

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes November 4th, 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. Sarah Nelson will be attending, but is running a little late this morning.

Members Present:

Frank Fiala
Jay VanStee
Jodi Pessell
Tom Rook
Vivian Conner
Dave Jackson
Sarah Moyer-Cale (attended, didn't sign in)
Jim Brown (attended, didn't sign in)
Sarah Nelson (attended, didn't sign in)

Members Absent:

Bill Sweeney
Matt Rosser

Members of the Public:

Jerrie Fiala
Rachel Frantz

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October 14th, 2022 meeting minutes as presented made by Dave Jackson, seconded by Tom Rook and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

None.

Recycling Coordinator Report (Rachel Frantz)

See Recycling Coordinator October 2022 Report (report was emailed to committee on 10/31/22).

Treasurer's Report

See Treasurer's Report September 2022 (report was emailed to committee on 10/31/22).

Old Business: Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant & Kent County Recycling and Education Center Tour Recap

MMCE Grant

See Barry County MMCE Grant Final Draft Report (report was emailed to committee on 10/31/22).
Per Rachel Frantz, the "deliverables to attach" listed at the top is really just a checklist for her to make sure that she has everything attached that she references in the report. Also, the way that she writes the answers is

Old Business: Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant & Kent County Recycling and Education Center Tour Recap (Continued)

MMCE Grant (Continued)

she re-words the question to form it into the answer; that way that there is no confusion about which part is being answered, but as you may notice there is a lot of the same wordage throughout.

There is also a highlighted portion in the last paragraph on the second (2nd) page; she stated she wasn't very confident with her answer, so she wanted to get some feedback from the committee. Sarah Nelson has some feedback regarding this highlighted portion and she asked for us to wait to discuss this specific section of the report until she got here. The highlighted portion states "Specific topic areas and their potential impacts to Barry County's materials management programs including disaster debris management, climate, opportunities for closed landfills. Current county and municipal agreements and ordinances regarding materials management..."; this is part where she had previously compiled a spreadsheet of all the ordinances throughout our county (which didn't include all of them), so she was wondering if she should just try to fit all listed on that spreadsheet in that space or maybe someone else has a better suggestion.

Sarah Nelson said she does have some notes about disaster management planning, but she does not have them with her; however, she knows they talked about this. Rachel Frantz shared that Matt Rosser stated that they have a green team that deals specifically with disaster relief waste pickup and she addressed this in a different question on page three (3) in the last paragraph where it says "In order to integrate other sustainable practices into future materials management planning should include disaster clean-up (which Waste Management as a green team for), a permanent HHW collection site and expansion of recycling with social equity and sustainability." If no one objects or really has any input on this specific highlighted section, then she and Sarah Nelson will get together to discuss the best way to correct this portion for the Final Report.

Sarah Moyer-Cale interjected that climate is not explained at all, so she was wondering if this the same as climate change? Sarah Nelson expressed that we should add in there that "generally accepted climate change models show predicated increases in severe weather mostly notably flooding, tornadoes, etc. for Michigan, and that in order to keep our plan more sustainable we will need to consider disaster relief planning issues around solid waste for such events" or something along those lines. Chairman Fiala expressed the importance of having a quorum at next month's meeting because the committee will need to vote on & approve the Final MMCE Grant Report before it can be submitted.

Sarah Nelson expressed that there was really only one (1) thing in the report that she wanted to confirm with the committee and that was the Top Five (5) List as she thought we had the discussion about compost and determined that was not in the Top Five (5). Also, the electronics and the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) were two (2) separate things; electronics recycling was its own thing and then the MRF was its own thing, at least that is what she shows in her previous notes. However, she doesn't know if that is reflective of what people think that the county needs or not so she would like to get Vivian Conner's & Jay VanStee's opinions on this. Vivian Conner responded that yard waste is absolutely a problem out in the rural areas; she pays for her waste hauler to take her yard waste, but they are the only hauler in the area that offers this service so consequently we have lots of issues with people dumping their yard waste along the roadside or on game areas as there isn't any place to take it to. Sarah Nelson injected that she thought their conversations were consistent with those sentiments, but we were trying to come up with the top five (5) priorities (not a full list) and specifically yard waste processed the way that it is (as she understand it), currently in Barry County isn't actually compost so do we want to say that yard waste is more important to us than one (1) of the others listed in the Top Five (5)? She thinks what Vivian Conner is talking about is not actually composted, at least that is her understanding. Rachel Frantz said that she actually does think it belongs in the Top Five (5) and

Old Business: Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant & Kent County Recycling and Education Center Tour Recap (Continued)

MMCE Grant (Continued)

maybe we get rid of the MRF because although it would be great, it doesn't seem very practical/realistic for us at this time. Jay VanStee and the rest of the committee agreed with this, so Sarah Nelson modified the Top Five (5) List to include the following: access to either local or curbside recycling, yard waste & composting, education & outreach, improved access to electronics & household hazardous waste disposal and sheet plastics.

