

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes August 13th, 2021

Call to Order

Chairman Frank Fiala called the meeting of the Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members in Attendance:

Frank Fiala
Jay VanStee
Jim Brown
Patricia Rayl
Tom Rook
Bruce Campbell
Bill Sweeney
Vivian Conner
Sarah Nelson (attended via phone)

Members Absent:

Jodi Pessell
Matt Roser

Members of the Public:

Rachel Frantz
Jerrie Fiala

Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, will proceed with agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the June 11th, 2021 meeting minutes made Tom Rook, seconded by Patricia Rayl and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Motion to approve the July 9th, 2021 meeting minutes made by Patricia Rayl, seconded by Frank Fiala and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Comments

None.

Chairman Comments

Per Chairman Fiala, he would just like to thank everyone for being here today. The two (2) big things on his agenda are the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection on September 18th and the Recycling Coordinator update.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection (Sept 18th)

The next HHW collection is scheduled for September 18th, 2021. Jay VanStee stated he is not sure exactly where Jodi is at this point in the planning process as she is currently on vacation, so he will set up a time for Jodi Pessell, Rachel Frantz and himself to meet to discuss the planning process and everything that needs to be done for this event. Since we need several volunteers to help out at this event, Vivian Conner will check with Sherriff Dar Leaf to see if they will have any inmates available to work that day. In the past, the City of Hastings has provided a few of their employees to help out with the tires and other things at the event, so Chairman Fiala said he would contact the Mayor and/or new City Manager to see if we can work out something with a few of their employees to volunteer as well. Tom Rook will make arrangements again for the oil drums. Per Chairman Fiala, regarding the tires, he would like to error on the side of having an extra trailer there for tires since in the past we have needed to get an extra third trailer for tires and it only costs the committee about \$200.00. **Motion to pay about \$200.00 to get a third trailer onsite for tires made by Jim Brown, seconded by Tom Rook and approved by a unanimous vote.**

Recycling Coordinator

Recycling Coordinator, Rachel Frantz, provided the committee with a July 2021 Report to update them on what she has been working on (Amanda Robins will also email this report to the committee members so they can actually click on the links in the document). She has spoken with the Recycling Coordinators at Allegan, Calhoun and Eaton Counties and she has virtual meetings scheduled with each of them over the next couple of weeks. She also spoke to the recycling person for the City of Kalamazoo as they have a city wide recycling program that is free (technically it's not free as there is a millage, but it is an opt-in millage so the people that opt-in get free recycling at a very low cost); she thought this was an interesting idea and she is going to look into this further.

Rachel Frantz also stated that she has an update from the Resource Recycling Conference, which she was planning to attend; however, either the Kent County Conservation District or Kent County Recycling put out that they were going to do a watch party so she assumed that since the conference would be virtual that it would also be a virtual watch party, but it turns out they were doing an in-person watch party of the virtual conference, so she was not able to attend. However, she did read the report from that conference on what had been done and she provided a copy of that report to the committee members.

She stated there have also been Regional Meetings happening throughout the state and the West-Michigan Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 9th, 2021; registration is not yet available for that meeting, but she does plan on attending this (she is almost certain there is no cost).

She did find another really interesting report talking about different recycling haulers and Waste Management was listed in the top three (3), so she thought their information would good to include; the report shows that there has been a big increase in recycling during the second (2nd) quarter of 44% over a year (this was for their entire service area not just Michigan). The trends are looking good, which gives her hope that we will start to see more participation.

Regarding outreach & education to county residents, she was interviewed for The Hastings Banner and the committee was also featured as a "Bright Light" in The Hastings Banner. She does have access to both the Barry County Recycling website and email now; there was some IT issues with the email, but the issues have now been resolved.

She also created an interactive map of the recycling facilities in our area that basically outlines the 2-Go-Zero Guide; so she basically took all the information that was in that guide and then converted it to a map so you can sort by material. She did automotive as a general category because a lot of places take all things automotive, but when you click on each one, it will tell you what items are accepted, the hours of operation, any restrictions that may be in place, address and website (if available). So, when you receive the electronic version from Amanda Robins, please make sure to check that out. The map is embeddable so it can be put on any website fairly easily.

She also attended meetings at the Hastings Charter Township and the Village of Freeport. At the Village of Freeport, she introduced herself as the Recycling Coordinator and informed them about the upcoming HHW collection as well as the Thornapple Clean-Up. The Board was very excited and receptive, and she handed out her business cards to them.

At the Hastings Charter Township meeting, , she introduced herself as the Recycling Coordinator and informed them about the upcoming HHW collection, handed out business cards and then Jim Brown gave her a tour of the Recycling Drop-Off Center, which was really interesting.

