

# BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

## Approved Meeting Minutes May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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:

Frank Fiala  
Tom Rook  
Jim Brown  
Matt Rosser  
David Jackson  
Jay VanStee  
Jodi Pessell  
Vivian Conner

### Members Absent:

Bill Sweeney  
Sarah Nelson  
Sarah Moyer-Cale

### Members of the Public:

Jerrie Fiala

### Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, will proceed with agenda as presented.

### Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting minutes made by Matt Rosser, seconded by Jay VanStee and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

### Treasurer's Report

Per Chairman Fiala, as many of you are aware, Patricia Rayl, who was the SWOC Treasurer, is no longer with the Village of Middleville and therefore she will no longer be our Village Representative on this committee. The Treasurer position is an important part of this committee; so, between now and next month's meeting, he would like everyone to be thinking about who would be able to take over this position and we'll discuss further at that time.

### Recycling Coordinator Report (Rachel Frantz)

See Recycling Coordinator April 2022 Report (report was emailed to committee on 05/09/22).

### Old Business: Recycling Coordinator Contract, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Spring Event, Mini Grant & Materials Management Planning

**Recycling Coordinator Contract Extension:** Per Chairman Fiala, the updated version of the Recycling Coordinator Contract Extension Proposal was provided to the committee members for review prior to this meeting so we can vote on it today. However, before voting he would like to discuss this and get feedback from the committee members regarding their thoughts on this. Jay VanStee stated that from his perspective

**Old Business: Recycling Coordinator Contract, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Spring Event, Mini Grant & Materials Management Planning (Continued)**

**Recycling Coordinator Contract Extension (Continued):** this is what we have been advocating for and it is exactly what we need. Sarah Nelson and Rachel Frantz have both demonstrated (to him) unequivocally the value of this; speaking personally from his perspective, this is a no brainer, it's an easy decision and he is 100% in support of this. Clearly, we wouldn't have been able to make any headway with the committee itself as we all have full time jobs, we all have other commitments and having Rachel Frantz there as a person that can commit to Solid Waste Oversight in the county is critical and he feels her reports have demonstrated pretty accurately the work that she has done so far over the last year to push this forward. He thinks we've set the base for a lot of development in building from the idea that was just a pilot project and he thinks we have made a lot of ground. Jodi Pessell agreed with Jay's statement and is also in favor of keeping Rachel Frantz on as the Recycling Coordinator. Tom Rook expressed that based on the amount of "no responses", there were quite a few Local Units of Government that didn't respond, but there is a lot more that she can be doing over the next year that would help us expand curbside pickup and different things to recycle, so he would like to see Rachel Frantz stay on as the Recycling Coordinator. Jim Brown stated that if we don't have somebody on a full-time basis then nothing is going to get done so he is also in favor of Rachel Frantz staying on as the Recycling Coordinator. Vivian Conner stated that this is still entrusted to this Board, which is a part of County Government, so we still have to be able to answer questions and be fiscally responsible, so that's why she is asking if Rachel Frantz is going to be spending more time on this than in the first year when we went from 18,000.00 now to \$31,000.00 (if we're talking just wages and she doesn't have last years contract, but she assumes some of that \$18,000.00 was for other services). People are going to want to know why the increase and that's why she is asking these questions because Rachel does get a wage too as she also works for the Conversation District so there is wages there as well; that's why she is asking for clarification so she can answer intelligently instead of saying "I don't know, it was vague."

Jim Brown interjected that everything Rachel Frantz has done so far for the pilot project (whatever that time spent was) and in order to take this farther you are going to have to not only take that time and when you feel like you just can't keep going anymore, you're going to have to burn that forward. So, his answer is that is yes there going to be more time spent on this and he can guarantee there will be because if you don't the job isn't going to get done, it's that simple. Jay VanStee expressed that from his perspective, clearly we advocated for this for many years and his perception is that Sarah Nelson sharpened her pencil and gave us a really, really, really good deal on the pilot project with the idea that we would be able to demonstrate (in clear terms of value) in having this person and therefore going forward would be billed at more of a fair or going rate; that is how he envisioned and understood the rates. Chairman Fiala agreed with this as he thought the low ball was just to get something going as we have been at a standstill for so long trying to define, understand and move forward to determine what the cost would be. Matt Rosser agreed that this is a good decision and it's a good idea to have a Recycling Coordinator; however, he also agrees with Vivian Conner in that maybe ask if there is going to be more that she is going to do to justify the increase in cost. He thinks it is important for sure to have a Recycling Coordinator as one is needed to keep things going. Jay VanStee and Jodi Pessell expressed that they both feel that Sarah Nelson clearly spelled out the additional tasks proposed including justification for extension contract and increase in cost as well as the responsibilities & scope of work that the Recycling Coordinator would be responsible for. Jim Brown mentioned that since having the Recycling Coordinator, there is definitely more public awareness about recycling as there is "something going on that wasn't happening before" and once you've got people's attention at least then you can say okay now let's get serious about some really hardcore recycling issues. Chairman Fiala stated that if there are no other comments, he would now like to vote on the Recycling Coordinator Contract Extension Proposal.

