

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes December 9th, 2022

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
Jay VanStee
Sarah Nelson
Matt Rosser
Dave Jackson
Jodi Pessell
Tom Rook
Sarah Moyer-Cale
Jim Brown (attended but didn't sign-in)

Members Absent:

Vivian Conner

Members of the Public:

Rachel Frantz
Jerrie Fiala
Sally Smith

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the November 4th, 2022 meeting minutes as presented made by Dave Jackson, seconded by Tom Rook and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Chairman Fiala would like to introduce Sally Smith; she is from Yankee Springs Township and serves on a very active recycling committee. She has also done some major things pertaining to recycling at her Florida residence. He's glad she was able to attend our meeting today and is very excited to hear about any ideas she might have when it comes to recycling.

Also, Bill Sweeney will no longer be on this committee as he has retired from Granger Waste Services; so his position on this committee representing the "Solid Waste Industry" is now open. There is also a second vacancy (that used to be held by Vivian Conner) representing the "Planning Commission" and this be filled by another County Commissioner after the first of the new year. Chairman Fiala stated that he will check with the County Clerk's Office to make sure that the vacancy postings for these committee positions have been published. Sarah Nelson requested that she be allowed access to the vacancy postings as well; that she can post them on the Barry County Recycles Facebook page too, so that people who have been actively following us that way can see them as well.

Recycling Coordinator Report (Rachel Frantz)

See Recycling Coordinator November 2022 Report (report was emailed to committee on 12/05/22).

Treasurer's Report

See Treasurer's Report November 2022 (report was emailed to committee on 12/05/22).

Old Business: Status of Memo to Michael Brown Regarding Liability Waiver & Payment to Volunteers, Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant & Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events

Status of Memo to Michael Brown Regarding Liability Waiver & Payment to Volunteers

Sarah Moyer-Cale shared that she received a response from Michael Brown regarding the liability waiver & payment to volunteers' memo that was emailed to him last month; he said that it all looked good to him, but he was going to forward it to the County's Insurance Company for review and she has not yet heard back from him. She also expressed that she would like to make sure that everyone has access to the Word Document version in case any changes need to be made (whether it be now or in the future); she wants to make sure she isn't the only person that has access to these forms, that way in case something happens we won't have to start over from scratch.

MMCE Grant

See MMCE Grant Final Report (report was emailed to committee on 12/05/22).

Rachel Frantz shared that she got 14 of the 21 municipalities to join the program, which is 2/3 of the municipalities and that is what they asked for in the grant so that is good; plus, she still has about a week to try to get a few more to join. She asked if anyone had any questions/concerns/comments about the final report before she submits it. Jim Brown said he just had a comment that he wanted to share with everyone; on Wednesday of this week he was out to Granger and while he was there he asked three (3) people that were coming in a couple of questions: (1) how do they like this facility? They all said they loved it; and (2) what township are you from? One first (1st) person was from Assyria Township, the second (2nd) person was from Maple Grove Township and the third (3rd) person was from Thornapple Township. So, right there, there were three (3) people from other townships that are using our unit in Hastings Township. He is by no means complaining, but is just simply stating that they are getting a tremendous amount of materials from different places around the county as there is not much being done in some of these townships in regards to recycling.

Sarah Nelson just wanted to say Congratulations to Rachel Frantz for being able to get this many municipalities to sign up; if you actually look through the amount of emails, phone calls and even in-person visits that she did, it's extensive. She thinks that as we move forward with this Materials Management Planning, the best plan that we are going to have is to have full county engagement; like we really need to get out into all of these communities to see what's going on & what the needs are to be able to equitably reach everyone. As Rachel had already mentioned, a lot of the folks that didn't participate are those that arguably need to be represented the most in our work; so, she just would like the group to think about this...how do we move forward with Materials Management Planning that best engages everyone? She thinks that maybe starting with Commissioners, seeing what the needs of their districts are and trying to reach out that way maybe a good idea.

Jim Brown expressed that we could send the information by mail, addressed to the clerk; when Township Clerks receive something they literally have to do something with it; forget the supervisors, you have to start with the Clerks. Even if the township office doesn't have regular hours, there is always a phone number (especially the clerks) so a week after the information is mailed, start making phone calls to confirm that they received it. Also, when you send something to the Clerk, make sure to copy (CC) the County Commissioner that represents them on the bottom of your cover letter as well, that way you know you have both ends

Old Business: Status of Memo to Michael Brown Regarding Liability Waiver & Payment to Volunteers, Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant & Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events (Continued)

MMCE Grant (Continued)

covered. He knows this way is old-fashioned, but we need to let these people know that we aren't going to quit contacting them until we get the job done. Dave Jackson did express that reaching out to the Commissioners first is an excellent idea as they have the most relationships and he will see all three (3) of his townships next week. However, the Commissioners would need to know what exactly it is that they are trying to do and be well-informed as to what the purpose is for them to talk to the local units of government about recycling. Rachel Frantz said that she agrees that having some sort of informational packet for each County Commissioner and what they need to know regarding their district would be helpful so that is something she will start working on.

