

# BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

## Approved Meeting Minutes November 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022; so, she would like to do a "Final-Final Review" at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and then submit the final report within a couple of days after the meeting (before the 15<sup>th</sup> 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