

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Barry-Eaton District Health Department
330 W. Woodlawn Ave, Hastings, MI

Approved Meeting Minutes August 14th, 2020

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
Jodi Pessell
Jay VanStee
Matt Roser
Vivian Conner
Jim Brown
Sarah Nelson
Tom Rook

Members Absent:

Jerry Czarnecki
Brent Cowan
Ben Geiger

Members of the Public:

MaryAnn Devries (Prairieville Township)

Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, will proceed with agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Please note that there are not any meeting minutes from the July 10th Zoom Meeting as the meeting was not recorded (this has been corrected and all future Zoom Meetings are automatically set to be recorded).

Public Comments

None.

Chairman Comments

Per Chairman Fiala, there three (3) key things that we need to discuss today:

- (1) Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) September 19th collection event
- (2) Sarah Nelson will be unable to continue with the Strategic Planning process so we need to discuss where to go from here
- (3) Concept of a coordinator to help with the things that we are doing here.

Household Hazardous Waste Event (HHW) - September 19th

Chairman Fiala asked Jay VanStee on what his thoughts are as far as holding the HHW event in September as planned. Jay responded that as previously discussed, we usually have well over a 100 people present for this event. However, he thinks we can mitigate that part of it effectively according to the Governor's Executive Order by just informing people to stay in their cars and making sure everyone is wearing a mask. It is a bit of a gray area so we are obviously having to make some interpretations and judgements. If people are in their car, the 100 person limit is not especially the concern; the bigger concern is that the way we have done it in the past utilizing the one (1) barn we would certainly have more than ten (10) people present in the barn. We have our workers, Drug & Lab typically has six (6) to eight (8) people just by themselves along with two (2) to three (3) oil people, the police officers and the pharmacist/medicine take back volunteers, so by the time we are done there is usually 12-15 people in the barn at one time. The other possibility to consider is a finding a way to do the entire event outdoors, which could potentially be complicated by weather.

Household Hazardous Waste Event (HHW) - September 19th (Continued)

Jodi Pessell stated that if we do go ahead with this event, we will definitely have to modify it in some ways to be in line with the Governor's Executive Order. We could have Drug & Lab take the oil this time and obviously there would be a charge for this. As far as the tire collection goes, the guys that are stacking the tires are right next to each other so they would have to wear masks the whole time. Jay stated that we can certainly inquire with the Expo Center to see if a second barn would be available for use or maybe we could have the Medicine Take Back portion outside the barn. Jodi confirmed that we are on Drug & Lab's schedule, but she has not yet talked with Liz Lenz to see if they are even interested in participating in the Medicine Take Back for this event with everything going on. Jay requested that Jodi try to get ahold of Liz Lenz today and run some of these ideas past her and she what her thoughts are as well as contact the Jail to see if they would be willing to provide volunteers for this event like they have in the past. Frank stated that he will contact Jerry Czarnecki at the City of Hastings to inquire about them providing staff to handle the tires like in the past.

Per Chairman Fiala, he feels that we (this committee) should have the HHW event as scheduled, but not do the Medicine Take Back portion of the event. He is also wondering if we could do the oil, we get revenue from that and it is very expensive to have Drug & Lab take the oil. He also suggested that a statement be added to the advertisement for this to stating that everyone needs to please stay in their car during the event, that a mask must be worn at all times and that there will be no Medicine Take Back at this event

Motion to proceed with the HHW event scheduled for September 19th, 2020 as planned excluding the Medicine Take Back portion with details at the discretion of members Jodi Pessell & Jay VanStee from the Health Department with advertising costs not to exceed \$500.00 made by Sarah Nelson, seconded by Jay VanStee and approved by a unanimous vote

Strategic Planning (Led By Sarah Nelson)

Please see Strategic Planning and Work Plan documents provided. Per Chairman Fiala, the question on the floor is where do we go with our planning and what's next for this group. Do we get some kind of a coordinator or do we give maybe some kind of stipend/mini grant to help a little bit to each of these local units of government that are doing recycling and struggling? Roundtable discussion was held regarding this and each committee member present gave their comments/thoughts on this subject (see Member Comments below).