This month she has been unable to attend almost all of the Local Units of Government meetings except for the Village of Nashville meeting, which she will be able to attend, but unfortunately after she showed up it was announced that they had to postpone the meeting until the following week. However, there were some other people that showed up for this meeting as well so they did have some really good conversations about recycling and she felt that this was a good opportunity to talk to people outside of the structured meeting. They did also recommend that she go to the Transfer Board Meeting on the last Monday of the month and she feels that this would be a good function for her to attend considering there has been whispers of shutting down the Nashville facility and she would like to get in there before they make any decisions about that. So, she would like the committee's approval to attend that meeting; the committee did not have any objections to her attending this meeting.

Recycling Coordinator (Continued)

Rachel Frantz stated that her goals for next month are to prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the Board of Commissioners; she will have the presentation done to present to the committee for approval at the September meeting before presenting it to the Board of Commissioners. She is also going to attend the free virtual Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) sessions and will also coordinate with Jay VanStee & Jodi Pessell for planning of the upcoming HHW collection event in September. She is also going to meet with J-Ad Graphics to discuss putting a recycling column in The Reminder. She also plans on attending the monthly meetings for the Village of Nashville, Castleton Township, Assyria Township and Johnstown Township.

In her report, she included Potential Additional Items for SWOC's Approval (additional funds needed); the first three (3) items listed under this section are all for conferences. The MRC Conference is in October in Bay City, they have not provided a cost yet, but she did start looking at some hotel prices for lodging. So she was wondering if that would be something that the committee would want her (or another representative) to attend. Vivian Conner suggested that Rachel bring this up again at next month's meeting because the cost to attend the conference should be posted by then. The National Zero Waste Virtual Conference is December 8-9, 2021 and the cost for this is \$175.00 (for both days); she doesn't believe the agenda is out for this yet so depending on what is offered, she doesn't know if this committee would want her to attend the full conference (both days) or just one day. The National Recycling Congress Virtual Conference is November 3-4, 2021; she is not sure if this conference is free, she but will look into this more as it is still a few months away and will provide further details at the September meeting.

As discussed at the past couple of meetings, there is a grant proposal that the committee could apply for; however, the due date for this is August 20th and she doesn't think we have enough information quite yet to apply for this grant, so she wanted to bring it to the committee to see if they would be interested in writing the proposal and having it ready for next year. The goal of this grant is to get the community recycling programs going with the partnership of up to \$4.00 per household for curbside programs and up to \$3.00 - \$4.00 per household for drop-off programs. She would like approval to pursue this and to start the grant proposal, then the committee can work together on this throughout the year to really get it worked out to something everyone agrees on and thinks will work for Barry County.

She was reading through the Strategic Planning document and came across something about developing an education outreach and informational strategy plan; she wondered if this was something that the committee would want her to pursue and write a formal plan for that or if the committee would just want to create those materials as needed as we go. Chairman Fiala stated that his view is that outreach and education has always been a goal of the committee's and anything we do to advance in that direction is something we certainly want to do. Rachel Frantz stated she has experience writing plans like this (they are usually pretty short, just a couple of pages) and she will start working on this.

She also would like to bring up the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Recycling Raccoons as they are very cute and they have some really, really great resources; she included a couple of them on the report she provided and you can go to their website to see a lot of other ones as well. The Recycling Rules is really good as it goes through each different material, what is accepted and what is not accepted and the importance of keeping it clean. She thought it would be good for us to share this information on the website because currently the website is very wordy and she thinks people have a hard time when they just see a page full of text; usually images with just a few text words make it easier/simpler to understand. She feels it would be good to utilize the resources that are already out there rather than creating a whole bunch of new stuff.

When she was browsing around on the recycling website, she was looking at the "Medication & Sharps" tab; it has all the places for medication drop-off listed very clearly, but the sharps is kind of buried at the bottom and you have to go into a document and then find your county, so she thought it would be easier if we just list the two (2) places where people can drop-off their sharps in an approved container. She thought it would be easier just to have those right on the website similar to the same format as the medication drop-off. The committee was in agreement with this so she will go ahead and add those to the recycling website.

Member Comments

Jay VanStee– just wanted to express that he thinks the Recycling Coordinator is off to a good start and he & Jodi Pessell will be working more with Rachel over the next few weeks planning the upcoming HHW collection.

Jim Brown – potentially the Nashville Transfer Station could be very, very good; the situation that they have there now doesn't surprise him and it doesn't surprise him that they turned down Bill's company to do something there. Potentially where they are located could be very, very good for that part of the county, but unfortunately it's a horse of a different color over there. He feels we are on the right track and that Rachel is doing an excellent job so far.

