

# BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

## Approved Meeting Minutes August 11<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  
Tom Rook  
David Hatfield  
Sarah Moyer-Cale  
Don Johnson  
Jay VanStee  
Jim Brown  
Catherine Getty

### Members Absent:

Jodi Pessell  
Craig Stolsonburg  
Matt Rosser

### Members of the Public:

Jerrie Fiala  
Rachel Frantz  
Tom Mawson

### Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, we will proceed with the agenda as presented

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes as presented made by Catherine Getty, seconded by Frank Fiala and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

### Public Comment

Tom Mawson attended today's meeting representing Yankee Springs Township; they have submitted a Mini-Grant Application related to sending out postcards that were printed by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), informing their township residents of recycling "Do's" & "Don'ts." They are very proud of their recycling program and there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding about what can and cannot be recycled. He stated that they would like to get this out to their residents before the end of the month so that way it will reach the recipients before Labor Day. So, they are asking for our approval for this application to cover the cost of postage to mail out 2,300 of these postcards throughout their township.

Chairman Fiala indicated that we'll discuss this further when we come to it on the agenda. He wants to make sure there isn't some kind of misunderstanding as basically our Mini-Grant Program is set up for capital expenses and expanding programs, not for just ongoing programs or administrative expenses; so, we need to have further discussion about this as a group to make sure everyone is understanding this correctly.

### Recycling Coordinator Report (Rachel Frantz)

See Recycling Coordinator Report July 2023 (emailed to the committee on 08/07/23).

### Treasurer's Report

See Treasurer's Report June 2023 (emailed to the committee on 08/07/23).

### **Old Business: EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling Grant**

Rachel Frantz shared that for the rural electronics recycling grant events in 2024, she would like to have the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) collection in Delton; she is proposing the Delton High School Area as it is pretty central and they have a pretty big parking lot (obviously she would need to contact the high school and discuss this with them to get permission). She did speak with Steve Noble, who is our contact at EGLE for this grant, and he said that is completely fine; she also spoke with a few people at the Nashville event about this and they were all fine with it as well, so there will be more to come on this. There was a little bit further discussion amongst the committee members about this and they were all in agreement.

**Motion to move the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) collection event in 2024 for the EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling Grant from Nashville to Delton made by Jay VanStee, seconded by Sarah Moyer-Cale and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

### **New Business: Review Mini-Grant Application**

See Mini-Grant Application submitted by Yankee Springs Township (emailed to the committee on 08/07/23).

Per Chairman Fiala, as he previously stated, it is his understanding that our Mini-Grant Program is set up for capital expenses and expanding programs, not for just ongoing programs or administrative expenses; so, he would like to further discuss this as a group right now as it looks like the application does include “staff time” for operations.

Rachel Frantz shared that when she shared this idea with the different townships, she was under the impression that EGLE paid the postage to send out these postcards; she didn't realize at the time that it was something that the township would be responsible for. However, she would argue that this is outreach & education, it would be a way to help decrease contamination and the labor is matched so that would not be granted funded. So, EGLE paid for the printing of the postcards, but do not pay for the postage to mail them out.

Sarah Moyer-Cale expressed that she personally doesn't have a problem paying for the postage (not the staff time) and she asked “I mean how else are these supposed to get sent out?” David Hatfield said that it seems to him that education & outreach is something else that we probably should be interested in funding as it doesn't do much good to create capital facilities if in fact there is not awareness of them nor an understanding of how and what to recycle; he would certainly agree that we should get involved from an education & outreach aspect.

Tom Mawson also stated that their recycling program is so busy that they are very close to reaching the tipping point where they do need to have a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) bin and that will require a concrete pad, so they will be back to apply for another Mini-Grant from this committee at some point.

Catherine Getty asked “you mentioned that postage is eligible for funding from EGLE, but basically you don't want to “burn” their second (2<sup>nd</sup>) application for the year with them already, so what did you guys give in mind for that second EGLE (2<sup>nd</sup>) application? Tom Mawson replied that right now they haven't really discussed anything more with EGLE, but they will be having their meeting at the end of this month to discuss and decide on the second EGLE application, but as of right now nothing has been decided on. Rachel Frantz shared that she knows a little bit about this specific EGLE Program/Grant that Tom is referring to; there are only three (3) other options of all which are for printing (signage, oops tags or a flyer), postage to send out the postcards does not fall under this EGLE Program/Grant.

