

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes January 14th, 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.

Members in Attendance:

Jodi Pessell
Tom Rook
Sarah Nelson
Bill Sweeney
Jim Brown
Patricia Rayl
Matt Rosser
Frank Fiala
Dave Jackson
Jay VanStee

Members Absent:

Sarah Moyer-Cole
Vivian Conner

Members of the Public:

Jerrie Fiala
Rachel Frantz

Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, will proceed with agenda as presented with the addition of the SWOC (Solid Waste Oversight Committee) Mini-Grant Program following the Recycling Coordinator Report.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the December 10th, 2021 meeting minutes made by Patricia Rayl, seconded by Jim Brown and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Comments

None.

Chairman Comments

None.

Budget/Trial Balance Update (Patricia Rayl)

Per Patricia Rayl, she does not have a budget update at this time as we have not yet received the Solid Waste Oversight Committee Trial Balance report for December 2021 from the county yet. Hopefully, we will receive these reports prior to next month's meeting so she should be able to give an update at that time.

Election of Officers

Per Chairman Fiala, per our By-laws, we have to elect new officers every year so this will need to be addressed at next month's meeting. The current officers are as follows: Frank Fiala – Chair, Tom Rook – Vice Chair, Jay VanStee – Secretary and Patricia Rayl – Treasurer. He would like the committee members to think about this and he would welcome anyone

Election of Officers (Continued)

that is interested in stepping up to be the Chair. He feels the other Officer positions are being very well handled at this time, but would welcome any new thoughts or suggestions and we will address this again at next month's meeting.

Recycling Coordinator Contract – Possible Extension

Per Chairman Fiala, he spoke with Michael Brown regarding what our options are for extending the Recycling Coordinator contract. He feels that as far as we have come and as successful as the program has been, it doesn't seem appropriate to go out for another Request for Proposal (RFP) and potentially bring in a brand new person to start all over again, it just doesn't make any sense at all. Michael Brown indicated that for services contracts, if it is the desire of the committee to extend the Recycling Coordinator contract then we can modify the current contract to reflect this and then present it to the County Commissioners. So, what he would like to do is have Sarah Nelson (Barry Conversation District) come up with a proposal for the next 12-24 months. Chairman Fiala asked if anyone on this committee has any objections to extending the current Recycling Coordinator contract and there were no objections. He requested that Sarah Nelson try to make some progress on this before next month's meeting so we can discuss this again at that time. He would like to have an updates on this at the February & March meetings so we can have it finalized at the April 8th meeting so it can be presented to the County Commissioners at a Committee of the Whole meeting.; once we have this done we would just need to get it over to Luella Dennison at the County so it can be put on the agenda. Sarah Nelson responded that her goal is to bring a draft to next month's meeting for the committee to discuss and if there are any modifications that need to be made she can make those changes and then the committee can revisit this again at the March meeting.

Annual Report of Activities to County Commissioners

Per Chairman Fiala, we have a desire to give the County Commissioners an annual report that will be comprised of what we (this committee) have done in the past year or so and what we plan to do in the next year or so along with a roster of the appointed Officers including their term expiration date and a roster of committee members including their meeting attendance. Jay VanStee stated that he would work with Rachel Frantz on this and they will have some sort of draft of this for next month's meeting.

Household Hazardous Waste - May 21st, 2022 (Jodi Pessell)

Per Jodi Pessell, we had to change the date for the May collection from the 7th to the 21st as the Barry Expo Center was not available on the 7th. She also contacted Drug & Laboratory and they have us on their schedule for May 21st as well. She also contacted Morgan from Eaton County and she has us down for that date so we will be getting two (2) trailers for tires. Eaton County did not apply for the tire grant this year because they had a lot of money left over from last year, so right now we have the tire grant to cover the May 21st collection, but we will not have the tire grant for the September 17th collection unless we apply for the grant ourselves. Our other options would be to pay for it ourselves or charge everyone a fee for the tire collection. Jodi Pessell stated that she would check with Morgan from Eaton County to see if they will be applying for the Tire Grant for next year and if so then we can piggyback off from that like we have done in the past. However, if Eaton County will not be applying for the Tire Grant next year then Chairman Fiala stated that if the process is pretty straight forward, we (this committee) should just apply for our own tire grant to cover the September 17th collection as well as the 2023 collection events. Rachel Frantz said that she would get with whoever she needs to at the County and start working on the Tire Grant application, but she will wait until she hears from Jodi Pessell as to whether or not Eaton County will be applying for the Tire Grant next year; that way she will know whether or not she is applying for just the September 17th collection event or if she will be applying for the 2023 collection events as well. Rachel Frantz stated she would reach out to Padnos again between now

Household Hazardous Waste - May 21st, 2022 (Jodi Pessell) (Continued)

and next month's meeting to invite them to attend the February 11th meeting so we can work on getting electronics added to the HHW collection events.

Recycling Coordinator

See Recycling Coordinator December 2021 Report (report was emailed to committee on 01/10/22).

SWOC Mini-Grant Program

Per Sarah Nelson, she reached out to Bonnie at the Barry Community Foundation to see if they would continue matching with our grants so the amount of the grant would be 50% from SWOC and 50% from the Barry Community Foundation; she is running this by her Board and will get back with Sarah to let her know the outcome. If the Barry Community Foundation does not wish to continue participating in our Mini-Grant Program, would we still have the Mini-Grant Program and would it still be the same? If so, she thinks we should just go ahead and advertise this as the last mini-grant we awarded was in 2017-2018. Sarah Nelson stated that the number of applications we get for the Mini-Grant Program is so small that she feels we should just go ahead and reinstate the program and advertise it again because the grants are so small and we award so little each year that even if the Barry Community Foundation says no it shouldn't make or break it. Chairman Fiala stated that he feels due to inflation costs we should increase the Mini-Grant Program amount awarded from a maximum of \$1,500.00 up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 for all parties.

Motion to increase the Mini-Grant Program amount to a maximum of \$4,000.00 (\$2,000.00 from the Barry Community Foundation and \$2,000.00 from the SWOC with applicant having to match the same \$2,000.00 so it would be a 1/3 match for each party) with a cap of \$20,000.00 total per budget year (increased from \$15,000.00) and to update the language in the SWOC By-Laws to include pre-existing programs made by Jay VanStee, seconded by Patricia Rayl and motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Member Comments

Jodi Pessell – None.

Tom Rook – None.

Sarah Nelson – she is putting together a survey regarding the Recycling Coordinator Contract that she will be sending out to this committee to get the their feedback as to how they feel this is going as far as Scope of Work; it will include all of the original Scope of Work, how well you think we are addressing that currently with the Recycling Coordinator position and how important do you think it is to continue including that in the Scope of Work. They aren't going to be able to continue everything they are currently doing plus taking on more responsibilities/tasks for the same amount of money, so she thinks they really need to focus in on what everyone thinks is useful and also sort of check in to make sure they are meeting the objectives of the current contract. So, please keep an eye out for this (it will be digital) and complete the survey as it is important to get participation from everyone on this committee so that they can have those things reflected in the proposal they will bring in February

Bill Sweeney – None.

Jim Brown – on page 2 of the Recycling Coordinator Report regarding the MRC updates, it states "more than half of Americans have a guilt trip when they don't know what item should be recycled, according to new research. The survey of 2,000 people found 58% of them play the guessing game about four (4) times a week when they're recycling their trash and 64% would like more guidance on how to properly so paper, plastic and

Member Comments (Continued)

other materials. That's why 72% feel recycling should be standardized and seven (7) out of ten (10) believe it's the government's job to do it." Per Waste Advantage Magazine, 64% of Americans don't fully understand their local recycling policies. Recycling Plastic Symbols is probably one of the biggest examples of that as #1 and #2 are "generally accepted" so does that mean they are or they aren't? Sometimes accepted for #4 and #5, well how much is sometimes? Usually not accepted #3 in other words those three (3) words generally, sometimes and usually are very vague when it comes to saying what do I do with this stuff? So the percentages listed above are not wrong because there is a lot of misconception of what you can and can't do when it comes to recycling. Other than that, we are still getting many other townships in our recycling unit and it is working out very well. He noticed that the amount of material that they are collecting is ever so slightly increasing; all things considered, it is very economical compared to what everyone else is doing.