Member Comments

Frank Fiala – asked Jim Brown to contact the Coordinator for Eaton County to get their contact information as well as their job description and the specific tasks that she performs.

Jodi Pessell – thinks it is a good idea to help out the local units of government that are struggling with recycling.

Jay VanStee – in terms of a coordinator, he thinks this is a great idea and what would suggest trying to come up with a job description of what that would like. Perhaps if there are other counties around that have a coordinator or someone similar we could start with what are they doing specifically, what is their job descriptions look like. He is excited at the prospect of Jim Brown's proposal for long term, he thinks it makes a lot of sense.

Matt Rosser – Allegan County has a Coordinator that is a County Employee and it seems to work good for them; he will get their Coordinator's contact information and pass it along to the committee as well as their job description and the specific tasks that he performs.

Vivian Conner –stated she is not in favor for a Coordinator unless she knows what that Coordinator's job is and how that person will help the Townships cause we don't need another Coordinator to produce a report with facts we already. We have spent a lot of money on a Coordinator that just collected data and put it together, it was stuff that we already knew.

Jim Brown – agreed with Vivian Conner's statement. He is basically going to continue with the Eaton County situation, even if Barry County did not go along with this long run, it is something Eaton County could do by itself but hopefully we will be a part of it.

Member Comments (Continued)

Sarah Nelson – stated that if we want to move forward on any sort of mini grants or assistance for Townships for recycling at this time cause, she feels like it is an urgent matter; so if we are going to take action on it, it should probably be fairly swift. However, she also doesn't know if anyone is willing to write up a Request For Proposal (RFP) to collect applications from Townships who want to get assistance, review those and do all the administration on that.

Tom Rook – thinks a Coordinator is a good idea and basically agrees with the other committee members. It would be great if Vivian Conner and Ben Geiger would support him re-nominating his position and then he can go get sworn in.

Public Comments

MaryAnn DeVries stated that she appreciates the committee thinking about the Townships and any help that we could give them to keep things going.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 9:41 a.m.

Approved at the 09-11-2020 meeting

Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee Strategic Planning 2020

Agenda

Plan on 30-45 minutes at each meeting for three meetings.

Item	Dates	
1 Ground rules	1/10	
2 Strengths- achievements since 2015, what are we good at	1/10	
3 Weaknesses- what could we improve	1/10	
4 Opportunities- where might we go?	2/14	
5 Threats- what might stand in our way? Barriers to success.	2/14	
6 Future- what are we proud of having become by 2025?	2/14	
7 Action- what can we do in 2020 to work toward (not accomplish) our 2025 vision?	2/14	
8 Set objectives to reach goal(s) in #7	3/13	} These can be generic- a subcommittee can flesh out a draft plan to bring back to the April meeting
9 Set strategies to reach objectives in #8	3/13	
10 Set an action plan with deliverables for strategies in #9	3/13	

1. Ground Rules

Do:

- Set an agenda for each session and stick to it
- Participate fully and be engaged
- Have knowledgeable people present
- One hour max. per session
- Start and end on time. Manage time well.
- Prioritize items and stay focused.
- Hand out materials ahead of time.
- Set timelines.
- Respect one another.
- Get support through consensus.

Do not:

- Let one participant or a few dominate the conversation.
- Lack a strong sense of purpose.
- Have a hidden agenda.
- Lose focus.
- Be indecisive.

2. Strengths

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
 - Planning with BEDHD
 - Promotion and advertising
 - Staffing and collaboration
 - Committee buy-in and support
- Recycling grant program
- Deer pickup program
- Extended landfill timeline/WM host community agreement
- Hired a coordinator
 - Website

3. Weaknesses

- Outreach
 - With the community
 - Website updates
 - Printed materials
 - With local governments
 - With the County Board of Commissioners
 - Periodic written reports
 - Annual report with presentation
- Internal communication and discussion- not communicating enough/well enough
- Need to move toward less implementation and more oversight
- Need to have clear objectives and stay focused
- Need to have a clear timeline for actions

4. Opportunities

- More township recycling drop-offs in “cold zones”
- Electronics recycling/drop-off
- Recycling education- flyers, website, inserts for existing newsletters or other publications (taxes etc.), outreach to kids
- Partner with Sunfield
- Build our own MERF in Barry County
- County-wide curbside recycling
- Mobile recycling collection station
- Township/LUG-wide recycling contracts

