson  
Bill Nelson  
Catherine Getty  
Don Johnson III  
Sarah Moyer-Cale

### Members Absent:

Craig Stolsonburg  
Matt Rosser  
Tom Rook  
Jay VanStee

### Members of the Public:

Jerrie Fiala  
Ted DeVries  
Rachel Frantz

### Approval of Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by David Hatfield, seconded by Jodi Pessell and the agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.**

### Approval of Minutes (September 8<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 & November 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Per Chairman Fiala, due to not having a quorum present at the last two (2) meetings, there are three (3) sets of meeting minutes that need to be approved: September 8<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup> & November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Motion to approve the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes as presented made by David Hatfield, seconded by Jodi Pessell and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Motion to approve the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes as presented made by Catherine Getty, seconded by David Hatfield and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Motion to approve the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes as presented made by Frank Fiala, seconded by David Hatfield and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

### Public Comment

Ted DeVries from Prairieville Township introduced himself; he stated he watched the meeting where the two (2) new members had their interviews and he thought they were both really well qualified to be in these positions. Also, Rachel Frantz's presentation was excellent and she did a great job of making sure that everyone knows what's going on with recycling in Barry County. He really likes the HHW recycling events up at the fairgrounds twice a year; he participates in those as brings up a lot of batteries that they collect at the township.

### **Recycling Coordinator Report (Rachel Frantz)**

See Recycling Coordinator Report November 2023 (emailed to the committee on 12/04/23).

### **Treasurer's Report**

See Treasurer's Report October 2023 (emailed to the committee on 12/04/23).

Per Sarah Moyer-Cale, everything looks good and we have about 30% of the budget remaining, which is because we always budget significantly more for special project grants than what we receive applications for & give out.

### **Old Business: Thornapple Kellogg High School (TKHS) Football Team Contract**

Chairman Fiala expressed that he would like to put some sort of contract in place with TKHS Football Team to ensure that their players will be available to volunteer (mainly for tires) on the day of these events. He would also like to make sure that at least one (1) Coach is present at each station that has players helping out to be "in charge" of the them. Catherine Getty asked if anyone has checked into whether or not a school can even enter into a contract like that because she wonders if that is even a possibility. Sarah Moyer-Cale expressed that "contract" might be overkill, we just need some sort of document or Memorandum of Understanding because having it documented beforehand is certainly nice; that way we don't have to cross our fingers and hope the people that said they would volunteer actually show up the day of the event.

Catherine Getty said she bets the school would feel more comfortable with a Memorandum of Understanding that they will have football players show up on the day of the HHW collection events versus a Contract; David Hatfield agreed with this as he thinks "contract" it taking it too far as then it would have to go in front of the School Board & attorney, etc. She also feels that the \$1,000.00 donation to their program is a huge incentive because like most schools they struggle with their budget. When Catherine Getty arranged for them to go in front of the School Board on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Superintendent asked her if (1) the players were paid to do this or did they volunteer and (2) if there was there a donation made? We really didn't get into the specifics, but those questions do reference that he is thinking about this as well. David Hatfield said that if we pay them to do it, then we probably would also run into some labor issues. Catherine said there needs to be a certain amount of good will involved with them trusting that we will actually make the donation as well as us trusting that they will actually show up the morning of the event, so she feels we should just stick to donating to the football program with no stipulation on how many players need to show up.

Once the 2024 dates have been set with Drug & Laboratory & the Expo Center, Jodi will inform Jeff Dock (TKHS Coach) of those dates so we can make sure they don't conflict with anything else the football team has going on.

### **New Business: Vape Disposal**

Jodi Pessell stated that they are looking to get grants to help with vape disposal in Barry County and she would like to know if that would be something that they could apply for through this committee's Mini Grant Program. We wouldn't be promoting it, but there is a need for them to be disposed of properly as they shouldn't go in the trash or recycling since they have batteries in them and could start a fire.

Drug & Laboratory will take them, so we could potentially collect them at the HHW events; however, the idea is that we would have secure some locations (kind of like the med disposal) so that kids can't go in and steal used vapes. We have been talking about putting them at places like dispensaries, gas stations, health department, etc. and then Drug & Laboratory pick up from these locations.

