

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

Approved Meeting Minutes May 10th, 2019

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
Jim Brown
Regina Young
Ben Geiger (attended via phone)

Members Absent:

Brent Cowan
Duane Weeks
Sarah Nelson
Jerry Czarnecki
Tom Rook

Members of the Public:

Jerrie Fiala
Sarah Archer
Jay VanStee

Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, will proceed with agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Per Chairman Fiala, since there is not a quorum present, approval of the April 12th, 2019 meeting minutes will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Public Comments

None.

Chairman Comments

Chairman Fiala would like to discuss the concept of where we go from here after our contract with Sarah Archer/Iris is up in June 2019. The other thing he would like to discuss is that people are bringing in very large quantities of tires during the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events. Historically, when there is a river clean-up, we have been accepting those tires at no charge as just a public service; he talked to the person from the Game Area, and they pick up a small amount of tires during the year and it is very difficult and expensive for them to get rid of the tires they pick (they take them to Allegan or someplace) so Frank indicated that it would be reasonable for us to accept those at the HHW event since they are picking up from public lands.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (May 4th)

Per Jay VanStee, he feels the HHW event went really well even though there was a little issue with where we were going to put the semi-trailers with it being wet, but we figured it out and everything turned out great.

Per Jodi Pessell, the thing that helped was that we had enough people to work the event and there was a lot of police presence, which helped keep people calm.

Per Chairman Fiala, he would like to propose that for future events we accept the first ten (10) tires for free and then charge \$1.00 per tire (without rim) and \$2.00 per tire (with rim) for anything over ten (10) tires. Per Regina Young, she thinks we should check with Jeff Krmarik on how we can do this since our advertisements have to go through him for the Tire Grant to send them to DEQ as part of the grant, we

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (May 4th) (Continued)

would have a slippery slope way of how do we communicate to the public that we will be charging for anything over ten (10) tires because we can't legally ever condone them bringing more than ten (10).

Per Ben Geiger, he thinks it would be a good idea to send out some sort of press release of how many tires we took out of the community/Barry County just to show how much we have done. It is very, very important work that we (this committee) does so anytime we can celebrate a win we should definitely do so.

Printing Of Recycling And Hazardous Waste Guide

Per Jim Brown, he does not think printing more copies of the Recycling and Hazardous Waste Guide is a good idea; as far as getting information out to the public, in his mind that particular expense is a waste of time and money. We could take a trifold with the basic information that the average person needs to know, put it into the tax notices in June/July for every township and 19,200 people would see it when they open up there tax bill.

Per Sarah Archer, she and Sarah Nelson are still waiting to hear back from Fred Jacobs to reschedule a meeting to discuss how much it would cost to have the Recycling and Hazardous Waste Guide reprinted.

Recycling Coordinator Program Report

Per Sarah Archer, they are just keeping up-to-date with the website and are adding new information as they receive it. She also made a presentation to the Delton Rotary yesterday; they had very good questions and it is still very evident to her that the education component is really needed; folks still really don't understand or know where to take their materials and how to deal with them.

She now has a total of 7 (seven) resolutions that have been passed; Orangeville will be presenting that at their board meeting this month. She has not heard back from any others that she has contacted in regards to whether or not they were presenting the resolution and if they had received support for that.

She has been communicating with Jim Brown about a lot of different ideas for making things happen and probably the most potential right now is that Eaton County; the Sunfield Township Board had determined that they were going to be closing their recycling center and Jeff went in front of his Board this week and they had decided to exercise their right of first refusal and actually purchased that Sunfield site for \$1.00. So, it is now the County's site and we have sent a letter of interest to work with them in advance of that meeting. It is all new and fresh so we are just kind of waiting now for Jeff's next move and see what we need to do to continue and begin a conversation about what it to happen with that site.

She also attended the Barry County Townships Supervisors meeting at Jim Brown's invitation to kind of also talk about going forward, but unfortunately there was low attendance at that meeting. However, they still had some good discussion around recycling and what could happen, what needs to happen, etc. So, again a lot of good feedback and input.

