

Muskegon County  
Solid Waste Planning Committee  
November 6, 2017  
3:00 p.m.

Muskegon Governmental Complex / Training Center – Room 107  
97 E. Apple Avenue  
Muskegon, Michigan 49442

Jim Fisher, Chair

Kim Arter, Vice Chair

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fisher at 3:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Wayne Kuerth, Kim Arter, Chris Hall, Sidney Shaw, Jim Fisher, Russ Jones, Kathy Evans, Vicki Webster- Luthy, Commissioner Foster

Excused: Jerry Garman, Kerry Rattinger

Absent: William Crabtree, Terry Sladick

**Staff**

Present: Greg Leverage, Solid Waste Supervisor; Tina Nash, Public Works Coordinator; Robert Ribbens, Environmental Manager; Matthew Farrar, Public Works Director

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

SWPC-17-009      It was moved by Russ Jones, seconded by Vicki Luthy, to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2017 meeting.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **SCHEDULED MATTERS**

None

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **A. Recycle Study Committee**

Notes from the August 14, 2017 subcommittee were distributed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Distribute GBB Draft Recycle Study**

Greg Leverence distributed a copy of the draft study to those present (attached). Mathew Farrar asked the members to turn to 4-1 and review the bullet points. Chair Fisher requested the committee members take 10 minutes to review the draft study. Matthew Farrar stated there was a lot going on with GBB's recommendations and input would be important.

GBB's first recommendation: *"Change through Policy"*

Matthew Farrar stated GBB understands the County Commissioners do not want to mandate participation.

GBB's second recommendation: *"Removal of Barriers to Market"*

Matthew Farrar stated this essentially means building a centralized MRF. Matthew Farrar stated this would be a substantial undertaking by the County. Greg Leverence stated there would be some challenges. Greg Leverence spoke on dead end hauls and the economics of this. Matthew Farrar asked Russ Jones and Wayne Kuerth if

the costs for curbside residential recycling collections were built into the existing collection services. Russ Jones stated it depends on the location.

GBB's third recommendation: "Improvement to the Municipal Residential Transfer Station System"

Matthew Farrar stated this suggestion was for the County to provide advice to transfer station owners. The other suggestion was for the County to take them over. Matthew Farrar stated the County did not make this suggestion and there would be several barriers to this happening.

Chair Fisher stated he thought GBB made the requested changes to the study. Kathy Evens stated in past discussions we talked about cardboard and asked why other materials wouldn't be included. Chair Fisher stated the cardboard had to do with the commercial side of recycling.

Russ Jones stated some of the material brought to the recycling center is taken to landfills because people don't know how to recycle properly. Discussion ensued regarding education. Wayne Kuerth and Russ Jones stated they both have been providing education to their customers for many years and it hasn't helped. Matthew Farrar asked Wayne Kuerth and Russ Jones if all of their customers recycled, would they have the infrastructure to handle it. Russ Jones stated he would have to purchase more trucks. Wayne Kuerth stated about twenty-five percent of his customers have recycling carts, not all use them on a regular basis. Discussion turned to those in the room who recycle. Matthew Farrar asked if more material was recycled would it lower to the cost to the haulers. Russ Jones and Wayne Kuerth stated it would not. Discussion ensued regarding the costs involved to the haulers regarding trucks, maintenance to trucks, fuel, challenges the haulers face getting employees and the economics of recycling. It was stated that most haulers already offer curbside recycling to their customers. Some rural areas that do not offer curbside recycling have transfer stations. Matthew Farrar asked the committee to look at the optimal outcomes in the study and see if there would be a better way to get there. Commissioner Foster asked staff to contact other municipalities and find out how they handle recycling in their communities. There was discussion on having a transfer station in Muskegon County, the costs involved, landfill tipping fees and education. Chair Fisher suggested members tour Kent County's facility and Chef in Holland. It was decided to hold a recycling subcommittee meeting on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

**B. Fall Recycle Event Results**

Greg Leverence distributed the results of the October 21, 2017 HHW Recycle Event and the 2018 schedule of events (attached).

**C. Tire Grant and Events in 2018**

Greg Leverence stated the Scrap Tire Cleanup grant for fiscal year 2018 has been submitted to MDEQ. There will be a total of seven events in 2018.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Chair Fisher reminded the committee members to submit their applications.

Chair Fisher reminded the committee of the next scheduled meetings on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Vicki Luthy stated the State of Michigan has decided to use the Volkswagen's emissions fraud settlement funds towards emission improvements. Vick Luthy stated the draft proposal includes garbage truck replacement and/or emission work. Vicki Luthy stated the proposal has not been approved yet but may be by the end of the year.

Sidney Shaw asked if there were any grants that should be looked into.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Solid Waste Planning Committee the meeting was adjourned at 4:43p.m.

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Jim Fisher, Chair