Chairman Fiala asked Rachel Frantz to remind the committee of when the deadline for this is as well as what we will receive once the final report is submitted; Rachel responded that she would like the committee to help her finalize this report, which is due December 15th, 2022; so, she would like to do a "Final-Final Review" at the December 9th meeting and then submit the final report within a couple of days after the meeting (before the 15th deadline). She is going to make a schedule of physical outreach where she is going to visit each municipality (during their office hours) that has not yet completed the surveys to offer her assistance and all do all she can to get their participation. The grant would like two-thirds of our municipalities to participate, which technically would be 13 of them, so she is hoping she can do that or at least get another seven (7) signed up to complete the surveys. Rachel also shared that we have already received \$9,000.00 (check already cleared) and once she submits the final report and it's approved, they will then give us the other \$1,000.00 (they did not specify how long that would be) for a total of \$10,000.00 altogether. Rachel Frantz requested the members thoroughly read through the MMCE Grant Final Draft Report and send her **ANY & ALL** feedback, even if it's just that you don't like the way a sentence sounds or is worded. She will have the Final-Final Report ready in time for the December meeting for everyone to review one last time before submission.

Kent County Recycling & Education Center Tour Recap

Rachel Frantz informed everyone that it was a very small turnout for this as it was just her & Jodi Pessell that attended, but it was a really good tour. They talked about a few things and she got a few ideas; they were talking about onsite compactors, which she thought was really interesting and would be something that would be great for our recycling centers just to help with the transportation cost because every time the truck comes they charge you; so with those compactors onsite, they would be able to fit more in the truck with less frequent trips, which would be really really good for those like Yankee Springs Township. She made a little video of photos and other information she took while on the tour and she attempted to show this to committee, but couldn't get it to play; she will post it on YouTube and send a link to everyone so they can watch it on their own time. For anyone that was unable to attend the first time but would still like to go on a tour of the facility, they do offer tours quite regularly (she believes usually on Mondays) and you can also do a self-guided tour, but if you do that you obviously don't get as much of the information.

New Business: None.

None.

Public Comment

None.

Chairman Comments

At the October meeting, it was discussed about getting with Michael Brown to discuss our concerns and exactly what our liability is when having workers and/or volunteers at the HHW collection events and Chairman Fiala wanted to confirm that Sarah Moyer-Cale drafted an email to Michael Brown regarding this.

Chairman Comments (Continued)

She confirmed that the revised email is ready to be sent out, but before she sends it, she just wanted to make sure that there is no additional feedback from anyone; there was no additional feedback so she'll send it and we'll go from there.

Rachel Frantz wanted to add that she just received an up-to-date report from Prairieville Township Parks & Recreation; they have received the recycling bin and installed it at the Gull Lake Park. However, they still need to post the signage, which was part of their grant proposal, so until that is done we can't yet consider this complete. The committee agreed that payment would not be made until the signage is posted.

Member Comments

Jay VanStee – just observing again how much work we have done in this past year, it's really phenomenal and he feels obviously we can contribute that to our Recycling Coordinator, Rachel Frantz as she has done excellent work, this committee has taken some great strides recently and he thinks we are in a good place.

Jodi Pessell – None.

Tom Rook – None.

Vivian Conner – None.

Dave Jackson – None.

Sarah Moyer-Cale – None.

Jim Brown – he had a meeting with Amy Smelker, Hastings High School Principal, and they are going to fire the pizza box program back up as it was shut down during COVID.

Sarah Nelson – None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 10:21 a.m.