The DEQ is now EGLE, that transitioned and she was recently at a meeting with a couple of EGLE folks and it is becoming fairly evident to them that without some local communication to the current administration that Part 115 is probably not high on their priority list and won't move this fiscal year. So, they were basically making a plea to counties to write letters to the Governor and/or legislators because their feeling is that because the funding mechanism was passed last year that had Part 115 amendments and if that bill passed as well then the counties would be sitting with money in their hands right now and obviously without the passage of that bill to update the Solid Waste Planning Laws, that is not going to happen. So, she would recommend that some form of a letter or resolution or something that would go to the Governor's office or go to some of the State Legislators that might be an important next step. Chairman Fiala requested that Sarah Archer draft a sample letter/resolution for this committee to forward.

Recycling Coordinator Program Report (Continued)

She was also hoping to be prepared to have a final recommendations report to this committee at this meeting but she is not prepared to do that today. She has been dealing with a couple of medical issues and personal things so she would ask for some leniency in that and will get that to this committee as soon as she can.

Per Chairman Fiala, the question of the end of the contract with Iris coming up and kind of what we might do next. We invited all the township supervisors to the Recycling Forum that was held and Jim Brown has invited Sarah Archer to the Township Supervisors meeting; the feedback from these two events are really important and the County Commissioners depend heavily on what the Townships want. He suggested we put together a little electronic survey with four (4) to five (5) questions and if we could get a committee of may be Ben Geiger, Jim Brown and Sarah Archer to get feedback from the supervisors of here is what we would like to do, what do you think or something really simple so you can feel that whether or not you have the townships support.

He spoke with Sarah Archer and asked her to put together an option of continuing in some fashion or going out for another RFP for whatever we might do. He would personally like to not start all over again with an RFP, maybe we need some consulting service or something right at this juncture as he sees it in really simple terms that this is really the toughest for recycling that occurred since he has been involved with this committee for a dozen years or so and it is about the toughest right now because the product that they sell there is not the market right now. So they are developing markets and doing things, and in his view this is the worst of times and once we get through this things should be pick up and we should be a lot better. So, he would really hate to abandon ship after all this committee has invested and just let it go by the wayside because some of the townships are very challenged and if we don't give them some help and support he thinks we are going to send a lot more to landfills. So, as a Solid Waste Oversight Committee what do you think would be of polling the townships or asking something of the townships to get the kind of support that they might proceed and that we might proceed with this.

Per Ben Geiger, township support is imperative because the Recycling Coordinator contract was for them and to improve and enhance programs at a local level. So demonstrating value is pretty important. He thinks Jim Brown would be a natural leader to kind of host a discussion with the supervisors since he is one of them and he is a leader on this issue. So, he would really ask him the best way for getting township input. Ben stated that instead of an email he would rather just call each township supervisor personally and ask them a few questions as this would probably be a more effective route. Jim Brown agreed with this.

Per Jim Brown, he thinks they are there basically waiting to see what this group would come up with that they could work with; the townships that don't have anything are waiting for something that they can put their arms around, well they don't have that and the ones that are doing something they say well we are doing something and if you can come up something better we will listen. He thinks we can talk to them all day long but we will still wind up hearing the same thing which is basically nothing at this point until we come up with something and to be honest the one potential program this mobile thing of literally coming into your township every other week or whatever, he thinks that would work but unfortunately there is no place to take that material once you collect it so you are dead in the water until something like that changes. This deal with Sunfield is going in the right direction but it is going to be like every other county basically it is going to go on the back burner while people "think about it" and we will be talking about this at the same time next year. So, he really doesn't have a lot of patience for just talking about things and hoping something happens.

Ben Geiger asked is there is a way that we can kind of create a pilot program guide for townships so that they can start up something that we can take to these townships that aren't participating and say hey we are here to help townships start their own recycling program or enhance their current one and you don't have on here in this township, if you would like to start one here is kind of a startup guide of what you need to have and this where you would need to go to get resources and rather than have them take the first step may be we help them in taking that first step.

Per Sarah Archer, she feels we really are just breaking the surface of where we need to be and it is a challenging time, but there is funding now within EGLE to distribute back to local communities and counties when there is a plan, we could apply for grants to start something that would benefit everyone that is interested in being involved. Her goal is to

Recycling Coordinator Program Report (Continued)

be ready when the next round of grants comes around to be able to say this is what we want to do and working with Eaton County hopefully we will keep prodding them along too and keep that ball rolling with Sunfield. Ben Geiger stated that he thinks that is a natural thing to build our next step around, the State Grant, if we are able to go to the Townships and say hey we have an opportunity to help you guys out and we want to involve everybody. Per Sarah Archer, the grants right now are specifically for infrastructure so it would be for like purchasing trucks or a building or make improvements to an existing recycling location. Right now at this point in time, there are not really grants for specifically administrating a program or staffing or technical assistance.

