

SOLID WASTE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MUSKEGON COUNTY SOUTH GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX
JOHNNY O. HARRIS BUILDING
97 E. APPLE AVENUE
MUSKEGON MICHIGAN

6 MAY 2019 at 2:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 119

A G E N D A

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Introductions
- D. Election of Officers
- E. Approval of Minutes (6 August 2018)
- F. Communications (none)
- G. Scheduled Matters (none)
- H. Reports of Committees (none)
- I. Old Business (none)
- J. New Business
 - 1. Landfill Expansion Update – Greg Leverence
 - 2. Recycle Rewards Program – Leo Evans
 - 3. Community Recycling Services Closure – Kerry Rattinger
- K. Audience Participation
- L. Adjournment

Muskegon County
Solid Waste Planning Committee
August 6, 2018
2:00 p.m.

Muskegon County Governmental Complex / Training Center – Room 119
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 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: William Crabtree, Kathy Evans, Jim Fisher, Commissioner Foster, Chris Hall,
LeighAnn Mikesell, Kerry Rattinger, Sidney Shaw, Doug Wood

Excused: Kim Arter, Jerry Garman, Russ Jones, Terry Sladick,

Absent: Wayne Kuerth

Staff

Present: Greg Leverage, Solid Waste Supervisor; Tina Nash, Public Works Coordinator;
Matthew Farrar, Public Works Director; Robert Ribbens, Environmental Manager;
Carly Hines, Public Works Finance and Sustainability Administrator

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

SWPC-18-009 It was moved by LeighAnn Mikesell, seconded by Commissioner Foster, to
approve the minutes of the May 7, 2018 Solid Waste Planning Committee
meeting.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

COMMUNICATIONS

None

SCHEDULED MATTERS

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Education Sub-Committee / Kathy Evans

Kathy Evans stated the sub-committee met twice. They talked about the goal to increase recycling to 30%, reviewed current marketing tools, met with a Watch Us Go staff member and discussed other URL's they may want to use. It was suggested to link recycling with beauty and the benefits it would have to the community. It was discussed to break down the task of increasing recycling into phases with Phase I concentrating on highly populated areas that have a recycling program in place such as Muskegon Township and the City of Muskegon.

Carly Hines stated they also spoke about educating the residents regarding the quality of the recycled items. Robert Ribbens mentioned the frequency of curbside recycling (weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly) and the overall impact on the environment.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Muskegon Township Curbside Recycle Program

Matthew Farrar introduced Jeff Wood, Muskegon Township Treasurer and Jennifer Hernandez, Muskegon Township Supervisor. Matthew Farrar stated Muskegon Township has a transfer station and felt it was important to talk to them regarding their trash and recycling program.

Jeff Wood stated they started a recycle program in Muskegon Township about 18+ years ago. Muskegon Township currently has a contract with Republic for recycling. Muskegon Township runs a garbage service (since 1972) that is offered only to the residents of Muskegon Township. Jeff Wood stated the residents are not obligated to use the township for trash removal. Residents may use another company if they choose. In the beginning residents who used the township for trash removal could also sign up for recycling and they would get a bin. Muskegon Township now uses 95 gallon carts for recycling. The carts are picked up by Republic every 4 weeks. Residents who sign up to use the township for their trash removal automatically get a cart for recycling and get a flyer that explains what can be recycled and how to recycle. Jeff Wood estimates about 1 out of every 4 or 5 township residents recycle. Jeff Wood stated recycling is part of the township's trash removal service and there is no additional cost to recycle.

Kathy Evans asked Jeff Wood if Muskegon Township offered services to all areas within the township. Jeff Wood stated they do. Chris Hall asked if residents in the rural areas of Muskegon Township recycled as much as the residents in more dense areas. Jennifer Hernandez stated it depends on the area. Jeff Wood stated demographics also play a part. Carly Hines asked Jeff Wood if they have seen a reduction in the amount of garbage collected. Jeff Wood stated the amount of garbage collected has gone down a little bit. Matthew Farrar asked Jeff Wood the costs for recycling. Jeff Wood stated they have a 10 year contract with Republic with built in increases but currently Muskegon Township pays \$2.40 per customer per month. Jennifer Hernandez stated when a township resident signs up for garbage service; they are informed that the cost to recycle is included in the cost for garbage service. When residents find this out they are more willing to give recycling a try.

Kerry Rattinger stated a survey was done a number of years ago and the number one reason why people don't recycle was it took too much effort. Kerry Rattinger stated by switching to the carts it has made it easier for customers to recycle. Kerry Rattinger stated the more people in a neighborhood who recycle, it places pressure on others to also recycle and the carts stand out more.

Doug Wood asked Jeff Wood if the cost of garbage service was a tax to the residents. Jeff Wood stated it is billed as a utility. Doug Wood asked Jeff Wood if Muskegon Township subsidized the waste/recycling program. Jeff Wood stated the township does not.

Chair Fisher asked what the \$2.40 covered. Jeff Wood stated the \$2.40 is what is paid to Republic per township customer. Jeff Wood stated trash/recycling service is \$49.00 per quarter. Jennifer Hernandez stated Muskegon Township pays Republic the \$2.40 whether a township customer recycles or not.

Chris Hall asked Jeff Wood if they store the recycle carts. Jeff Wood stated they do have a small quantity on hand at their DPW site.

Chair Fisher stated Muskegon Township has a good program in place.

B. Republic Services Chef Container/Westshore Recycling Acquisition

Kerry Rattinger informed the committee that Republic purchased Chef. Kerry Rattinger provided the committee with a background of the services Chef provided and the operation of the facility. Kerry Rattinger stated Chef did not have a big presence in Muskegon.

Greg Leverence asked if they will operate as a dirty MRF. Kerry Rattinger stated it is way too early in the process to be able to answer that question.

Kerry Rattinger passed out two handouts (attached) regarding the impact of the China Sword. Kerry Rattinger stated China used to take 40% to 50% of the recycled material and

they have now stopped. The material that is being accepted has to be ½ of 1 percent contamination or less. This has caused processing centers to have a lot of extra material. Kerry Rattinger stated this is causing a lot of issues ranging from getting contamination down to finding new markets for the collected materials. Kerry Rattinger stated this will cause costs to go up and impact the haulers. Kerry Rattinger stated Kent County approved increasing their rates from \$40 to \$70 beginning January 1st.

Doug Wood stated one of the problems is many companies label their products with a recycling symbol and not all products can be recycled. Doug Wood stated if there is not a market, those materials end up in a landfill. Discussion ensued regarding the challenges recycling facilities face, the declining market value of recycled materials, the China Sword and the overall cost to recycle.

C. