

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes July 8th, 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 Present:

Frank Fiala
Sarah Moyer-Cale
Tom Rook
Jay VanStee
Sarah Nelson
Jim Brown
Vivian Conner (attended but didn't sign-in)
Dave Jackson (attended but didn't sign-in)

Members Absent:

Bill Sweeney
Jodi Pessell
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 June 10th, 2022 meeting minutes as presented made by Jim Brown, seconded by Jay VanStee and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Recycling Coordinator Report (Rachel Frantz)

See Recycling Coordinator June 2022 Report (report was emailed to committee on 07/05/22).

Treasurer's Report

At last month's meeting, Chairman Fiala expressed that we would need someone on this committee to volunteer to fill the Treasurer position that is currently vacant. So, he would like everyone that is present to keep this in mind for the remainder of the meeting and then we will circle back to this before adjourning.

Old Business: Review Mini-Grant Application Received & Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event-September Tire Help and Drug & Lab Audit

Review Mini-Grant Application Received:

We received a Mini-Grant Application to start recycling for pop bottles & cans (returnables) at Gull Lake Park. Chairman Fiala stated that there is some concern about the containers that they are asking for as they seem pretty expensive. Sarah Moyer-Cale expressed that she would like to know if they are going to co-locate these containers because there are those people that will walk to the recycling container to discard of their item(s) rather than walk to the trash container just because it's closer; Rachel Frantz responded that she did emphasize the importance of pairing all trash with recycling so assuming from this they only have one (1) trash can and then they are going to pair it with this one (1) recycling container. She also mentioned to the applicant about signage and how important it is to have that so people know, otherwise they are just going to have a

Old Business: Review Mini-Grant Application Received & Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event-September Tire Help and Drug & Lab Audit (Continued)

Review Mini-Grant Application Received (Continued):

ton of contamination. The application does say they are going to have “a group of young people” be responsible for collecting the pop bottles & cans, making sure they are clean enough to return and then they get to keep the money from them. Rachel Frantz expressed that she would like to discuss this further with the applicant and may be suggest some different containers; the committee agreed with this.

Jay VanStee expressed that there are actually two (2) parcels there; the Prairieville Township parcel is adjacent to a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) parcel and they are actually about a little less than two (2) acres a piece. However, just looking at the photo and going off his memory, there are restrooms there so he would assume that there are also cans inside each restroom; Vivian Conner added that it is also gated so you have to pay to enter. Jim Brown expressed that the current proposal needs to be redone as the way they are thinking about doing it now isn't going to work, especially with the amount of money they are asking for. Jay VanStee commented they are proposing their match as operational costs and historically we have not allowed the applicants to do this as the purpose of the grant “is for infrastructure and is not intended to be a source of funds for day-to-day, staff time, utility costs, trucking costs, etc.”

Jim Brown indicated that there has to be a better of doing this, especially for the cost and Sarah Nelson interjected that on the other hand we don't really want to deny their application as we struggle to get applicants for this program as it is now, so we should try to figure out a way to make it work. Jim Brown stated that you have to manage it so that works for the use intended and their proposal won't do it, so if you let something kind of slip through just because it “feels good” and then it doesn't work or whatever the case may be, that doesn't send a good message to anybody, let alone spending the money. Jay VanStee expressed that we should probably look into how much trash they are actually collecting there and that will help form how may recycling containers they really need; the committee agreed with this. Dave Jackson thinks these are some good questions and that Rachel Frantz should get back with the applicant to discuss these and then we can revisit this again next month because we can spend a lot of time talking about this, but it's not going to get us any answers until she really refines this and comes up with a better & less expensive option than what was proposed. Rachel Frantz stated that she has to go to Delton today, so while she in the area she can also swing by the park to see what is there as well.

Motion to have Recycling Coordinator, Rachel Frantz, review the Mini-Grant Application with the applicant to have the current proposal modified/refined and bring it back to this committee next month for final approval made by Dave Jackson, seconded by Jay VanStee and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

HHW Collection Event September Tire Help and Drug & Lab Audit:

Chairman Fiala is wondering if there is anything we can do in advance to try to hire a group or is there community services that would help with the tires for the September HHW collection. The one (1) concern that Jay VanStee has is again, there is a certain liability that we are talking about as the tires are heavy, there is metal etc. We do give the workers gloves/personal protective equipment, but that is something that he still worries about with using volunteers for the tires because at some point someone is going to throw out their back or fall off the trailer or something else along those lines; so, to the extent that someone just wants to volunteer, you've got to have a certain level of physicality to be able to do that and if we just had a “John Smith” volunteer what would that mean in terms of liability for us (this committee)? Jay VanStee explained that best-case scenario would be to have six (6) people per trailer; two (2) to unload, two (2) to stack & two (2) to facilitate the tires down the truck and we normally have two (2) trailers. It was suggested that if we will not

Old Business: Review Mini-Grant Application Received & Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event-September Tire Help and Drug & Lab Audit (Continued)

HHW Collection Event September Tire Help and Drug & Lab Audit (Continued):

be using inmate volunteers from the jail, then we could possibly look into getting some of the Cadets back as volunteers. Jim Brown interjected and said let's go back to something that is real life regarding this whole volunteering thing; for example, let's have volunteers that we are going to pay \$20.00/hour and we need ten (10) people, put a price tag on this thing & get it done because that is the only way it is going to happen. Sarah Nelson also asked what are the liability issues even if we pay the volunteers? Dave Jackson said that he and Vivian Conner can get with Michael Brown to find out what the County's policy is regarding paid/unpaid volunteers at an event like this and will report their findings back to the committee. Sarah Moyer-Cale wondered if we could set it up as like a fundraiser for the football team in that we would donate to the team in exchange for them volunteering. However, Sarah Nelson expressed that she still thinks it is just really difficult for the coaches to coordinate permissions with the parents and everything, so we would run a high risk of a football team not actually showing up or backing out a week before the event like the last time we tried to do this. Jim Brown asked if possibly hiring people from that same company that we hire to pick up the trailers full of tires is a possibility, we would pay them to unload/facilitate/load the tires and then take the trailers away so they would be there from start to finish. Rachel Frantz wasn't sure if that would be an option or not, but she would definitely inquire about that and report her findings back to the committee.

The other things Chairman Fiala wanted to bring up was specifically the Drug & Laboratory Invoice as every year the invoice seems to be to increase as the last invoice was almost \$20,000.00 and it occurred to him that we do not do any sort of audit on what their invoice is charging us for, so shouldn't we have someone look at that to get some feel for the value, weights or what they are taking. He doesn't know what we can do or what we should do, but he just wanted to get it on the table for discussion. Jay VanStee couldn't agree more with that, but he normally works with the tires so he usually isn't involved with this aspect of the collection. However, just by looking at the detail on their invoice, he doesn't see how there would even be a way for us to reconcile it; for example, the most current invoice shows that we collected five (5) pounds of lighters and eight (8) pounds of electronic cigarettes, which seems like a ton, but again the members of this committee don't have anything to gauge that on; Vivian Conner agreed with this as the invoice is very complicated & difficult to understand. Rachel Frantz stated she will contract Drug & Laboratory to inquire about the refund check we got from them for the last collection as they stated we overpaid as well as request more clarification on the breakdown of the invoice, the quantity and exactly what everything means.

Jay VanStee asked if it would be worthwhile to have a person at these events to keep an eye on what Drug & Laboratory is doing to the extent that we can and try to monitor that more closely? Chairman Field replied with yes, that is his gut feel. Since Jodi Pessell is more involved with the operations of these collection events, Jay VanStee said he will discuss this with her prior to next month's meeting. Dave Jackson voiced that he doesn't know if there is anyone on this committee that is capable of looking at the collection report and audit it as it is coming in under the gun as he thinks that is a near impossible task for anyone on this committee to do; however, he does like the suggestion of speaking with The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) about other counties' events and see what they are spending on these types of collections; However, he thinks what it would also be reasonable if they all take a few minutes in the next day or so to really review the invoice/collection report in detail and if anyone has any questions send them to Rachel Frantz, then next week she can send Drug & Laboratory our list of questions so we can get some answers as to why & how much we are getting charged for this stuff. So, let's make Rachel Frantz, Recycling Coordinator, the point person for this so we can provide all of our questions to her, then she can consolidate them and then pass them along to Drug & Laboratory.

New Business:

None.

Public Comment

None.

Chairman Comment

Per Chairman Fiala, we will carry over the discussion of needing a new Treasurer to next month's meeting.

Member Comments

Sarah Moyer-Cale – None.

Tom Rook – None.

Jay VanStee – None.

Sarah Nelson – None.

Jim Brown – None.

Vivian Conner – None.

Dave Jackson – None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 10:19 a.m.

Approved at the 08-12-2022 meeting

June 2022 Report

Recycling Coordinator Task Deliverables

Administrative Assistance to the Solid Waste Oversight Committee (SWOC)

- Attend SWOC committee and subcommittee meetings, provide monthly progress reports to the SWOC
 - Attended SWOC meeting, no subcommittee meetings
- Administer the County's Solid Waste mini-grant program and provide technical assistance to applicants
 - Followed up with Prairieville Parks and Recreation about mini-grant proposal (6/17)
- On behalf of the SWOC, report to the County Board of Commissioners to provide program updates
 - Attended COW meeting June 7 for MMCE grant application
 - Attended BOC meeting June 14 for MMCE grant application
 - Attended COW meeting June 21 for EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling grant application
- Coordinate with neighboring county recycling programs
 - Met with Morgan, Eaton County, to discuss MMCE and EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling grants (6/21)
- Serve as a representative in recycling user groups
 - Meijer now accepting plastic plant containers for recycling, [Plastic plant container recycling offered at Meijer garden centers | WOODTV.com](#)
 - An experiment by Rice University and Ford turned mixed plastic from old vehicles into graphene, which was then used in a polyurethane foam for new vehicles. [Mixed auto plastics turned into circular graphene - Plastics Recycling Update \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
 - [UBC price falls sharply, but most other grades show consistency - Resource Recycling \(resource-recycling.com\)](#)
 - [Styrofoam-munching superworms could hold key to plastic upcycling \(phys.org\)](#)

Solid Waste Management Planning

- Assist with applying for a Materials Management Planning grant and implementation of the grant, at the direction of the SWOC
 - Submitted application for MMCE grant (6/14)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

- Assist with Household Hazardous Waste collection events, under the direction of the BEDHD and the SWOC
 - Created spring 2022 HHW summary
 - Sent request to Sandy Pierce of Padnos to be the Certified Electronics Recycler for the upcoming four (4) collections under the EGLE Rural Electronics Grant
 - Submitted the EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling grant application (6/28)

Recycling Outreach and Education to County Residents

- Write educational articles and press releases
 - Published *Textile Recycling* in the Hastings Reminder (6/18)
- Maintain and serve as the primary contact for the website: [barrycountyrecycles.org](#)
 - Updated all relevant pages on [barrycountyrecycles.org](#) and interactive map with new Village of Nashville Transfer Station information
 - Carol Foster emailed requesting information on event recycling
 - Reached out to Padnos, Waste Management, and Les's to request recycling services at Summerfest beer tent
 - Emails continue with MaryAnn with Yankee Springs parks on mini-grant application
- Produce online/electronic content to be published on the website and social media
 - Spring HHW summary published on HHW page of website
- Work with community groups to promote recycling awareness in the local schools
 - Submitted agenda requests for; Hastings, Lakewood, Maple Valley, Delton, and Thornapple Kellogg school districts to discuss recycling.
 - Most wanted to meet to discuss prior to meeting with board

- TK is not interested in expanding at this time - will reconsider after completion of construction of new building
- No response from Delton
- Met with Barry County Schools Superintendents to discuss recycling activities and needs and distribute mini-grant applications;
 - Matt Goebel, Hastings Area School Systems (6/28)
 - Katherine Bertolini, Maple Valley School District (6/28)
 - Steve Skalka, Lakewood Public Schools (6/30)

Assistance to Local Units of Government (LUG)

- At the direction of the SWOC, serve as a liaison to local units of government within Barry County, and offer support in the following ways:
 - Disperse information on recycling in Barry County and resources available
 - Attended Village of Nashville council meeting (6/9)