

Muskegon County
Solid Waste Planning Commission
May 4, 2016
3:00 p.m.
Training Center
97 E. Apple Avenue, Room 119
Muskegon, Michigan 49442

Jim Fisher, Chair

Kim Arter, Vice Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Greg Leverage at 3:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jerry Garman, Kerry Rattinger, Kim Arter, Chris Hall, Jim Fisher, Kathy Evans, Mohammed Al-Shatel, Sidney Shaw, Terry Sladick, Commissioner Lohman

Excused: Wayne Kuerth, Russ Jones, Vicki Webster-Luthy

Absent: William Crabtree

Staff

Present: Greg Leverage, Solid Waste Supervisor; John Warner, Director of Public Works; Tina Nash, Public Works Departmental Clerk

INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the Committee and staff took turns introducing themselves.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Greg Leverage asked for nominations for Chair.

Jim Fisher expressed he would like to be Chair.

There were no other nominations for Chair.

SWPC-16-001 It was moved by Chris Hall, supported by Mohammed Al-Shatel, to close the nominations for Chair and elect Jim Fisher as Chair.

Roll call:

Yes – Garman, Rattinger, Arter, Hall, Fisher, Evans, Al-Shatel, Shaw, Sladick, Lohman

No – None

Excused – Kuerth, Jones, Webster-Luthy

Absent – Crabtree

Motion carried

Chair Fisher presiding.

Chair Fisher opened nominations for Vice Chair for the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

Kim Arter requested to be Vice Chair.

There were no other nominations for Vice Chair.

It was moved by Jerry Garman, seconded by Commissioner Lohman to nominate Kim Arter for Vice Chair.

SWPC-16-002 It was moved by Mohammed Al-Shatel, supported by Kathy Evans, to close the nominations for Vice Chair and elect Kim Arter as Vice Chair.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

Chair Fisher asked for nominations for Secretary. It was noted that this person needed to be an employee of Muskegon County Department of Public Works.

SWPC-16-003 It was moved by Mohammed Al-Shatel, supported by Jerry Garman, to close the nominations for Secretary and elect Greg Leverage as Secretary.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was suggested by Mohammed Al-Shatel to set goals for each meeting.

SWPC-16-004 It was moved by Mohammed Al-Shatel, seconded by Kerry Rattinger to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

SWPC-16-005 It was moved by Kerry Rattinger, seconded by Kim Arter, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2015 meeting as presented.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Solid Waste Landfill Expansion Update

Greg Leverence presented to the Committee a proposal for future solid waste disposal/recycling in order to seek future approval for consistency with the County Solid Waste Plan. Greg Leverence stated this was the same presentation given to the Wastewater Users Group. (See attached)

At 3:26 p.m. Commissioner Lohman asked to speak to Greg Leverence and John Warner in the hall. Meeting was paused during this time.

At 3:29 p.m. Commissioner Lohman, Greg Leverence and John Warner returned to the room and the presentation continued. Commissioner Lohman expressed this was only a proposal.

Chris Hall asked Greg Leverence if they could go with less property if this doesn't work out. Greg Leverence stated they could; however because the County has this land their possession he would like to secure a square mile for the future use. Kathy Evans asked about the current capacity. Greg Leverence stated it was 10 years. Jerry Garman asked if that was based on the current waste rate. Greg Leverence stated it was.

Kathy Evans asked if they would be working with an engineering firm to avoid

impacting the drainage. Greg Leverence stated they would be.

Chair Fisher asked if this Committee gives final approval or if the County Board gives final approval. John Warner stated it would need to go to the County Board and it was this Committee's charge to determine if this is or is not consistent with the County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Chair Fisher stated the bylaws needed to be clear as to the Committee's roll and authority. John Warner stated they would bring back a clarifying paragraph at the next meeting for consideration.

Discussion ensued.

Jerry Garman asked if this does happen, how far in advanced would they need approval from this Committee. Greg Leverence stated if they are able to secure rights to the property, they would like to get going on it right away.

Chair Fisher asked if there was a proposed timeline. Greg Leverence stated nothing concrete.

Recycling Study

Chair Fisher had Nick Occhipinti introduce himself. Nick Occhipinti is the Policy Director for West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

Greg Leverence gave an update on the proposal and stated that staff is in the process of reviewing and rating the three (3) proposals received from GT Environmental, Gershman, Brickner and Bratton (GBB) and Resource Recycling Systems (RRS).

Chair Fisher asked Greg Leverence if the recommended vendor would be ran by the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the review process, staff currently involved in the review process, funding and timeline.

Chair Fisher asked who on the Board would like to review the proposal. Kim Arter, Chris Hall, Sidney Shaw, Kathy Evans and Commissioner Lohman all raised their hands. Kim Arter, Sidney Shaw and Kathy Evans were selected.

Nick Occhipinti presented on recycling and the Stakeholder Initiative. Nick Occhipinti stated it is the Governor's call to double the recycling rate in Michigan in the next two years. Nick Occhipinti spoke on the waste sort hosted by the landfill and the findings. Nick Occhipinti stated that due to economic issues the recycling market is depressed right now; however there is still value in some of the materials. Nick Occhipinti thanked Greg Leverence and John Warner for including input from Stakeholder's in the proposal. Nick Occhipinti stated that the Recycling Study is important because they don't have all the data needed to make decisions. Commissioner Lohman stated he is happy this is moving forward. Commissioner Lohman asked if the \$20,000 Alcoa grant was going toward the cost of the study. Nick Occhipinti stated that was a separate project for outreach and education.

Chair Fisher stated a special meeting may need to be called to spend time to go over the bylaws, the County Solid Waste Plan and to determine what this Committee's roll is going forward.

Permanent Committee Meeting Schedule

It was agreed by the Committee to continue with the current meeting schedule of February, May, August and November on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. with cancellation if no agenda items. Special meetings may be called as needed.

SWPC-16-006 It was moved by Mohammed Al-Shatel, seconded by Commissioner Lohman, to approve the meeting schedule.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Lohman asked if all the general public spots were filled. Commissioner Lohman stated he was surprised that a representative from Moorland Township was not on the Committee. It was stated that all positions were filled. Chair Fisher suggested that they may amend the bylaws to include another member. John Warner stated that he would need to check to see if that was legally permissible due to the fourteen (14) slots being dictated by Part 115 Act 451. Chair Fisher asked John Warner to look into that. John Warner agreed.

Greg Leverage will send the Committee the link to the Solid Waste Plan, the Strategic Plan and an updated list of the Committee members including the slots they represent.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Solid Waste Planning Committee the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Jim Fisher, Chair