

# BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

## Approved Meeting Minutes September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 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  
Jay VanStee  
Jodi Pessell  
Bruce Campbell  
Patricia Rayl  
Jim Brown  
Sarah Nelson (attended via phone)

### Members Absent:

Matt Roser  
Bill Sweeney  
Tom Rook  
Vivian Conner

### Members of the Public:

Rachel Frantz  
Jerrie Fiala

### Approval of Agenda

Per Chairman Fiala, will proceed with agenda as presented.

### Approval of Minutes

Per Chairman Fiala, since we do not have a quorum present, approval of the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes will be tabled until next month's meeting.

### Public Comments

None.

### Chairman Comments

Chairman Fiala would like to discuss the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event on September 18<sup>th</sup>. One thing he would like to do differently this year is to make sure that the committee sends out an email thank you to all the volunteers who work this event. He would also like to have Jodi Pessell and Jay VanStee provide a nice summary after each HHW collection event that can be presented to the County Commissioners.

Chairman Fiala would also like us to start doing an Annual Review/Report which basically states the highlights of what we have accomplished and what we want to try to accomplish for the following year as well as keep record of each committee member's attendance as he feels it is really important for the County Commissioners to be aware of the attendance here.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection (September 18<sup>th</sup>)

The next HHW collection is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Per Jodi Pessell, we have three (3) trailers coming for tires; they will be getting ahold of her sometime next week to make arrangements to drop off the trailers out at the Barry Expo Center. She is planning on the same location for the trailers, but putting one (1) a little farther down since we will have three (3) trailers this time instead of just two (2) trailers. The only thing she is not certain about is how many people we actually have for loading the tires because we are not getting any volunteers from the jail. However, Jerome Olejniczak (Lt. of Operations at the Barry County Sheriff's Office), emailed Jodi Pessell to let her know they would have two (2) "posse members" to volunteer for tires and four (4) "posse members" to volunteers for traffic control. Deputy Chief Dale Boulter will also have a couple of Cadets to volunteer for traffic control as well. Chairman Fiala got approval from the Mayor and the Hastings City Manager that they will be providing up to five (5) employees to volunteer to load the tires. Jay VanStee stated that there will also be about six (6) Health Department

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection (September 18<sup>th</sup>) (Continued)

employees that will be volunteering at this event as well. Tom Rook has once again made arrangements for the oil drums and we should have enough volunteers to work the oil. Per Jodi Pessell, in the past we have had groups collecting car batteries and stuff, but we don't have anyone to do that this time so she thinks at the last collection we just gave them to Drug & Lab, but this time Chairman Fiala will look into taking those to Padnos rather than Drug & Lab, so we would just need someone to bring in a pallet to put them on. The Drug/Medication Take Back is all set and will be set-up in the same area as last time. Chairman Fiala stated that the Drug & Lab bills keep getting higher and higher each year so after this upcoming event he would like us to take a look at that and see if there is another company that has lower fees.

### Recycling Coordinator

See Recycling Coordinator August 2021 Report (report was emailed to committee on 09/07/21).

Rachel Frantz would like to invite Padnos to attend one of our meetings to discuss electronics recycling and then she would also like to ask permission to do a presentation at the Hastings Rotary Club as they would like her to attend one of their meetings. Chairman Fiala stated that those are two (2) excellent ideas and gave Rachel permission to move ahead with those. Chairman Fiala also approved Rachel Frantz to attend the Michigan Recycling Coalition Annual Conference on October 28-29, 2021 (cost \$275.00 & hotel room for one night \$131.00), the National Recycling Congress Virtual Conference on November 3-4, 2021 (full congress non-member \$200.00) and the National Zero Waste Virtual Conference on December 8-9, 2021 (full conference \$175.00).

Rachel stated she has also completed a presentation to give to the Board of Commissioners, but she would like to run through the presentation with this committee first to see if anyone has any comments/concerns (she proceeded to go through the presentation to the committee). The committee collectively agreed that the presentation was great and that no changes are needed at this time. Chairman Fiala stated that he will contact Luella Dennison at the County to see if he can get this presentation put on the agenda for one of the October Board of Commissioners meetings.

### Member Comments

**Jay VanStee** – stated that if Rachel could arrange a tour of the Kent County facility he would be interested in this; Rachel stated that she would look into this and let the committee know.

**Jodi Pessell** – expressed that she thought Rachel's presentation was very good and she hopes everything goes as planned for the September 18<sup>th</sup> HHW collection.

**Bruce Campbell** – stated that he has attended a couple of meetings that Rachel Frantz has also attended and he can see already that it's bringing awareness to the townships because he has never heard them talk about recycling until now.