HHW Collection Events

Rachel Frantz stated that as far as the pricing, she did call a couple of other companies that EGLE is okay with us using and only one (1) company actually sent her a quote (emailed out to committee on 12/05/22). The other company said they would also send her a quote, but she has not yet received anything so she will follow up on that.

Jodi Pessell stated that Drug & Laboratory is having staffing issues so on the weekends they are only doing one (1) collection whereas before they used to do multiple collections, so that right there eliminated a lot of dates for next year. The date that we had picked for the spring collection was already booked first by another company, so the only dates they had available were April 15th & June 3rd; however, the Expo Center was already booked for April 15th, so as of right now we are penciled in at both Drug & Laboratory and the Expo Center for Saturday, June 3rd, 2023. For the fall collection, as of right now we are on both schedules for September 23rd, but she wanted to get the committees thoughts on this since it would put the two (2) collections only about three (3) months apart. Jay VanStee stated that he feels it should be fine since it is actually only a couple week out from our usual date in May. Chairman Fiala expressed that we really don't have any other alternatives at this point as the residents expect two collections a year, so he feels we should just go ahead and have both the spring & fall collections next year as usual; the committee agreed.

Motion to have Drug & Laboratory and the Barry Expo Center put us on their 2023 schedules for June 3rd and September 23rd for the spring & fall HHW collection events made by Jodi Pessell, seconded by Jay VanStee and motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business: EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling Grant & 2023 Priorities Plan of Action

EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling Grant

Rachel Frantz shared that she confirmed with Padnos for our electronics recycling; she hasn't provided them with the dates yet, but that doesn't seem to be a huge need for them at this point since it is still six (6) months away. The spring electronics collection will be held in conjunction with our regular HHW collection and then the summer/fall electronics collection will be specifically in the Village of Nashville (proposed and they originally agreed to this, but she is going to meet with the Village Council at their January 12th meeting to confirm that). So, they are going to confirm with the Department of Public Works that they Transfer Station would be a good site for. There will be an article coming out in The Reminder tomorrow, December 10th, about the electronics recycling grant which talks about how we got it and what it's for. We will be doing \$10.00 suggested donations for the CRT's & LED's since we don't want to say that it's free, but we also don't want to force people to pay. Sarah Nelson suggested that we have Padnos bill us with two separate invoices, one (1)

New Business: EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling Grant & 2023 Priorities Plan of Action (Continued)

EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling Grant (Continued)

invoice for just the TV's and one (1) invoice for the rest of the electronics; that way we will be using the grant to pay for all of the TV's and then we reserve that income we get back from Padnos for all the other electronics, which becomes like a sustainable fund balance for long-term electronics recycling. Frank suggested that since we are now doing electronics recycling in conjunction with the HHW collection events, that we should just keep things simple and have all the batteries just go to Padnos from now on. The Recycling Coordinator agreed with this and she will make all necessary arrangements including letting Drug & Laboratory aware of this change as well.

Since the electronics grant requires that two (2) events (each in a different location) be held per year, for the upcoming spring HHW collection we would include electronics recycling and the second (2nd) event will be in the Village of Nashville; so we would need to decide if we want to go ahead and offer electronics recycling for the fall HHW collection since this would not be included in the grant so the committee would be responsible for paying for it. The consensus of the committee is that inconsistency is confusing, so everyone agreed to offer electronics recycling at the fall HHW collection event at the committee's expense.

Motion for this committee to hold three (3) electronic recycling collection events in 2023; two (2) of these will be held in conjunction with the HHW collection events, the second (2nd) of which would not be reimbursed by the grant and the third (3rd) event will be held sometime in the fall in the Village of Nashville made by Jay VanStee, seconded by Jim Brown motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

2023 Priorities Plan of Action

See 2023 Recycling Priorities Plan of Action (document was emailed to committee on 12/05/22).

Public Comment

Sally Smith – she applauds what this committee is doing and she thinks that Rachel's idea of going to the schools and doing the education there is fantastic; if you can find a way to engage the kids you're more likely to get to the parent and she's right about providing a lesson plan ahead of time because teachers are so overwhelmed right now and don't have time to create their own.

Chairman Comments

In January 2023, we need to have a new election for Officers (Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer) and it's really important that we fill the Treasurer position at that time as it has been vacant for a few months now.

