

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes April 14th, 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
Jodi Pessell
Sarah Nelson
Jay VanStee
Sarah Moyer-Cale
Jim Brown
Catherine Getty

Members Absent:

Matt Rosser
Craig Stolsonburg
Tom Rook

Members of the Public:

Jerrie Fiala
Rachel Frantz
Don Johnson

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 10th, 2023 meeting minutes as presented made by Sarah Nelson, seconded by Sarah Moyer-Cale and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

None.

Recycling Coordinator February & March Reports (Rachel Frantz)

See Recycling Coordinator Reports for both February & March 2023 (emailed to the committee on 04/10/23).

Treasurer's Report

See Treasurer's Report February 2023 (emailed to the committee on 04/10/23).

Old Business: Materials Management Planning (MMP) Update, Status & Preparation for June 3rd Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Event & Prairieville Mini-Grant Closeout

Materials Management Planning (MMP) Update

See Michigan MMP Workgroup Meeting Notes from February & March 2023 (emailed to the committee on 04/10/23).

Status & Preparation for June 3rd HHW Event

Jodi Pessell provided members with a draft copy of the HHW advertisement that will be published in both The Banner & The Reminder about one (1) month before the event. She would like the committee to review the ad

Status & Preparation for June 3rd HHW Event (Continued)

and let her know if any changes need to be made; once the advertisement has been finalized, Amanda Robins will send it over to J-Ad Graphics for publication in the The Banner (May 25th) as well as The Reminder (May 20th & 27th). Rachel Frantz stated that she will have some changes regarding the electronics recycling, so she will update the ad and email the final version over to Jodi Pessell. Jodi Pessell also confirmed that we will have three (3) trailers for tires for this upcoming event and we are also starting the process of recruiting volunteers. Jay VanStee stated that he spoke with Jeff Dock at Thornapple Kellogg (TK) High School and he sounded optimistic that he would have ten (10) or more kids to volunteer. So, if things go accordingly it sounds like we should have more helpers than we've ever had in the past and the idea is to probably have most of the TK kids do the tires; we'll see how many actually show up on the day of the event.

Jodi Pessell stated that about two (2) weeks before the collection, she will be setting up a Zoom meeting with all coordinating agencies that will be helping with this event just so we can all touch base and discuss any concerns with the layout, etc. Just to let everyone know, Jay VanStee stated that Jodi Pessell will not physically be at this year's spring HHW collection, but he will be there to act in her capacity as best as he can.

Chairman Fiala mentioned that since Padnos is already at the event for the electronics recycling and since they want the car batteries, pay for the batteries and are already paying us for cell phone batteries, that we just should just direct all batteries (including car batteries) right to the electronics collection station. The car batteries have to be on a palette so it would be helpful if people didn't take them out of the cars until they get to the electronics station where we will have the palette for these to be stacked on. Doing it this way just seem to make way more sense now that we have Padnos coming to the events for the electronics recycling anyway. Rachel Frantz stated that she would like to confirm a couple of things with her new contact at Padnos (Sandy Pierce is no longer there as she took a new job) first before we commit to grouping the car batteries in with the electronics and we can further discuss at the May meeting.

Catherine Getty suggested that the committee invest in some tall reusable free-standing flags/signs for the different stations; that way you would be able to see them from across the field and figure out where you need to go. Sarah Nelson expressed that she can order those and then just bill the county/committee for them; however, she would like to get with Jodi Pessell first to discuss what goes where and what each flag/sign should say. The committee agreed that we should get one sign for each station (to be determined by Jodi Pessell & Sarah Nelson) plus a thank you sign for the exit (and maybe one for inside the barn).

Motion to authorize Sarah Nelson, Rachel Frantz & Jodi Pessell to purchase tall free-standing flags/signs for the HHW collection events, not to exceed \$1,500.00 made by Jay VanStee, seconded by Jim Brown and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Prairieville Mini-Grant Closeout

See Prairieville Sign Invoice (emailed to the committee on 04/10/23). Rachel Frantz stated that in her opinion everything is done now and it's okay to close out the grant and be done with it (pay her).

Motion to approve and close out the Prairieville Mini-Grant as discussed made by Catherine Getty, seconded by Jay VanStee and motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business: Recycling and Disposal Guide Update

See Barry County Recycling and Disposal Guide DRAFT (electronic emailed to the committee on 04/10/23 and physical copy distributed at time of meeting). Please feel free to mark up the copy with any comments, concerns, questions, etc. and send feedback to Rachel so she can make any changes if needed. Sarah Nelson

New Business: Recycling and Disposal Guide Update (Continued)

suggested we send out a couple dozen copies of the final printed version along with a laminated QR code that they could put on display with them so people could then easily access the digital version. Jay VanStee suggested that we just put the QR code right on the back of the guide along with putting out a laminated QR code on display.

Motion to approve the Barry County Recycling & Disposal Guide with the addition of a QR code as well as any last-minute changes/modifications to be identified to Sarah Nelson & Rachel Frantz by end of day Friday, April 21st made by Jay VanStee, seconded by Jodi Pessell and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

None.