**Patricia Rayl** – none.

**Jim Brown** – at the meeting he was at last night, a lot of the questions that were asked were very, very simple questions but yet very important questions really and he handed out flyers for the upcoming HHW event on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Frank Fiala at 9:45 a.m.

Approved at the 11-05-2021 meeting

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## August 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 August 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*
  - No activity this period
- *At the direction of the SWOC, communicates and coordinates with neighboring county recycling programs as needed*
  - Met with Rosemary Graham, Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator, Allegan County
    - Discussed HHW events, Allegan has 3 events annually, 2 in Spring and 1 in Fall. Only residents of townships who participate in the program are allowed to bring materials. The township funding is opt-in. Only about half of the townships in the community participate. There are few residents of non participating townships who try to drop off materials.
    - Currently use Valley City for electronics recycling at HHW events.
    - [2005-PA-0069 \(mi.gov\)](#) has enabled Allegan County to form agreements between the county and individual townships to offer curbside recycling for \$25 per household with an opt-out option. Other areas can vote to receive the service for \$50 per household (unsure of areas). Townships put out hauler contracts for bid and have one provider per township.
    - [Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Management | Serving Allegan, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties \(swmswc.com\)](#) work together to utilize funding such as tire grant, \$500 annual membership fee
    - Allegan County is interested in creating a similar recycling guide to what we have for Barry County
  - Met with Sarah, Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator, Calhoun County
    - Recycling center has been closed since December due to staffing - aiming to re-open in October. During this time the County Emergency Service Plan has been used to turn the Republic landfill into an emergency recycling center. Regular recycling center is centrally located, landfill is not.
      - Residents can get pass online to use
      - Participation is approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of what it was at the regular recycling center
      - Landfill provides data with bi-monthly bill which is used to identify areas (township, village, city) where residents are coming from
      - Also has a host agreement with the landfill for \$300,000 per year which produces a small revenue from the recycle center. The cost of living is factored in each year to allow for changes in inflation.

- Received EGLE grant to purchase truck and mobile recycling unit, which will be used to reach rural communities and also be stationed at community events.
- Styrofoam Recycling
  - Marshall recycling center takes styrofoam
  - City of Battle Creek having styrofoam and electronics recycling collection this weekend (8/27)
    - Biz Aid LLC Recycling offers free recycling for cardboard, styrofoam, batteries, and non-profit and community groups can recycle all materials free. They offer an annual membership (Regular: \$45, Super Recycler: \$65) which is recommended for households who use the center for all their recycling needs. For household recycling without membership is just \$2 per visit. Electronic Waste Recycling: Up to \$0.25 per pound. (not included with membership or door fee) Business: Annual membership based on materials to be recycled and quantities. Business membership plans range from \$45 to \$125 per year. Invoices and receipts can be provided.
    - Electronics Recycling - OmniSource takes appliances with freon as well as other electronics
- Calhoun offers 4 HHW collection events annually, 2 in Battle Creek and 2 in Marshall
- There are 3 scrap tire collection events annually using a grant through the SWMSWC
- In the past Calhoun offered one large collection event for everything in April annually but there were issues with the line of cars due to too many participants overloading and not sorting.
- Events are posted on facebook page which helps to gauge interest and what to expect for participation based on RSVPs and post reach. Also use social media plans from The Recycling Partnership (Recycling Social Media Kit - The Recycling Partnership) and Recycle Michigan (members only)
- Some LUGs have single hauler contracts with opt-in recycling where residents need to request a cart (City of Battle Creek) while others have opt-out programs and everyone gets a cart and charged a recycling fee (Marshall), Sarah did not recommend the opt-out approach. Most haulers won't offer curbside in rural areas without a single hauler contract.
- Composting: There is a composting center on county land but there is a disproportionate amount of county vs city residents that use it. The City of Marshall moved their facility to city property so now the county site is closed. The City of Albion and City of Battle Creek have compost centers which are city residents only so now there is no option for outside residents to compost. They are working on creating a commercial composting facility but the zoning has been difficult within the township that they were trying to put it in.
- Recommended that I speak with Emily Hickma in VanBuren County which has a pilot program with Pratt for an electronics collection site at a local thrift store.
- Sharps: There are 3 sharps dropoff containers in the county, 2 are paired with medicine take back containers and 1 is not. The one that is not has had contamination due to people putting unused medication in the sharps containers. They have only been emptied twice so far and there is a contract with the vendor to empty them quarterly (\$250 each time). Each container cost \$2,000. They had previously used a mailback program where people would pick up a mailing container from a pharmacy but it was very expensive to run. They also used to offer sharps collection at HHW events but there was an issue with the frequency of events (too few)
- Met with Morgan, Resource Recovery Coordinator, Eaton County
  - The solid waste ordinance funds the solid waste department and is based on Part 115 solid waste law. Haulers must be licensed and pay \$15 per truck plus general licensing fee and must reapply annually. There is a surcharge paid by residents of \$0.60 per month. Haulers report semi-annually the number of accounts, what and how much is collected. Morgan said this system is difficult to enforce and outdated (1993). It is county wide but excludes the City of Lansing.
  - Program budget is \$450,000
    - County programs include 3 HHW events per year and are usually combined with electronics and/or tire collection as well as battery collection events.