Chairman Fiala shared that historically, this committee used to meet on the second (2nd) Friday of the month at 1:30 pm; then one (1) of the County Commissioners wasn't able to attend during that time so we changed the meeting to be in the morning instead of the afternoon. However, he is wondering if there is a better time to have this meeting that would increase the attendance as Dave Jackson has expressed that a different time would work better for him as it is very challenging for him to be able to attend these morning meetings. We only meet once a month, but we do get into some pretty heavy discussions during those meetings and attendance is very critical for these meetings. So, he would actually just like to go around right now during the member comments and have each person express their thoughts this about.

Member Comments

Jay VanStee – kudos to Rachel Frantz; obviously this last month was a lot for her and to get the participation that she did is very impressive as he honestly didn't think we would get enough municipalities to join. In terms

Member Comments (Continued)

of meetings, Friday mornings work best for him, but he is pretty flexibility; any day except for Mondays would probably work for him.

Sarah Nelson – as far as meeting times, this day & time does work best for her; however, if we were going to go to an alternative meeting date & time, then Tuesdays afternoons or Wednesdays would be particularly good for her.

Jim Brown – he feels that if you want the commissioners to attend the meetings, then have the meeting sometime on the same day that they will be in town for the township board meetings as well; there is no perfect time, but that is his input.

Earlier when he was discussing about talking to the people that were coming out to Granger, anytime he talks to anyone that is there, they always ask what do they do with glass? So, if we are going to do something different and get something out of the landfills that people constantly ask us about, it's glass.

With Granger taking over Les', they are private, but they also own two (2) landfills and with them owning landfills, he is thinking why would they want to take anything they are collecting in Barry County to Waste Management? Why should they pay Waste Management to take it when they can take it to their own landfill for nothing overall? Long range he can see a decrease in revenue from the tipping fees, which is obviously going to affect our bottom line. Just a thought he wanted to share in case it does come down the road later.

He thinks there is going to be a really good time to possibly do something County wide with Granger buying Les'; obviously it is a lot bigger corporation and will be covering most of the county so he thinks that there are some good possibilities there.

He has a meeting with Granger at their township this coming Monday to figure out what their collection system is going to be (or not be). He simply stated that he intends to keep their recycling unit open, but if they can't get something figured out that makes sense & eliminates some of the problems that drop-offs are having, then he will literally shut it down within 24 hours. It's working too good not to continue, but we aren't going to continue with it if we can't keep it the way it should be as a source separated situation. The situations they had this week, which he had no problem with, they literally brought a truck in (off time) they took all the plastic that they had, but they could only take part of their cardboard in the same truck because they had something like 18 more stops to make so they were kind of between a rock and a hard place. Long story short, is that we are source separated and that's how Les' was picking it up; we were not mixing the plastics, cardboard and the metals together, taking it to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and then trying to get it sorted again. If we can't do that and keep everything separate somehow, then we just aren't going to do it, plain and simple.

Matt Rosser – expressed that he typically comes to town once or twice a week anyway, so it's not a big issue for him. Every once in a while, he might take a long weekend which would include a Friday, but that's about it. As far as Jim Brown's comment regarding the tipping fees, they are going to see an impact on the tipping fees that are collected from the landfill as we are already seeing that. Granger is taking over a lot of the waste back to Lansing already; he thinks there will be a balance that will come out of all of this economically as they are coming from Lansing, picking up here and then driving all the way back to Lansing, so they could potentially go with another company.

Member Comments (Continued)

Dave Jackson – typically Mondays & Fridays he is scheduled heavy with meetings so that it makes it very challenging for him to attend this meeting. He doesn't want us to change it just specifically for him, it's just a matter of availability. However, the third (3rd) Wednesday of the month works, most Thursdays he is available and mornings usually work better than afternoon. It is what it is, so if Friday mornings work better for everyone else then let's just stay with that.

Jodi Pessell – this day & time works really well for her as well, but if we decide to change the day then a morning meeting would work out better for her.

Tom Rook – Tom Rook expressed that Jim Brown's idea of sending information directly to the County Clerks is a great idea, especially for Orangeville Township since the Supervisor doesn't always get it done. He also wanted to confirm with Jodi that we will continue to use Stoddard's for the HHW collection events and she confirmed.

Sarah Moyer-Cale – expressed that she is really impressed that Rachel Frantz was able to get the cooperation she finally did from the municipalities. As far as the meeting time goes, this time (9:00 am) is a really good time for her personally because she doesn't have any other meetings scheduled on Fridays; on other days it would be more challenging for her to make it work.

Rachel Frantz – Friday mornings work best for her, not to say that she wouldn't be able to make another day or time of the week for this meeting work.

Adjournment

For right now we will leave the monthly meeting date & time as is, second (2nd Friday of the month @ 9:00 am). The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 10:24 a.m.

Approved at the 01-13-2023 meeting