

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes November 3rd, 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
David Hatfield
Jay VanStee
Sarah Moyer-Cale
Craig Stolsonburg

Members Absent:

Jodi Pessell
Matt Rosser
Don Johnson III
Tom Rook
Catherine Getty

Members of the Public:

Jamie Lewis Hedges
Rachel Frantz
Jerrie Fiala

Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, we'll proceed with agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes (September 8th & October 13th, 2023)

Per Chairman Fiala, since we do not have a quorum present again this month, approval of the September 8th & October 13th draft meeting minutes will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Recycling Coordinator Report (Rachel Frantz)

See Recycling Coordinator Report October 2023 (emailed to the committee on 10/30/23).

Treasurer's Report

See Treasurer's Report September 2023 (emailed to the committee on 10/30/23).

Old Business: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Planning Group & HHW Volumes

HHW Planning Group: See Recycling Coordinator Report October 2023 (emailed to the committee on 10/30/23).

HHW Volumes: See Padnos Receiver Form (emailed to the committee on 10/30/23).

New Business: Material Management Planning (MMP) Grant

Rachel Frantz stated that when she checked with Michael Brown a few days ago, he had still not yet received the Notice of Intent from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE). Just a reminder that once the Notice of Intent is sent out, that starts the 180-day clock for the first three (3) steps: (1) accepting or rejecting the position of County Assurance Agency, (2) appointing the Material Management Committee and (3) appointing the Designated Planning Agency (DPA) who will then have the "talk" with neighboring county,

New Business: Material Management Planning (MMP) Grant (Continued)

which is basically just asking “Do you want to plan with us? Do you want to make a multi-county plan? Both counties will answer “no” and then we have to document that for EGLE.

The big steps for that are going to be that we will need to either accept or reject the title of County Assurance Agency, which will give them the authority to implement the Materials Management Plan; so, if someone is not following the rules, then the Board of Commissioners (BOC) would be the ones that would have to handle that. She also requested clarification from EGLE to see whether or not her county discussions will count towards this or if the BOC will have to talk to the County Boards of all the surrounding adjacent counties, but again, hopefully her conversations will count. She is also asking them if the Solid Waste Oversight Committee could serve as the DPA for The Plan with herself being the main contact. That way we would actually be the committee writing the Plan with the Materials Management Planning Committee giving the input. So, she would mostly write it and then the committee would approve it; we would also be writing the Work Plan for the Materials Management Plan.

Rachel Frantz met with Connie High from Delton Kellogg High School to talk about our second (2nd) electronics collection for 2024; we landed on the date of June 1st, which she knows is going to be really close to the first (1st) HHW event. However, the High School Interact Club is going to volunteer for this event as they have 20 students in this club; so, she is going to split them half & half for the day and it will be held at the Delton Kellogg High School. Rachel also stated that Connie is going to put the information in the school newsletter (both physically & digitally) and then she herself is going to reach out to Allegan & Kalamazoo counties to let them know (since they are kind of close) so that we can try to collect as many TV's as possible. She also informed the committee that she spoke with Steve Noble at EGLE about how much we've spent so far (just over \$3,700.00) as we are already half way through our grant, which is \$16,000.00 and that's not exactly half. He suggested that we do a one (1)-year extension on the grant and have two (2) more events in 2025 that are grant funded to which she was in agreement with; however, the only stipulation of that is that the two (2) events that are granted funded cannot be held at the same location and that is why ask for donations at our third electronics collection since is not covered by the grant.

David Hatfield expressed that as long as we end up offering more than one (1) site during the year, why do they care how many we offer at one particular location? It was suggested we send a letter to EGLE regarding this; there are no issues with us doing a second site at some point, but why should they penalize us for what we accumulate at a second collection but at the same location? It was suggested that a letter be drafted (separate from the report) and brought back to this committee at the next meeting, communicating this issue to EGLE so they can try to understand where we are coming from.

Public Comment

None.

Chairman Comments

None.

Member Comments

David Hatfield – None.

Member Comments (Continued)

Jay VanStee – the only thing on his radar his making sure the Thornapple Kellogg Football team has been compensated for volunteering at the June 3rd & September 23rd HHW collection events; do we need to submit some sort of invoice to Barry County so payment can be made? After further discussion, Jay VanStee stated he would send an email regarding payment to the TK Football Team to Frank Fiala for approval, which can then be sent to the County for payment.

Sarah Moyer-Cale – None.

Craig Stolsonburg – None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 9:41 a.m.

Approved at the 12-08-2023 meeting

October 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 October 13 meeting over the phone due to sickness
- Administer the County's Solid Waste mini-grant program and provide technical assistance to applicants
 - Requested an update from PCCI on mini-grant
 - Contractor had an accident which delayed installation.
- On behalf of the SWOC, report to the County Board of Commissioners to provide program updates
 - Preparing to present to BOC on Tuesday, November 7, 2023
- Coordinate with neighboring county recycling programs
 - Met virtually with Kent County recycling coordinator 10/17 to discuss multi county MMPs
- Serve as a representative in recycling user groups
 - News
 - [The Recycling Partnership Launches the Recycling Program Solutions Hub for Local Recycling Staff and Leaders - The Recycling Partnership](#)
 - Created a login for Barry County Recycles and requested 'access' to Barry County
 - Currently show's 0% Recycling Accessibility (10/19)
 - Requested access to all municipalities in Barry County
 - Updated some communities data, will continue to input data until complete
 - [Meijer Reduces Plastic Packaging in New Partnership with Bolthouse Farms - Perishable News](#) "The product remains available at Meijer and can be purchased in each of its stores across the Midwest. The packaging is made from 100 percent renewable sources of canola and soy, and is certified home compostable by TUV, a globally recognized leader in sustainable packaging, and is certified to bio-degrade at least 90 percent by 26 weeks and 100 percent by 52 weeks in a backyard compost heap or bin."
 - [AI migrates from sortation to collection \(resource-recycling.com\)](#) "Artificial intelligence is now well established in MRFs as a tool for sorting material and dramatically reducing contamination. Now, multiple companies are taking AI to an earlier stage of the recycling process by mounting cameras on collection trucks. The goal is to try to stop contamination at the source and improve worker safety"
 - Not happening in Michigan, but still very cool way of incentivizing recycling. [Coca-Cola Uses Free Pizza to Drive Recycling Awareness | packagingdigest.com](#) "To highlight the expansion, boost awareness of Coca-Cola's commitment to sustainable packaging, and encourage recycling, the company is partnering with popular pizzerias in New York City, Atlanta, and Chicago on a promotion called Toss In, Take Out. The event will be for one day only in each city."
 - Reporting
 - Submitted annual report for Re-Trac, County only
 - Started reporting community recycling data for The Recycling Partnership "Hub", see above
 - Conferences
 - Registered for the MRC Fall conference in November
 - Attended The Recycling Partnerships *Research and Insights into Recycling Behavior Inside the Home* webinar (10/25) <https://youtu.be/EXsMGPaATsY>

Solid Waste (Materials) Management Planning

- Assist with Materials Management Planning at the direction of the SWOC
 - Attending zoom meetings
 - Southwest MI Regional Outreach Meeting <https://youtu.be/m9Tqe49fPP8?feature=shared>
 - (9/20) Materials Management Planning Workgroup Meeting Oct. 18th on Notice of Intent and first steps in the Materials Management Planning process www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT5d9G61aME&authuser=0