- Local programs include solid waste grants that organizations can apply for that are accessible county wide, usually in the form of recycling centers. There are currently 6 centers through this program that are run by the LUG or a combination of LUGs.
  - Sunfield Recycling Center is currently operated by the County and they process and ship everything. Many non county residents use Sunfield (including the Village of Nashville). They only accept items that have \$0+ value, they will not pay for materials to be shipped out.
    - They accept styrofoam which is sent to Dart in Mason who offers free shipping within 10 miles. [Foam Recycling Centers | Dart Container Corporation | US](#)
  - No sharps programs in the county except at HHW events
  - Have been using QR codes at events to help people find information on different recycling options
  - Ag plastics recycling center has still not had any participation, hoping to get a few in September and anticipating more in the Fall.
  - They have no centralized communications or advertising strategies and have been considering putting out a newsletter of sorts but may not have manpower to do so. They use a form on the website for people to sign up to receive event and other important information alerts.
  - Morgan suggested I check out the Waste Wizard from Clinton County [Waste Wizard | Clinton County, MI \(clinton-county.org\)](#)
  - Morgan asked about applying again for the tire grant, the RFP should be coming out soon.
- *At the direction of the SWOC, serves as a representative in recycling user groups, for example the Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) and regional subgroups*
  - MRC updates:
    - Completed Michigan Materials Management Education and Outreach Survey  
"As part of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy data collection project, Resource Recycling Systems and Michigan Recycling Coalition have joined efforts to gather more information about materials management education and outreach happening at the municipal level across the state. The information provided here will identify best practices from across the state, inform gaps in education and outreach, determine where resources, training and support are needed, and drive solutions for improvement. Please take a few moments to answer the questions. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Lynott, Resource Recycling Systems, at [alynott@recycle.com](mailto:alynott@recycle.com). Thank you for your assistance!"
    - Grant opportunity: 2021 Anaerobic Digestion Funding Opportunity - EPA supports diversion of food waste and other organic materials from landfills. Anaerobic Digestion (AD) is an alternative to landfilling that results in environmental benefits in the form of renewable energy (biogas) and a product that can improve soil health (digestate). The goal of this funding opportunity is to accelerate the development of new or enhance/increase existing anaerobic digestion capacity and infrastructure in the United States. Applications due October 7, 2021. Up to \$200,000
    - New Battery Resources lithium battery recycling pilot plant in Novi, MI. "The Novi, Michigan facility will support the company's commitment to developing and commercializing battery materials, including the sintering and finishing of high-energy density nickel manganese cobalt cathode. The Novi site also contains a state of the art materials analytical lab, as well as lab scale battery production and test capabilities, to fully evaluate the performance of Battery Resources' battery materials." [Battery Resources announces new site expansions in Massachusetts and Michigan to support accelerated growth \(prnewswire.com\)](#)
    - Prices of recycled materials (as opposed to virgin) have gone up significantly due to demand for more products made from recycled materials. "We know how to process the material, recyclers have the capacity to process it — and there's more [processing capacity] coming online — and we have strong end markets," Alexander said. "The only barrier to an increase in supply is collection infrastructure. We know the raw material exists out there." [Brand commitments contributing to higher recycled HDPE prices | Waste Dive](#)
    - Nationwide bottle bill legislation would be great for litter reduction and recycling rates, but some say would take valuable materials from MRF stream. [Supporters planning national bottle bill legislation separate from Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act | Waste Dive](#)
    - Cart tagging, where workers go and check recycling carts set out to be picked up and tag them with "oops" stickers and specific details on what contamination they see, in hopes of reducing single

stream recycling contamination. Program initially received pushback on social media, but in person conversations at carts have been positive. Cart tags: A growing force in fight against contamination - Resource Recycling (resource-recycling.com)