**Old Business: Recycling Coordinator Contract, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Spring Event, Mini Grant & Materials Management Planning (Continued)**

**Recycling Coordinator Contract Extension (Continued):** Motion to approve the twelve-month (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023) Recycling Coordinator Contract Extension in the amount of \$31,000.00 (\$7,750.00 per three (3)-month contract period) made by Jim Brown, seconded by Jay VanStee. Roll Call Vote: Matt Rosser - Yes, Jim Brown - Yes, Tom Rook - Yes, Frank Fiala - Yes, Dave Jackson - Yes, Jay VanStee - Yes, Jodi Pessell - Yes and Vivian Conner - No. Motion Carried.

**HHW Spring Event:** Jodi Pessell stated that the upcoming HHW collection will be next weekend May 21<sup>st</sup> and it's going to be really busy. She had a meeting with the police and we should have enough volunteers. She will be meeting Rachel Frantz out at the Barry County Fair Grounds to go through where they will be setting up the electronics and that is the last piece of it, figuring out the traffic flow. The spring collection is normally busier than the fall collection and now with having electronics, the traffic is going to be the biggest thing as there is also an antique show going on out there at the same time. There will be eight (8) or nine (9) Health Department employees that will be working at this event, we have enough police at the barn and then the Posse will bring in Reserve Officers to help with the traffic control. Rachel Frantz has volunteers for the electronics so we just need to know how many employees from the City of Hastings will be doing the tires. Jay VanStee or Jodi Pessell will follow up with Sarah Moyer-Cale regarding this to make sure they will still be providing four (4) to five (5) City of Hastings employees to work the HHW event. Vivian Conner said that she received an email from Michelle Newman at Community of Corrections saying that we should have three (3) to four (4) people to help out at this event and that they have all been given Jay VanStee's contact information. Jodi Pessell stated that she talked with one person that will be calling her back and Jay VanStee said that two (2) people reached out to him; Jodi followed up with one (1) of those two (2) people. Vivian Conner stated she will reach back out to Michelle Newman to give her an update that we have only heard from a couple of people so we could still use a couple more volunteers for the tires.

**Mini-Grant:** No applications received yet.

**Material Management Planning:** Jay VanStee stated that he attended the Material Management County Engagement Grant webinar and it sounds like the grant is available. They are really pushing it out to all counties as they are trying to give \$9,000.00 per county to assist with making this first step essentially, at least committing to the making The Plan and they will also be providing some training & resources. He was hoping to confer with Rachel Frantz, but it seems like a no brainer that we would certainly want to do this. The only question he had was they really are pushing the idea of collaborating with other counties (they will give you a little bit more money if you collaborate), so he doesn't know if that is something we want to consider or not. It seems to him that this is to try to get everybody on the same page, they talked about shifting from Solid Waste Management to Materials Management, but they aren't really defined. Since the grant application is due June 15<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Fiala would like a motion to be made for the meeting minutes so we can get going on this.

**Motion to direct Rachel Frantz to apply for the Material Management County Engagement Grant on behalf of this committee by the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline made by Jay VanStee, seconded by Jodi Pessell and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

### **New Business**

None.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Chairman Comment**

None.

### **Member Comments**

**Tom Rook** – He is ready for the upcoming HHW collection; he will be bringing four (4) drums for oil out to the Barry County Fairgrounds around 2:00 pm on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Jim Brown** – None.

**Matt Rosser** – None.

**Dave Jackson** – Just a reminder that Rachel Frantz will be presenting this committee's Annual Report next Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am, so if anyone wants to come and support Rachel feel free to come to the County Commission meeting next week.

**Jay VanStee** – Just a couple of things; so, the electronics recycling is a little bit of new wrinkle and he knows we are a little bit concerned with logistics of how we deal with people if they show up with both tires and electronics, and how we are going to route out that. Jodi Pessell stated that she planned on going out there this afternoon to get an idea of what should be set up where in relation to traffic flow. The electronics truck will be coming on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, so we just have to tell them where we want it placed. As far as the logistics and traffic flow go, she thinks they will end up putting it where it used to be when we did electronics in the past. We just need to figure out what to do if someone has tires, electronics & oil and how we are going to feed them through the line in the most efficient way.

**Jodi Pessell** – None.

**Vivian Conner** – None.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 9:55 a.m.

Approved at the 06-10-2022 meeting