Approved at the 12-09-2022 meeting

October 2022 Report

Recycling Coordinator Task Deliverables

Administrative Assistance to the Solid Waste Oversight Committee (SWOC)

- Attend SWOC committee and subcommittee meetings, provide monthly progress reports to the SWOC
 - Attended October 14 SWOC meeting and provided written and verbal report
- Coordinate with neighboring county recycling programs
 - Partnering with Morgan Feldpausch, Eaton County, on 2023 EGLE Scrap Tire grant with Eaton County as the fiduciary and Environmental Rubber Recycling as the processor. We will be requesting 6 total trailers for 2023, 3 for the May event and 3 for the September event.
- Serve as a representative in recycling user groups
 - MRC Fall Into Recycling 2022 [Circular economy pitch competitors earn \\$2M-plus in EGLE grants \(govdelivery.com\)](#)
 - [\\$813K federal grant supports Michigan recycling \(govdelivery.com\)](#)
 - [Keep recycling local - Resource Recycling \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
 - [How to Recycle a 14-Story Office Tower \(ampproject.org\)](#) "In recent years, concern about waste and the climate has led cities like Portland, Ore., and Milwaukee to pass ordinances requiring certain houses to be deconstructed rather than demolished"
 - [75 percent of Kent County trash could be recycled, study finds - mlive.com](#) "Under the right market conditions, approximately 75 percent of the commercial trash and municipal garbage thrown away in Kent County could be recycled or composted if the right facilities existed. That's the conclusion of a waste characterization study by Gershman, Brinkner, & Bratton (GBB), a consulting firm which spent several weeks last year sifting through the county's garbage to analyze how much could be diverted from landfills"
 - [\\$35 million recycling facility coming to Detroit in 2023 \(wxyz.com\)](#) "Waste Management (WM), North America's largest waste hauler, plans to invest \$35 million into a new state-of-the-art materials recovery facility coming to Detroit. The Detroit facility is expected to break ground at the end of the year and the goal is to finish construction by the end of 2023"
 - [Average age of turned-in phones hits record high - E-Scrap News \(resource-recycling.com\)](#) "Consumers are keeping their smartphones for longer than ever before, with the average age of a phone at turn-in surpassing 3.5 years. According to a report from Assurant, this is the first time the average has risen above the 3.5 year mark. At the same time, \$767 million was returned to U.S. consumers in the second quarter of 2022 through mobile device trade-in programs, a 34% increase year over year, despite the rising age of the phones".
 - [Advocates hope Michigan recycling overhaul sees daylight in lame duck - mlive.com](#) "Will Part 115 see daylight in lame duck? - The 8-bill solid waste update passed the House with comfortable bipartisan support in 2021 but is poised to expire at the end of this year if not passed by the Senate, where movement on the bills stalled more than 17 months ago".
 - [Novelis opens \\$35M facility in Michigan - Recycling Today](#)
 - [Hellmann's Spreads Word About Food Waste Behavior with New Study \(waste360.com\)](#) "According to our research, 85 percent of people report that their food bills have increased, however, people are still wasting the same amount of food (or more) than last year. We were excited to see some people were wasting less food, but clearly too much good food is ending up in the bin. After years of research, we understand that the barriers to reducing food waste are complex. However, easy, practical shifts in the home can make a big impact – not only to our wallets, but also to the planet".
 - [Survey Finds Overwhelming Bipartisan Support for Recycling Refund Programs - Waste Advantage Magazine](#) "A new public opinion poll[1] found that 81% of Americans support recycling refund programs, which place a fully refundable deposit (usually 5 or 10 cents) on beverage containers at the time of purchase that is refunded upon return of the container".
 - [Public recycling program in Rockford becomes permanent \(fox17online.com\)](#) "The City of Rockford has decided to permanently keep a program that installed educational recycling and trash bins throughout the downtown area. The Separate Out Recycling & Trash (SORT) program began as a collaborative pilot project between the Kent County Department of Public Works and the City of Rockford".

Solid Waste Management Planning

- Assist with applying for a Materials Management Planning grant and implementation of the grant, at the direction of the SWOC
 - Called Baltimore township supervisor to follow up on email to participate in MMCE/eMMP - left voicemail (10/14)
 - Compiled responses to questionnaire from October 14 meeting into final report for MMCE grant
 - Signed and returned RRS statement of profile verification for the Mega Data Project Barry County Profile

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

- Assist with Household Hazardous Waste collection events, under the direction of the BEDHD and the SWOC
 - Created 2022 Fall HHW summary
 - Shared on Facebook page (10/18)
 - Shared full HHW data sheet with SWOC
 - Steve Noble, EGLE, emailed with some questions for the Rural Electronics Recycling grant and said we should expect a contract in November