- Attended for MRC West Michigan Regional meeting (September 9)
- Watched Keep America Beautiful's *How Litter-Free Initiatives Build Community Understanding and Shared Values* Webinar Litter In America Webinar Series: Building Community - YouTube
  - Keep America Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study - Keep America Beautiful (kab.org)
  - "there were fewer deposit materials and non-deposit materials found as litter in bottle bill states than in states without bottle bills."
  - Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter recorded across the country making up 19.6% of total litter observed in the study with a count of 9,697,652,100 pieces.
- Watched *Making the Grade with K-12 Recycling & Waste Reduction* Webinar Webinar Recap: Making the Grade with K-12 Recycling and Waste Reduction (buschsystems.com)
  - Schools in Ontario, CA are required to produce a waste audit (O.Red 102/94) and have recycling division (O.Reg 103/94). Organics collection at some schools. Students bring bins from each classroom to the depot area where the custodian then takes care of each bin. EcoSchools Canada program provides certification for environmental excellence. Average diversion rate of 40% and over 70% of schools participate in organics diversion.
  - Outreach efforts included school presentations, contests and campaigns (posters, paper cleanout at end of year, drive for supplies, video contest).
  - SCRAP - Monterey Bay Area Schools Compost and Recycling Advocates Program. California has a mandate for food recycling. Program at Jesse Sanchez School has a share rack for leftover food that students didn't want to eat for other students to eat or want to take home and use reusable trays and silverware. Significantly reduced waste. Milk and liquid diversion system to increase the number of milk containers that could be recycled.
  - Approach changes for school level (elementary, middle and high school)

#### **Recycling Outreach and Education to County Residents**

- *Develops and implements a public relations program for the SWOC, including: Writes educational articles and press releases and distributes them to local media outlets newspaper, radio, etc.*
  - Contacted J-ad to begin publishing a monthly recycling column in *The Reminder*.  
Potential topics include;
    - Recycling 101
    - Glass Recycling, An Endless Cycle
    - Aluminum Recycling
    - Plastic Recycling: Symbols 1-7
    - Where did these PaperGator Bins come from?
    - Recycling Polystyrene Foam (Styrofoam)
    - America Recycles Day is November 15th
  - Created a Barry County Recycles Facebook page to promote events and increase awareness of programs and resources. Barry County Recycles | Facebook
  - Looked into the installation of cigarette butt recycling containers to go along busy pedestrian areas, most likely applicable to Barry Co. Villages and the City of Hastings where pedestrian traffic is highest. Cigarette Waste Recycling Program - TerraCycle
- *Maintains and serves as the primary contact for the website: barrycountyrecycles.org*
  - Monitored email inbox and made minor website updates (HHW event date and flyer)

#### **Assistance to Local Units of Government (LUG)**

- *At the direction of the SWOC, serves as a liaison to local units of government within Barry County, and offers support in the following ways:*
  - *Disperses information on recycling in Barry County and resources available*
    - Attended the following LUG meetings: Village of Nashville (8/19), Nashville Transfer Station board meeting (8/30), Castleton Township (9/1), Assyria Township (9/7), Johnstown Township (9/8)

**Goals for next month:**

- Launch interactive recycling map on website, share on social media, send embeddable link to LUGs for use on their websites
- Visit and assess the Nashville, Castleton, Maple Grove Transfer Station
- Assist the Village of Nashville with curbside recycling call for bids

**Potential Additional Items for SWOC Approval (additional funds needed)**

- Register for Michigan Recycling Coalition Annual Conference, October 28-29, Cost \$275, hotel \$131 (one night)
- National Recycling Congress, November 3-4 *Virtual*  
Early Bird Rate (Thru Oct 1) - Full Congress: Non-Member \$200.00 [2021 National Recycling Congress \(hopin.com\)](https://www.hopin.com)
- National Zero Waste Conference, Full Conference: \$175 One Day: \$150 NRC Members receive a \$50 discount (not members) December 8-9 *Virtual*

**BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**TYDEN CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM, HASTINGS MI**

**AGENDA**

**SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS
6. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SEPT 18<sup>TH</sup>
7. RECYCLING COORDINATOR
8. MEMBER COMMENTS
9. ADJOURNMENT

**UPCOMING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS:**

**SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**



**BARRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

**TYDEN CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM, HASTINGS MI**

**SIGN-IN**

**SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

**NAME**

1. Jay VanSlee

2. FRANK FIATA BCRC

3. JERRIS FIATA GUEST

4. John Peseal MEHA

5. Rachel Frantz BCD

6. Bruce Campbell BCRC

7. Pattie Rayl Village of Midville

8. JIM Brown HASTINGS TWP SUNR.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXCUSED**

**GUEST**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_