Ben Geiger stated that at this point he doesn't think we should miss out any grant opportunities because we aren't getting all the townships involved. Jim Brown stated that the problem is that the townships are trapped in the old business model of basically just collecting all this stuff and it is going to a single stream facility for "recycling" that particular business model is taking a beating to the point now that the most money that Waste Management wants to spend in the next two (2) years is buying landfills. Having said that, he thinks there is room for both but a source separated type system, especially in a rural area, there isn't any out there and even in a metropolitan area, Grand Rapids has just shut their collection site down. No matter what you collect, you have to do something with it and that is going to be the challenge.

Per Ben Geiger, Jim Brown's model has won received awards so he thinks we should really try to emulate that as we look for infrastructure stuff.

Motion to renew the Recycling Coordinator contract with Sarah Archer/Iris for another two (2) years until 2021 made by Jim Brown; since there is not a quorum present, this motion will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Member Comments

Ben Geiger – everybody around this table and on this committee has moved this county forward, we are not a county that has forgot about recycling and we are not a county that has ignored the legal responsibility of the Solid Waste Committee; sometimes it feels like we aren't going but we are going somewhere and we have gone somewhere and we should be very proud.

Jodi Pessell – None.

Jim Brown – we skipped number 7 (seven) on the agenda.

Regina Young – None.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 10:00 a.m.

Approved at the 06-12-2019 meeting

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

BARRY-EATON DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HASTINGS MI

SIGN-IN

MAY 10TH, 2019

NAME

1. Gerried Frank Fiala

2. Zoe Russell

3. Jim Brown

4. Reginald Young

5. My Van

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

EXCUSED

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

GUEST

Stevie Archer

BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

BARRY-EATON DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HASTINGS MI

AGENDA

MAY 10TH, 2019

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 5. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**
- 6. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT (MAY 4TH)**
- 7. PRINTING OF RECYCLING AND HARZARDOUS WASTE GUIDE**
- 8. RECYCLING COORDINATOR PROGRAM REPORT**
- 9. MEMBER COMMENTS**
- 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

Barry County SWOC
Recycling Program Report – May 10, 2019
Sarah Archer, Iris Waste Diversion Specialists, Inc.

The following is a summary of activity during April 2019

Phase 2 – Early Implementation Phase – January - June 2018

Activity 4 – Webpage Development and Content Management

Website

Added

- Information on recycling foam products added to the 2GO Zero Guide

In Progress

- 2GO Zero Guide (Quick Reference Guide) – breaking down by material to add to specific pages on website

Activity 5 – Develop a Low/No Budget Education and Marketing Plan

- Made contact with Hastings Banner re: recycling article submission

Phase 3 – Secondary Implementation Phase – July 2018 - June 2019

Activities 1-3 – Research similar programs, strategies, collaborations and funding sources to support recycling and waste diversion in Barry County

- Recycling Forum Held Thursday, February 28, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 - Seven Resolutions of Support adopted by following local units
 - Village of Freeport
 - City of Hastings
 - Hastings Charter Township
 - Village of Middleville
 - Prairieville Township
 - Thornapple Township
 - Yankee Springs Township
 - Follow up made to remaining Townships
- Meetings and communication regarding potential recycling sites and collaboration
 - Letter to Eaton County Resource Recovery regarding Sunfield Recycling Center
- Communication regarding funding and grants
- Next Steps
 - Report/Recommendations to SWOC – May meeting

Public Education

- Delton Rotary Meeting – Thursday, April 18 – Delton Public Library
- Barry County Township Supervisors Meeting – Tuesday, April 23 – Hope Township Hall

Other

- Local action is needed to bring attention to the need for Proposed Amendments to Part 115 Michigan Solid Waste laws. Funding was approved in 2019 that would bring funding to Counties if Proposed Amendments to Part 115 are passed. A resolution by the County, letters to the Governor, Director of Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) formerly DEQ, and local legislators are recommended actions.