### **New Business: Review Mini-Grant Application (Continued)**

Chairman Fiala said he thinks we made it pretty clear that when it comes to recycling, any of the labor, administrative costs or normal operations is not eligible for this Mini-Grant Program. However, he doesn't think we have ever really discussed education & outreach in regards to the Mini-Grant Program and he thinks that would be a fantastic idea as Dave had suggested earlier. Rachel Frantz said it looks like we do have language specifically saying that we do allow that as stated under Objective 4b of the Mini-Grant Program Reimbursement Request Form, "provide educational materials and promote citizen support of alternative methods of solids waste management." Jay VanStee expressed that he thinks this is a great idea and he certainly doesn't have a problem with us funding the postage, but with that being said he is questioning whether or not the funds may be more appropriate for a concrete pad as that obviously would be the more expensive cost and we certainly would entertain funding that project.

**Motion to approve the Mini-Grant Application submitted by Yankee Springs Township for the postage cost of \$1,518.00 associated with the implementation of the Recycling "Do's & Don'ts" postcard mailing made by Sarah Moyer-Cale, seconded by David Hatfield and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

### **Public Comment**

Tom Mawson stated that he did attend one of our meeting's a couple of months ago and he is interested in joining this committee as part of his commitment to the township, so he would like to know the process on how to become a member. Chairman Fiala replied that when there are vacancies available on this committee, they are advertised by County and for the different positions we require a person representing the City of Hastings as well as representation for a Village, the Township Association, the Road Commission etc. So, when there are openings available we will definitely let him know what that process is and we are always looking for people so it shouldn't be a long wait for there to be a vacancy.

### **Chairman Comments**

Chairman Fiala stated that it's that time to start working on our Annual Report for the County Commissioners; the Recycling Coordinator has put this together in the past so he would like to request that Rachel do so again. One (1) of the main things included in that report is attendance at this meeting; attendance is so, so very important and it is really important that everyone participates. He would also like to see a list of what members on this committee attended the spring and fall Household Hazardous (HHW) collections as it is really important for every member to attend, experience and volunteer at these events; we have had members in the past who never attended these events so they had no idea what we do at them. At the very least, members should show up for a few minutes to check things out and see what exactly happens at these collections. He would also like to include the things we have accomplished (just in general) over the last year as well as the things that we hope to accomplish in the upcoming year. Rachel Frantz stated that she will start working on this when it gets closer to the end of the year (she usually does these for the calendar year).

Chairman Fiala also mentioned that the fall HHW collection is coming up soon and Jay VanStee had previously mentioned that at the last collection, the Thornapple Kellogg's football coach stated that his team might be available to also help out at the fall collection; so, he would like Jay to follow up on this to see if that is still the plan for next month's collection. Jay VanStee mentioned that we do need to get a check to Coach Jeff Dock and his players for volunteering at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> event; correct him if he is wrong, but we agreed to \$100.00 per player up to a maximum of ten (10) players for a total of up to \$1,000.00 and they had well over ten (10) players show up at that event.

### Chairman Comments (Continued)

**Motion to give Thornapple Kellogg Football Coach, Jeff Dock, and his players a stipend of \$1,000.00 for volunteering at the HHW collection event held back on June 3<sup>rd</sup> made by Jay VanStee, seconded by Tom Rook and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

### Member Comments

**Tom Rook** – None.

**David Hatfield** – None.

**Sarah Moyer-Cale** – None.

**Don Johnson** – None.

**Jay VanStee** – None.

**Jim Brown** – he has some heavy-duty bins that are no longer needed so if anyone has a use for these let him know (he passed out information/photos to the members) and he is sure they can come to some agreement. There is probably at least 15-20 of them and they are 40" x 48" x 36" so if anyone is interested or knows someone else that is interested then please get in touch with him.

They were going to potentially put a \$0.10 returnable collection system in a recycling module, but he hasn't found a group that he can do that with yet, so there are no updates on that right now.

He also stated that his term on this committee is up on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and he will not be returning, so Tom Mawson can apply for his position representing the General Public. The reason he will not be returning is that he has sold the rights to the Pizza Box School Recycling Program to Pierce Cedar Creek Institute so they have taken that over and there is some serious, serious money out there from "the big boys" that want to do something at the local level; the bigger they are the worse it happens for them; they can't do it, they need somebody at the bottom end up to bring it up to them, so he is going to take on the position of Program Coordinator.

