

Muskegon County
Solid Waste Planning Committee
August 3, 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 Jim Fisher at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL

Present: Kerry Rattinger, Kim Arter, Jim Fisher, Sidney Shaw, Terry Sladick, Commissioner Lohman, William Crabtree, Vicki Webster-Luthy, Chris Hall, Kathy Evans, Russ Jones

Excused: Jerry Garman, Mohammed Al-Shatel, Wayne Kuerth

Staff

Present: Greg Leverage, Solid Waste Supervisor; Sara Damm, Sustainability Coordinator; Mark Eisenbarth, Administrator; Doug Hughes, Corporate Council; Christina Miller, MDEQ Solid Waste Planning Staff; Lizzy Paul, MSU Sustainability Intern

SWPC-16-008 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Lohman, seconded by Kim Arter, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2016 special meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE: **Motion carried**

COMMUNICATIONS

Doug Hughes, Corporate Council, presented a letter from Williams | Hughes PLLC dated July 28, 2016. The letter is a written analysis of the solid waste statute (Public Act 451 of 1994) which describes the role of the solid waste planning committee.

The basic role of the committee per the Solid Waste Act is to assist the county in its preparation of a solid waste management plan. The Solid Waste Act requires that the plan:

1. Contain enforceable mechanisms for implementing the plan;
2. Identify municipalities within the county responsible for the enforcement and my contain a mechanism for the county and those municipalities to assist the department and the state police in implementing and conducting the inspection program;
3. Recognize a sufficient amount of available and suitable land;
4. Identify solid waste disposal areas or resource recovery facilities for a five year period that are capable

- of being developed and operated in compliance with state law and rules; and
5. Include a timetable or schedule for implementing the solid waste management plan.

The department sets forth additional responsibilities of the planning committee. Under the rules, the planning committee must do both of the following:

1. Prepare the plan by providing advice and consultation, which includes:
 - a. Reviewing the designated planning agency's work program,
 - b. Identifying local policies and priorities,
 - c. Insuring coordination and public participation,
 - d. Advising counties or municipalities,
 - e. Reviewing work elements, and
 - f. Approving the plan, and
2. Assure that the planning agency is fulfilling all the requirements of the Solid Waste Act and rules as to both the content of the plan and the public participation. The committee must notify the planning agency of any deficiencies.

Bylaws, which have not been updated since 2007, can be updated to reflect the additional responsibilities of the planning committee to insure active involvement in managing the solid waste and recycling in Muskegon County.

Chairman Fisher mentioned appointing a sub-committee to focus on a plan review in parallel with the recycle study to develop the plan amendments.

Christina Miller noted that the Director of DEQ initiates the update process, which was only done in 1997, and in 2002 DEQ wanted to change the update process to reduce redundancies and consider the impacts on DEQ staff. However, counties can amend their plans at any time.

OLD BUSINESS

Greg Leverence announced the award of the Recycle Study to GBB by the Public Works Board. Greg Leverence and Sara Damm will hold a kick-off conference call with Kate Vasquez and Lori Scozzafava on August 4th to discuss the schedule and kick-off meeting here in Muskegon, presumably on August 30th. Greg Leverence will send out an email to announce the Special Meeting of the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Expanded role of SWPC:
 - a. Mark Eisenbarth discussed the expanded role of the SWPC: The Board of Commissioners request input from committees when making decisions, so it's important that department directors and staff are engaging the committees more often. Sub-committees within committee are encouraged to focus on plan amendments. This will help with engaging the group and ensuring the involvement of the committee with future plans and initiatives and partnerships. He complimented the committee on being more proactive instead of waiting for the State to require a plan update. He also mentioned that the landfill is owned by Muskegon County, and it's here to serve the community.
 - b. Chairman Fisher mentioned that establishing recycling as a priority is crucial. He would like everyone on the committee to be on a sub-committee, possibly splitting the plan into sections so each sub-committee can focus on pre-determined sections.
- B. Solid Waste Policy update:
 - a. Christina Miller (MDEQ) explained the history of the Solid Waste Management Plans in Michigan. Previous plans were focused on disposal capacity, requiring landfills to be sited

when there was only 10 years of capacity left. Currently, there's 27 years of disposal capacity state-wide, which is relatively excessive and leads to the difficulty in recycling. In 2014, there was the Governor's Recycling Initiative that stated the desire to double the recycling rates in Michigan within 2 years. Grants went out to help local municipalities and non-profits help meet those goals, but more was needed from a legislative perspective. In April 2015, the Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel was formed to comprehensively review Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Currently, the group, comprised of a multitude of stakeholder representatives, put together SWSAP Proposals for a public meeting that was held on July 20, 2016. These proposals would then need to be submitted to the Director of MDEQ, draft legislation would need to be created, then a legislator would need to sponsor the bill before it can make it through for final approval. This is a lengthy timeline, so continuing the update process of the current Solid Waste Plan is advised. DEQ staff is willing to help when needed.

- b. Greg Leverence will send a link to the SWSAP proposed changes, and noted that Kent County DPW Director sits on that panel.
- C. Stakeholder group existence and utilization:
- a. Chairman Fisher explained the timing of the SWPC strategic planning session (to be placed on file with these minutes) and the motion made to advise the Board to direct staff to significantly increase recycling rates. During the strategic planning session, more questions than answers arose, which will then feed into the Recycling Study.
 - b. Sara Damm explained that the larger recycling stakeholder group came about during a conversation with Nick Occipinti from West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) during the Michigan Recycling Coalition conference in 2015. Because the SWPC group wasn't meeting regularly, WMEAC (with funding from the Community Foundation) and County staff worked together to put together a plan to bring together business and municipal leaders from both Muskegon and Grand Rapids. The initial meetings were to get an understanding behind the City of Grand Rapids vast improvements surrounding recycling, their method of funding, and how an environmental economist from GVSU noted that the "Pay-As-You-Throw" method was the most effective way to increase participation. The stakeholders also made recommendations of who should be invited to the larger group, many of which were also on the SWPC. Not every municipality was reached, but many are coming forward to be part of the larger group. Future meetings will reach out to all municipalities so everyone can meet the GBB consultants and get updated on the process being done by the County and the SWPC. The stakeholder group is more of an information sharing group that could potentially turn into partnerships for future implementation. Chairman Fisher advised that staff bring together the Stakeholder group two times per year to help move the process forward.
- D. Alcoa grant work:
- a. Sara Damm spoke about the Alcoa Foundation grant that will be funding \$20,000 which will include a new Sustainable Muskegon logo/branding, a website that will include recycling information similar to the Household Recycling and Disposal Guide, and working with WMEAC to bring more sustainability and recycling lesson plans into Muskegon County schools. The grant ends September 2017. The new logo will be sent to the SWPC for input, and will send the website test link when it's ready.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

NEXT MEETING

There will be a special meeting of the SWPC on Tuesday, 30 August 2016 at 8:30 AM, location TBD.

This meeting will be the initial introduction to the GBB consultants. Staff will send out additional information.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Solid Waste Planning Committee the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Jim Fisher, Chair