## New Business: Vape Disposal (Continued)

Catherine Getty shared that considering we don't get that many Mini-Grant applications, this sounds like a great resource that the other group could take advantage of to help with this project. Jodi Pessell & Rachel Frantz both belong to this group, so once they put together the pilot they will have more information at the next meeting.

Rachel Frantz asked the committee if it would be okay for her to reach out to Padnos to see if we can sneak in a Christmas lights collection starting like right now, today. She isn't sure where yet, but is thinking possibly setting up a bin at the Secretary of State Office as her office is in that same building and there is always lots of foot traffic through there; she would like to find a couple of other locations as well. Padnos will be pay us for the Christmas lights and she thinks she can get them to loan us a couple of bins. The committee thought this was a great idea so she will get to work on this asap.

## Public Comment

Ted DeVries asked if we have ever contacted any local Boy Scout Troops to volunteer at the HHW collections as they have some pretty hefty young men and they may be looking at something like volunteering in exchange for a donation; they would also have Troop Leaders to supervise them. Chairman Fiala responded that we have reached out to them in the past, but it just never seemed to work out.

He also wanted to share how he appreciated that in Rachel Frantz's presentation she showed the Gull Lake Recycling as they have a small container there for fishermen as they come in.

## Chairman Comments

Per Chairman Fiala, our Bylaws state that every January we have to elect officers for this committee to fill the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary & Treasurer. The current officers are as follows: Chair – Frank Fiala, Vice Chair – Tom Rook, Secretary – Jay VanStee and Treasurer – Sarah Moyer Cale. Please be thinking about this for next month's meeting.

Chairman Fiala shared that right now we take cash contributions for the electronics recycling at the HHW collection events and he feels like we should do the same for anyone that shows up with over ten (10) tires; we obviously aren't going to turn anyone away that has more than ten (10) tires, but in exchange we could ask that they make a cash contribution to the event (not be required though). He has been talking with Jay VanStee about this and would like to implement this into the next collection.

Anyone that has a lot of extra tires they can get a grant to help get rid of those and for the tires that we do collect at our events, he would like to have some sort of procedure for those who bring in an abundant amount of tires, where they either wait in the back of the line or show up to the event during the last two (2) hours so that they aren't holding up everyone else with ten (10) tires or less. So, he would like to work with Jay VanStee & Rachel Frantz on this to have a process set in place for these situations.

Sarah Moyer-Cale mentioned that just as long as it's not creating issues as it is the "Household" Hazardous Waste collection and when you have big tractor tires that is not household anymore. Our primary goal is to keep them out of the landfill, so if we can accommodate them without conflicting with the household collection portion of it, then that's fine; however, she doesn't think that is what the collection intended to be for. Rachel Frantz stated that we actually cannot ask for contributions/donations because the tires are fully funded by the EGLE grant, whereas the electronics portion is only partially funded by the EGLE grant. However, she also said that she thinks we could set out a contribution/donation box for the tires, we just can't actually ask people for a donation.

### Chairman Comments (Continued)

David Hatfield shared that Chairman Fiala's thought is admirable in that we don't want the tires in the landfill, but once we start bending the rule, then the rule no longer has value. He feels we need to think very carefully before we start accepting more than just the ten (10) tire limit because that has always been our practice.

### Member Comments

**Jodi Pessell** – hopefully next meeting she will have the HHW dates for next year.

**David Hatfield** – he had a conversation with his youngest step-son two (2) days ago and he was complaining about some of the Christmas light sets his dad had given him; he said it was nice of him to give them to me, but three (3) or four (4) sets of them don't even work so what does he do with them now? His dad said well they can be recycled, so just set them aside and next time they have the HHW collection we'll drop them off; however, he didn't want to sit on them for five (5) months before being able to dispose of them. So, for so many people, it's all about convenience and being able to dispose of things in a timely manner because they don't want to have to hold onto stuff.

Rachel Frantz shared that Eaton County has a Christmas light recycling drive every year and we could easily implement that in Barry County; Padnos takes them here, but a lot of people just don't like to go to Padnos except for the "scrappers" so that would be something easy for us to execute.