**Catherine Getty** – she said she just looked at the meeting minutes from the last few months and there was no formal motion to pay the Thornapple Kellogg Football team so we did the right thing today by making that motion. She wondered if the Chair submitting a copy of the draft meeting minutes would be sufficient enough to request for payment from the County? Jay VanStee stated that he would send Chairman Fiala an email summarizing everything and asking if this is okay to pay (he will copy Sarah Moyer-Cale as well as Luella Dennison on this email)

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 9:51 a.m.

Approved at the 09-08-2023 meeting

## July 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 July 14 meeting and presented written and verbal report
- Administer the County's Solid Waste mini-grant program and provide technical assistance to applicants
  - Spoke with Tom Mussen from Yankee Spring Twp about grant proposal (7/20)
    - (8/1) Suggested revising match to reach 33%
    - Received revised application (8/3)
- Coordinate with neighboring county recycling programs
  - Reached out to request meetings with neighboring counties to discuss multi-county MMP's
- Serve as a representative in recycling user groups
  - News
    - "New legislation aims to include more beverages in Michigan's bottle return program. If signed into law, the state's current 10-cent deposit would extend to include certain soft drinks, beer, and other carbonated beverages and all other non-carbonated beverages, except for milk containers."  
<https://wwmt.com/news/local/bottle-return-deposit-bill-law-michigan-expanding-legislation-sean-mccann-christine-morse>
    - NOVA Chemicals plans large film recycling plant in Indiana  
<https://resource-recycling.com/plastics/2023/07/18/nova-chemicals-plans-large-film-recycling-plant/>

### Solid Waste (Materials) Management Planning

- Assist with Materials Management Planning at the direction of the SWOC
  - Met with neighboring county staff to informally discuss MMP
    - Eaton County (7/11)
    - Ionia County (8/1) with Eaton County
    - Calhoun County (8/4)
- Serve on the Materials Management Planning Committee
  - Informed county admin staff of upcoming MMPC requirements and the potential of multi-county MMPC via email

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

- Assist with Household Hazardous Waste collection events under the direction of the BEDHD and the SWOC
  - Held second grant-funded electronics collection event at Nashville Transfer Station on July 15th
    - Collected \$635 in donations for TVs/monitors
      - Deposited at County 7/20
  - Reached out to Padnos about the June electronics bill (Invoice 3341997) regarding the low payout of materials. Specifically cell phones and laptops payment missing.
    - Jason was unable to get exact numbers/weights so stated he would credit us for 100lbs laptops and 20lbs cell phones.
  - Looked into getting a foam grant, <https://www.recyclefoam.org/grants> - application period ended April 25, but this grant is for a MRF and would not work for our collection events.
    - Could possibly partner with Kent County MRF or Granger MRF to have them get a foam densifier and then collect at HHW and send to MRF.

### Recycling Outreach and Education to County Residents

- Write educational articles and press releases
  - Published *Free Electronics Collection in Nashville* in the Hastings Reminder (7/8)
- Produce printed materials. Once SWOC-approved, print and distribute these materials
  - Ordered 250 printed disposal guides

- *Maintain and serve as the primary contact for the website: [barrycountyrecycles.org](http://barrycountyrecycles.org) and social media pages: Facebook and YouTube*
  - Emails
    - Resident asking about disposal of pool chemicals at next HHW
    - Resident asking about recycling bulky plastics
      - Also was interested in improving the Village of Middleville spring cleanup event. Ideas regarding having people drop off items in good condition and then allowing a 'shopping' day that could benefit a local school group or other group. Remaining items could then be donated or if need be, picked up by waste hauler.
- *Produce online/electronic content to be published on the website and social media*
  - Posted HHW video reel to Facebook and YouTube
  - Posted *How to Make Seed Paper from Recycled Paper* reel on Facebook and YouTube
- *Coordinate volunteer efforts as needed*
  - Coordinated volunteers for Nashville electronics collection event

**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
  - Assist with educational and publicity efforts
  - Disperse information on recycling in Barry County and resources available
  - Initiate and/or advises on cooperative programs between the SWOC and LUGs