Patricia Rayl – None.

Matt Rosser – None.

Dave Jackson – it was nice meeting everyone; it was an interesting first meeting with good discussion and he's looking forward to learning more about this as we go.

Jay VanStee – he just wanted to say that everything Jim Brown said rang true to him; just in his perception of what the issues are people are very confused so they tune it out cause it's just too much work to try to figure out. He agrees that the terms generally, sometimes and usually are vague and potentially part of the problem so the question becomes what is the solution? We agree that this handout is confusing and not helpful, then what do we really want to tell people in terms of how to determine what is recyclable? Can we seek to try to get the haulers on boards to say they are collecting the same things so that we can give a general message out that this is accepted or not accepted in our area? Per Sarah Nelson, she thinks that maybe this could be a long-term goal; however, in the short-term she feels that something like this is necessary for speaking to a wide audience, but we could also come up with specialized materials for each location that people are recycling at. So for example, we could help Hastings Township create a flyer about the specifics of recycling that could be sent out; we could work with all those different entities to say okay what do you accept and not accept (include a couple of examples) and make that into something that people could hang on their fridge or something like that.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 10:17 a.m.

Approved at the 02-11-2022 meeting

December 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 SWOC meeting, no subcommittee meetings
- *Provides monthly progress reports to the SWOC*
 - Provided written monthly report at SWOC meeting
- *Assists the SWOC chair and treasurer in budget development and administration*
 - Updated mini grant program documents to reflect current year
- *On behalf of the SWOC, reports to the County Board of Commissioners to provide program updates*
 - No activity this period
- *At the direction of the SWOC, communicates and coordinates with neighboring county recycling programs as needed*
 - Took tour of Kalamazoo Hazardous Waste Facility Friday 12/17/2021
 - Obtained information for pesticide disposal to hand out at next HHW event
 - Discussed contractor disposal prices
- *At the direction of the SWOC, serves as a representative in recycling user groups, for example the Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) and regional subgroups*
 - Attended National Zero Waste Virtual Conference, December 8-9 2021
 - [Conference Notes](#)
 - *Resource Recycling News:*
 - "Recycle Ann Arbor reopened the city of Ann Arbor's MRF this month, marking the first time in years that recyclables will be sorted locally in the Michigan municipality. The MRF is officially opened as of Dec. 1, according to MLive.com, which wrote about outreach efforts that are being conducted as the facility begins operating. Now operational, the MRF accepts typical single-stream recyclables, including mixed paper, OCC, cartons, metal cans, glass, PET, HDPE and PP. Recycle Ann Arbor is one of several nonprofit recycling operations that joined together to create the Alliance of Mission-Based Recyclers this year." [Michigan MRF starts back up this month - Resource Recycling \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
 - "Global packaged goods companies disclosed their post-consumer resin usage for 2020, and most of the biggies reported purchasing more recycled plastic than the year before. Coca-Cola Co. had 11.5% post-consumer resin (PCR) across its packaging portfolio, PepsiCo 5%, Keurig Dr Pepper 2%, Danone 10.3%, and Unilever 11%. Those were all up from 2019, except for Danone, which reported a slight decrease." [Coca-Cola and others report using more recycled plastic - Resource Recycling \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
 - "Low population density, winding roads and long distances to the MRF are contributing factors to challenging recycling economics in the area. In order to have drop-off recycling opportunities, and due to the lack of private sector service, the authority needed to establish in-house operations...To balance the yearly fluctuations of a waste management system funded by waste disposal revenue, the authority added other revenue streams. Now the system is supported by five different revenue streams: rates and charges, recycling revenue, contract fees, designation fees, and fees on the disposal of waste in the in-county landfill" [Appalachian trails - Resource Recycling \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
 - [Aluminum can producers to lobby for deposit legislation - Resource Recycling \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
 - [December brings across-the-board drops in material values - Resource Recycling \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)