Patricia Rayl – she believes they will be taking about budget information at the next Board of Commissioner's Meeting and she was wondering what has this committee's practice been in the past regarding this. Do we ever speak in support of the Oversight Committee or how does that work? Per Chairman Fiala, we submit the committee's budget every year and they have pretty much adopted what we have since it is this committee's money. Patricia also asked if it would be helpful to attend the meeting and speak in acknowledgement of that during public comment or if that would kind of just be a waste of everyone's time? Vivian Conner replied that it wouldn't necessarily be a waste of time, but that would be more for people who are appealing something that was denied. Chairman Fiala added that he feels we are good to go, so we shouldn't need anyone present to speak during public comment.

Tom Rook – none.

Bill Sweeney – The transfer station in Nashville has been an issue for a long time now; they do haul the rubbish out of there, but they are not responsible for the clean-up or anything and he did hear from one of the drivers that it is getting pretty bad over there.

Bruce Campbell – just wanted to add that there is quite extensive talking going on at Maple Grove Township as well pertaining to the issues at the Nashville Transfer Station.

Vivian Conner – usually presentations at the Board of Commissioners Meetings are done on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesdays of the month, so she will get those dates to Rachel Frantz as well as Luella Dennison's email address so that she can email any documents for her presentation over to Luella so they can be put on the overhead for everyone during the presentation. We will try to get it on the agenda for September, but it will just depend on how many other presentations are on the agenda at that time.

Matt Roser – none.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 9:28 a.m.

Approved at the 11-05-2021 meeting

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July 2021 Report

Program administration- signed and submitted contract, dated by County as 6/1/21

Recycling Coordinator Task Deliverables

Administrative Assistance to the Solid Waste Oversight Committee (SWOC)

- *Attends SWOC committee and subcommittee meetings*
 - Attended July SWOC meeting, no subcommittee meetings
- *Provides monthly progress reports to the SWOC*
 - Provided in-person introduction at July meeting
- *Assists the SWOC chair and treasurer in budget development and administration*
 - Nelson assisted with budget preparation guidance and submitted first Coordinator invoice
- *At the direction of the SWOC, communicates and coordinates with neighboring county recycling programs as needed*
 - Email/phone with Eaton Recycling Coordinator (Morgan Feldpausch), discussed ag plastics recycling program, opened July 16th (see [flyer](#))
 - Emailed with the City of Kalamazoo administrative support manager about city-wide curbside program there. They have an opt-in millage program. Only those who opt-in receive service. They have high participation (over 12,000 participants).
 - Reached out to Kent County, no response
- *At the direction of the SWOC, serves as a representative in recycling user groups, for example the Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) and regional subgroups*
 - MRC updates:
 - **“Resource Recycling Conference** - Resource Recycling hosted their annual conference last week with 2 days of virtual programming.
 - The Recycling Partnership shared its estimate for needed investment in the US recycling system at \$17 billion. Education makes up a full \$6 billion of that need!
 - Accelerating Recycling: Policy to Unlock Supply for the Circular Economy Report identifies the key policies they think should drive the needed investment
 1. Invest in Infrastructure to expand and Improve upon recycling programs that are in need of help (recycling carts and bins, trucks, Material recovery Facilities (MRF) capabilities, and other necessary improvements)
 2. Develop education and outreach programs to U.S. residents to increase the amount and quality of recyclable materials collected.
 3. Support community recycling operations by addressing the imbalance between disposal and recycling to enable both consumers and communities to recycle as easily as they can throw things away.
 - Policy proposal, proposed system where funding is injected from private-sector packaging and printed paper fees and public-sector disposal surcharges to sustain and improve the system. Fund distributing would go towards infrastructure and education
 - Goal: Accelerating action towards a circular economy

- Regional meetings to connect with other recycling professionals in the area, learn about challenges and work toward solutions. **West Michigan - September 9 at 2:30pm** (registration not yet available)
- Kent County released organic waste report detailing why DPW should take an active role in organic waste management
- The *Invest in America Act* includes \$75 million for recycling education and battery recycling. Also includes \$275 million for grant funding for Save Our Seas 2.0 to keep plastic out of waterways
- “WM’s recycling business brought in \$397 million in revenue during the second quarter, up 44% year over year. During a July 27 call with investors, Devina Rankin, WM’s chief financial officer, said second quarter commodity prices averaged \$100 a ton. That was up by 75% from the second quarter of 2020, when the prices averaged \$57 a ton. WM expects higher commodity prices for the rest of the year. Rankin noted that prices have continued to climb, with July 2021 prices higher than the \$114 per ton WM enjoyed in June 2021.” Stronger markets lift recycling revenues for major haulers - Resource Recycling (resource-recycling.com)
- Funding opportunity: Sustainable Materials Management 2021 Anaerobic Digestion Funding Opportunity [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#)