Recycling Outreach and Education to County Residents

- Write educational articles and press releases
 - Wrote and published *Reducing Waste Before You Bring It Home* October 29
- Produce printed materials. Once SWOC-approved, print and distribute these materials
 - Printed (8) copies of Fall 2022 HHW Summary for BoC - 1 extra for board in front lobby area
- Maintain and serve as the primary contact for the website: barrycountyrecycles.org
 - Facebook comment asking about other tire disposal locations outside of the HHW event - informed of six alternative locations and information on next collection event
 - Email asking if (she) had missed the fall HHW event, stated (she) "could not find anything online" - responded with links to facebook page and website pages where information could be found in future
- Produce online/electronic content to be published on the website and social media
 - Created *Recycling doesn't have to be Scary* post for facebook (posted 10/31)
- Work with community groups to promote recycling awareness in the local schools
 - Reached out the Sara at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute about working with schools

Barry County MMCE Grant Final Report

Deliverables to attach:

- ☐ Signed statement from RRS
- ☐ Copy of statement of verification of County Profile
- ☐ Description of gaps identified in municipally run programs, county-run programs, and other programs
- ☐ E-mails to municipalities
- ☐ Participation survey results and tracker
- ☐ Municipality emails
- ☐ RRS emails
- ☐ October 14 SWOC meeting minutes
- ☐ November 4 SWOC meeting minutes

Executive Summary - *Please describe the overall synopsis of the grant activities and deliverables.*

Barry County was awarded the Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) grant August 1, 2022. The Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee (SWOC) approved the proposed work plan for the MMCE grant on August 12, 2022. The designated planning agency (DPA) for this project was the county administrator and county recycling coordinator, with the recycling coordinator being responsible for the grant tasks and deliverables and for compiling this report.

The coordinator worked with SWOC, EGLE, and RRS to complete these tasks. The coordinator viewed the eMMP tutorial videos and guidance material, reviewed RRS mega data overview, and attended the Making the Case for Recycling webinar and MRC Fall Into Recycling conference. The coordinator met with neighboring county coordinators to identify potential partnering opportunities and ideas. The coordinator attempted contact with all municipalities in the county at least three times through email and phone to solicit participation in the Emerge Municipal Measurement Program (eMMP). The coordinator provided information and resources to the municipalities to complete the requested eMMP surveys as well as additional resources for funding and educational materials related to materials management. Additionally, the coordinator offered assistance by phone or in-person meetings to complete the eMMP surveys.

The coordinator worked with SWOC to review the current Barry County Solid Waste Plan (1999), Iris Recycling Assessment Report (2018), Iris Recycling Recommendations & Action Plan (2019), Barry County Megadata Profile (2022), Part 115 Solid Waste Management NREPA 1994 PA451, and proposed NREPA amendments. After reviewing the aforementioned documents, the coordinator and SWOC worked to answer the materials management needs assessment questions for this report.

Deliverables

The coordinator met with three neighboring county coordinators to engage at a regional level and identify any collaboration opportunities. On August 23, 2022, the coordinator met with the Eaton County recycling coordinator, Morgan Feldpausch, on September 1, 2022, the coordinator met with the Allegan County recycling coordinator, Rosemary Graham (virtually). As a result of the August meeting with Morgan, a tour of the Kent County Recycling and Education Center was arranged for members of the Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee (SWOC) and Eaton County Recycling Board on October 20, 2022, both coordinators attended as well.

The coordinator received the Barry County profile from RRS on May 23, 2022 and reviewed and responded with comments on June 2, 2022 and completed the google form on October 18, 2022. The coordinator signed a statement and returned to RRS October 27, 2022.

To promote municipal engagement in education and outreach activities for materials management planning, the coordinator sent a series of emails and conducted phone calls to all municipalities. An initial email was sent to all municipalities encouraging them to apply to join eMMP on September 13, 2022 and to complete a participation survey for the coordinator to gauge assistance needs. The coordinator then followed up with all municipalities by phone one week after the email and scheduled in-person meetings with all interested municipalities to complete eMMP profiles and surveys. The coordinator sent a follow-up email to all municipalities encouraging them to attend webinars and events by RRS/EGLE on September 20, 2022. Copies of these emails can be found in the additional document upload section.