Chairman Comments

Chairman Fiala stated that the Kiwanis Club has requested this committee meet with them sometime in May to do a presentation (about 20 minutes) about recycling...where we are at, where we are going, etc. The last time we were there, there was a big thrust too close to the landfill and she reminded him that we projected there would be no longer a landfill in Barry County around 2025-2026 and at that time the funding for us (which comes from tipping fees), was all going to go away. There was also a whole bunch of other stuff going on at that time and we never got back to them; so now they are reaching out again and requesting we come in to talk about the landfill. Chairman Fiala stated that certainly we aren't experts on the landfill, but we can do our best and will include recycling aspects into the presentation as well. He is requesting that Rachel Frantz (as well as himself) meet with Kiwanis on a Wednesday in May to do a brief presentation; Rachel replied that she should be able to make that work, but just to note she is not available on Wednesday, May 10th as she already has other commitments that day.

Member Comments

Jodi Pessell – None.

Sarah Nelson – they are working on a proposal for the contract renewal, so please anything that you think might be important for that please let Rachel or herself know because it is easier for them to integrate stuff into it while working on it rather than trying to make changes afterwards. She stated that the committee will probably want to go ahead and vote on that at the May meeting since the current contract expires May 31st, 2023.

Jay VanStee – to go along with Jim's comments, it seems like there is more and more returnables on the side of the road nowadays, but when the return on them is still only \$0.10 per container, so to most people it's not worth it to recycle them. He feels that the Bottle Bill should be revisited because if you got \$0.50 per container then absolutely people would recycle them more than they are now.

Sarah Moyer-Cale – stated that she will be on vacation for next month's meeting so she will not be able to attend. The City is working on a Downtown Street Scape project and they are hoping for construction to start in August. Initially they weren't going to change their bins that they have on the streets because they were hoping to refinish/reuse them; however, that isn't just going to work out, so they are going to replace them all together and because they are doing this they are considering options for some kind of trash/recycling combination type unit. Before her time on this committee, she knows that the City got a mini-grant from this

Member Comments (Continued)

Sarah Moyer-Cale (continued) –_group to pay for the recycling bins, which we had for some time, but then people were using them for trash instead of for recycling so those have since been removed. She feels like it would be much more successful with a different design like something that is really made for recycling, that is clearly different in appearance from the trash side and that's maybe a little bit more inconvenient to use if it's just for trash. Her question to this group is that if they were to seek a mini-grant to partially fund this project, would this committee be on board with that since they've already paid once for recycling cans to be put downtown and it was a total flop; she would understand if we were like "no we already tried that", but she wanted to at least put it out there to see if this is something the committee would be interested in trying again. Chairman Fiala replied with the intent of the Mini-Grant is to encourage people to experiment and do the best they can with recycling period, so this committee would absolutely be on board with trying this again.

Jim Brown – his township had their meeting this week and he was awful wise to get serious about opening up their unit at the township for just two (2) things: milk cans and \$0.10 cent deposit beverage containers. The reason for that is that metal cans are the only thing we can effectively collect and we don't need any waste haulers for this situation. So, he is going to do some serious work on this and the tagline is going to be Clara's Cans. Regarding the \$0.10 cent deposit, you cannot believe how many thousands of bags of \$0.10 cent deposit containers that they receive in their recycling module, that aren't turned in for the money; we are talking serious money. In the State of Michigan, for all the containers that are not returned, the deposit money for those just sits there with the State of Michigan.

He also shared that you should get a copy of this week's Banner as there is going to be an article in there about the school pizza box recycling program. However, this time they are doing things a little bit differently and Ace Hardware is going to be the basic collection pump for all the pizza boxes for ALL of the Hastings Schools. They will be physically counting the boxes at that point and they will be recycled right there; if you read the article you will know that the boxes literally gets baled up and go back into the system. When we started this a couple of years ago, Pierce Cedar Creek got involved; they took part of this program and they blended it into their recycling education program that is going out to all the schools in Barry County and eventually we want to do this for the whole county. So, if you drop your pizza box off at Ace Hardware and you want to donate one (1) penny per box, that money will go directly into Pierce Cedar Creek's education system for recycling. The challenge for the kids is to collect 2,000 boxes equaling the height of the Statue of Liberty.

Catherine Getty – just wanted to let everyone know about the big Blue Zones Community event that's coming up on Wednesday, June 14th at the Barry Expo Center from 6:00-8:00 pm; she thinks that it would be nice if this committee could have a booth to set up at events like this; Rachel Frantz responded with "she is working on it." She thinks that is also something worthy of spending money on is having an actual booth that's easy to set up with a couple of displays.

Thornapple Area Parks & Recreation commission has a charity shed that we collect returnables and it's an exhausting venture to return bottles/cans and that's why people aren't doing it; she did a quick inflation adjustment and it would now be \$0.78, but with only getting \$0.10 cents per container, unfortunately the majority of returnables just end up in the trash.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 10:22 a.m.