**Tom Mawson** – None.

**Bill Nelson** – for himself (and the other new member), it would be helpful if everyone could please introduce themselves and who they represent on this committee (went around the table and all present members shared this information)

**Catherine Getty** – None.

**Don Johnson III** – None.

**Sarah Moyer-Cale** – is there any place in town that collects small batteries throughout the year? She feels like she has looked into this before, but couldn't find any place. Rachel Frantz replied that she just saves hers up and brings them to the HHW collection events. She also said that Peace Reform Church in Middleville does, it's right inside their door. She was just wondering if there was a place where someone could drop off a handful of batteries every now & then versus having to make a special trip to Middleville to drop them at the church. Padnos in town here does and she believes they pay.


### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 10:17 a.m.

Approved at the 01-12-2024 meeting

## November 2023 Report

### Administrative Assistance to the Solid Waste Oversight Committee (SWOC)

- Attend SWOC committee and subcommittee meetings, provide monthly progress reports to the SWOC
  - Attended November 3rd SWOC meeting and delivered written and verbal report
- On behalf of the SWOC, report to the County Board of Commissioners to provide program updates
  - Presented recycling coordinator report and MMP information (11/28)  
[https://www.youtube.com/live/NkU\\_LEXhnD4?si=9e1tmJ4-wDIYmqQ1&t=1380](https://www.youtube.com/live/NkU_LEXhnD4?si=9e1tmJ4-wDIYmqQ1&t=1380)
- Serve as a representative in recycling user groups
  - News:
    - [Michigan counties must prep for new recycling laws; state says help available - mlive.com](#)
    - [Bill allowing plastic bag bans passes Michigan House committee | State | abc12.com](#)
    - [ISRI works with South Carolina on battery fire prevention - Recycling Today](#)
    - [Pratt's latest 100% recycled paper mill opens in Kentucky \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
    - [EPA studies costs of recycling programs, awards grants \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
  - MRC
    - Attended *Fall Into Recycling* conference November 9,  MRC Fall Into Recycling 2023

### Solid Waste (Materials) Management Planning

- Assist with Materials Management Planning at the direction of the SWOC
  - Recommended to the BOC that the SWOC serve as the DPA for the MMP
  - Sent Commissioners an email with information on the reduced 7 person MMPC (11/28)

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

- Assist with Household Hazardous Waste collection events under the direction of the BEDHD and the SWOC
  - Met twice with BEDHD, Eaton County, and Barry Substance Abuse Task Force to work on implementing a vape disposal and collection program in Barry and Eaton Counties
    - Reached out to Padnos to see if they would be interested in partnering on a vape disposal program - they are not
    - Reached out to the Hero Project LLC about their program - have a meeting set with the CEO 12/7

### Recycling Outreach and Education to County Residents

- Write educational articles and press releases
  - Wrote and published *The History of Recycling* in the Hastings Reminder (11/25)
- Maintain and serve as the primary contact for the website and social media pages and YouTube
  - Email from new resident requesting information on trash pickup in Delton (11/2)
- Produce online/electronic content to be published on the website and social media
  - Created and shared *A Brief History of Recycling, America Recycles Day, Plastic Mesh Bag Recycling and Reducing Holiday Waste* posts on social media accounts
  - Received a question about recycling mesh plastic produce bags, created a video to post on social media with answer (no)
- Develop and present programs to educate residents, community groups, businesses, and waste haulers regarding recycling, the Solid Waste Management Plan, and other waste management activities
  - Met with Granger rep on 11/21 to discuss recycling needs and new MMP in Barry County
- Work with community groups to promote recycling awareness in the local schools
  - Working with Jim Brown and PCCI to migrate Cardboard Charlie, pizza box recycling program, into BCR

### Assistance to Local Units of Government (LUG)

- At the direction of the SWOC, serve as a liaison to local units of government within Barry County, and offer support in the following ways:
  - Initiate new programs

- Met with Jim Brown and the Barry County Road Commission 11/7 to discuss the feasibility of a local glass recycling program
  - Began preliminary research on what it would cost to run such a program- see notes below [Glass recycling for Barry County](#)
- Disperse information on recycling in Barry County and resources available
  - Refilled brochure holder outside of Secretary of State with more disposal guides
  - Brought additional 6 guides to BOC (11/28) to dispense