The coordinator met with RRS to discuss potential partnerships on September 1, 2022, the follow-up email can be found in the additional document upload section. During the October SWOC meeting, the committee discussed the future of the Waste Management landfill located just outside the City of Hastings in Barry County, including capacity limits and future expansions of facilities and services including materials recovery facilities, permanent HHW collection and compost. It is worth noting there is staff from the Waste Management landfill on the SWOC who was present and engaged during this discussion. Meeting minutes which include a list of participants and discussion from this meeting can be found in the additional document upload section.

Deficiencies and opportunities within the current materials management programs and infrastructure throughout the county include limited access to curbside and drop-off recycling for rural residents. Specific topic areas and their potential impacts to Barry County's materials management programs including disaster debris management, climate, opportunities for closed landfills. Current county and municipal agreements and ordinances regarding materials management At this time, the most impactful program improvements would include the expansion of shared recycling services, curbside recycling and waste pick up for all residents, encouraging the denser communities to adopt single hauler contracts, and increase education and outreach on agricultural, greenhouse, and marine plastics recycling. Many residents of the more rural areas in Barry County have no access to curbside recycling or municipally owned

drop-off site. By expanding shared recycling services such as drop-off sites, more residents could potentially have access to and use these resources. However, the distance to sites may still pose a barrier to low-income and low-mobility residents. If the county were to adopt a county-wide curbside program would be greatly beneficial to all residents, especially those with no access to curbside now. Barriers to this however are many, there is a high probability of resistance from local residents on a county-wide program that would include additional taxes, as well as for multifamily homes which may not be eligible for curbside. Increasing the number of communities with single hauler contracts would be good for many financially as well as for community noise and traffic control. Barriers to this may be resistance from residents and municipalities that do not want to switch haulers or lose the ability to choose their hauler. Increasing education and outreach on agricultural, greenhouse, and marine plastics would be very good for Barry County as there is ample farmland and many lakes where boating is popular. Additionally, there is one nearby MRF in the next county that accepts agricultural plastics. Barriers exist however for marine and greenhouse plastics, which there are no nearby facilities to accept these items.

The SWOC identified the following top five county needs that will lead to increased opportunities within the materials management programs and infrastructure:

1. Increased access to recycling through curbside, shared drop-off sites, etc.
2. Increase compost collection (yard waste) and encourage home composting (food and yard waste) through outreach and education
3. Public education and outreach on best practices for recycling and available resources
4. Establish a permanent HHW/electronics collection site and/or MRF - possibly at the existing Waste Management landfill site, which has room for expansion
5. Agricultural and marine plastics collection and recycling

The SWOC identified the following as the top three materials management-related projects:

1. Increase the availability and convenient recycling for all residents
2. Work with businesses/organizations/schools to encourage re-use and collection
3. Expand HHW collection to a permanent facility open to the public more often than twice a year

The SWOC identified the following as the biggest program gaps:

1. Lack of information/cooperation/engagement with municipalities
2. Limited coverage geographically/socioeconomically
3. Lack of municipality-run programs
4. Lack of communication/educational resources

Potential changes and impacts due to potential legislative changes to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended for Barry County include benchmark reporting, a need to establish funding mechanisms, and difficulty getting hauler contracts and the potential for negative impacts on smaller local haulers. In order to integrate other sustainable practices into future materials management planning should include disaster clean-up, which Waste Management has a green team for, a permanent HHW collection site, and expansion of recycling with social equity and sustainability.

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

TYDEN CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM, HASTINGS MI

SIGN-IN

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2022

NAME

1. Jay VanStee
2. JON Russell
3. Tom Root
4. Brian Conner
5. FRANK FIAT
6. DAVID JACKSON
7. Sarah Moyer-Cale (attended, didn't sign in)
8. Jim Brown (attended, didn't sign in)
9. Sarah Nelson (attended, didn't sign in)
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

EXCUSED

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

GUEST

Rachel Frantz
Jerrie Fiat

Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee
Tyden Center Conference Room, Hastings, MI

November 4, 2022

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of October 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Recycling Coordinator Report
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Old Business
 - A. MMCE Grant
 - 1. Review municipal eMMP participation, integrate into draft MMCE report
 - 2. Review draft MMCE final report
 - B. Kent County Recycling and Education Center Tour recap
- VIII. New Business
 - A.
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Chairman Comment
- XI. Member Comment
- XII. Adjournment

Attached documents:

Attachment 1: October 14 Draft Minutes

Attachment 2: October Recycling Coordinator Report

Attachment 3: Draft MMCE final report