5. Threats/Obstacles

- Lack of money
- No MERF
- No real SWOC staff
 - Rely on volunteers and BEDHD
- Lack of public understanding/knowledge/education on recycling and its **intrinsic** value
- Current poor market conditions
- Politics
- Attitudes

6. Future vision

- In 2025, we are proud of having become a provider of a recycling option for each township.
- In 2025, we are proud of having become a catalyst for stopping a “throwaway society”
- In 2025, we are proud of having become a facilitator for convenient recycling available to anyone in the county.
- In 2025, we are proud of having become a catalyst to allow Barry County haulers to be accommodated by a local MERF.

7. 2020 Possible Actions

- Research a portable recycling unit, funding, and outlets
 - Meet with Morgan to learn more about what they do
 - Education/Outreach plan
 - 1 page how-to/options flyer
 - Newspaper ads/articles
- } Effective education

- Schools/PCCI
- Website updates
- Local business bag collections
 - Facebook
 - Put on township/LUG websites
- Recycling coordinator?

8. 2020 Objectives

Research

- Obj. 1.1** Develop an informational database of current successful recycling programs in Michigan
- Obj. 1.2** Develop an informational database of funding opportunities and possible match
- Obj. 1.3** Complete a cost analysis of a mobile recycling unit, including an option of having a local hauler provide these services

Education/Outreach

- Obj. 1.1** Develop an education/outreach/information strategy

Solid Waste Oversight Committee Annual Plan of Work FY2020

1.1	Action	Deliverable	How long do we expect this to take?	When would we like this to be done?	Who will do this?	Who will oversee this?	Expenses involved (list)	How much will those expenses cost?	Funding source(s)
Develop an informational database of current successful recycling programs in Michigan									
1.2	Action	Deliverable	How long do we expect this to take?	When would we like this to be done?	Who will do this?	Who will oversee this?	Expenses involved (list)	How much will those expenses cost?	Funding source(s)
Develop an informational database of funding opportunities and possible match									
	Research EGLE grants (check EGLE website)	Document of current funding opportunities with (at a minimum) funding source organization name, organization type, announcement and proposal deadlines, what the funding can be used for, how much finding is typically available, restrictions or requirements	8 hours		Ben Geiger	SWOC			
	Research other state and federal grants		48 hours		Ben Geiger	SWOC			
	Research local foundation grants		24 hours		Ben Geiger	SWOC			
	Research details on funding through LUGs		24 hours	By July meeting	Ben Geiger	SWOC			
	Reach out to other Michigan rural area recycling programs to see what their funding sources are		24 hours		Ben Geiger	SWOC			
1.3 Complete a cost analysis of a mobile recycling unit, including an option of having a local hauler provide these services									
	Action	Deliverable	How long do we expect this to take?	When would we like this to be done?	Who will do this?	Who will oversee this?	Expenses involved (list)	How much will those expenses cost?	Funding source(s)
	Get quotes from local haulers	Quote from Bernie's	n/a	already done	Tom Rook	SWOC- will discuss at July meeting	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.1 Develop an education/outreach/information strategy									
	Action	Deliverable	How long do we expect this to take?	When would we like this to be done?	Who will do this?	Who will oversee this?	Expenses involved (list)	How much will those expenses cost?	Funding source(s)

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

BARRY-EATON DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HASTINGS MI

AGENDA

AUGUST 14TH, 2020

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 4. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**
- 5. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (SEPTEMBER 19TH)**
- 6. STRATEGIC PLANNING (SARAH NELSON)**
- 7. MEMBER COMMENTS**
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DATES:

SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2020

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

BARRY-EATON DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HASTINGS MI

SIGN-IN

AUGUST 14TH, 2020

NAME (members Present on Zoom meeting)

1. Jodi Pessell
2. Jay Vanstee
3. Frank Fiala
4. Matt Rosser
5. Vivian Conner
6. Jim Brown
7. Sarah Nelson
8. Tom Rook
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

EXCUSED

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

GUEST

Mary Ann DeVries (Prairieville Township)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____