Recycling Outreach and Education to County Residents

- *Develops and implements a public relations program for the SWOC, including: Writes educational articles and press releases and distributes them to local media outlets newspaper, radio, etc.*
 - Was featured as a “bright light” in the Hastings Banner
- *Maintains and serves as the primary contact for the website: barrycountyrecycles.org*
 - Has access now to both website and email - emails were being forwarded to the Health Department until August 5, 2021. Barry County IT had to go in and change it so that emails are received into the recycling inbox instead.
 - Created a map for the facilities outlined in the 2 Go Zero guide: [Barry County Recycling \(arctgis.com\)](http://Barry County Recycling (arctgis.com)) - would like to add recycling haulers like [Calhoun County Interactive Solid Waste Map \(arctgis.com\)](http://Calhoun County Interactive Solid Waste Map (arctgis.com))

Assistance to Local Units of Government (LUG)

- *At the direction of the SWOC, serves as a liaison to local units of government within Barry County, and offers support in the following ways:*
 - *Disperses information on recycling in Barry County and resources available*
 - Attended the following LUG meetings: Thornapple Twp, Village of Middleville, City of Hastings, Yankee Springs Twp, Orangeville Twp, Hastings Charter Twp, Village of Freeport

Goals for next month:

- Prepare powerpoint for board of commissioners, to bring to September SWOC meeting for approval
- Meet in-person with Morgan Feldpausch (Eaton County)
- Reach out to Allegan and Calhoun County recycling coordinators
- Attend free virtual MRC sessions
- Coordinate with Jay and Jodi on September event
 - Secure electronic recycling at event
 - Discuss alternate service providers for Spring event
- Meet with J-Ad to discuss a SWOC/Recycling Column in the Reminder, start a topic list for approval and suggestions at next SWOC meeting
- Attend the following LUG meetings: *Missed early LUG meetings in August due to a family medical emergency.* Village of Nashville (8/12), Castleton Township (9/1), Assyria Township (9/6), Johnstown Township (9/8)

Potential Additional Items for SWOC Approval (additional funds needed)

- The MRC annual conference is in October in Bay City- how important is this for SWOC? Should someone from BCD go? Estimated cost amounts not available yet but would include mileage round trip to Bay City at the federal rate, hotel costs, conference registration, and possibly a meal per diem if not included in registration
- National Zero Waste Virtual Conference- December 8-9, 2021

The National Zero Waste Conference is the annual two-day virtual educational and networking event organized by Zero Waste USA and in partnership with the National Recycling Coalition. Zero Waste Business will be

the focus on Wednesday, December 8 and Zero Waste Communities on Thursday, December 9. Full Conference: \$175 One Day: \$150 NRC Members receive a \$50 discount (not members)

- Virtual NATIONAL RECYCLING CONGRESS, November 3-4, 2021
The National Recycling Congress is a two-day educational and networking event organized by the National Recycling Coalition in partnership with the Annual Conference of the New York Association for Reduce, Reuse, Recycling. Early Bird Registration is now open!
- Write grant proposal for 2022 EGLE Recycling grant "All Michigan community recycling programs are eligible to apply for these grants from EGLE and The Partnership of up to \$4 per household for curbside programs and up to \$3 per household for drop-off programs."
- Develop an education/outreach/information strategy (from 2020 objectives in strategic plan)
- Use of Statewide EGLE Recycling Racoons resources to disseminate information Resources - Recycling Racoons
 - [RecyclingRules.pdf \(recyclingracoons.org\)](#)
 - [Recycling-reference-sheet-RGB \(recyclingracoons.org\)](#)
- Would like to add local sharps collection sites to map and website (currently on website in EGLE - Sharps Disposal Options)
 - Magnum Health and Rehab of Hastings
 - Michigan Career and Technical Institute, Health Services

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

TYDEN CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM, HASTINGS MI

AGENDA

AUGUST 13TH, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (JUNE 11TH & JULY 9TH)
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS
6. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SEPT 18TH
7. RECYCLING COORDINATOR
8. MEMBER COMMENTS
9. ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2021

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

TYDEN CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM, HASTINGS MI

SIGN-IN

AUGUST 13TH, 2021

NAME

1. Jay VanStee
2. Jim Brown
3. Patti Reef
4. FRANK FIALA
5. JERRIE FIALA Guest
6. Tom Rook
7. Bruce Campbell
8. Bill Sweeney
9. Vivian Conner
10. Rachel Frantz
11. _____
12. _____

EXCUSED

GUEST

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |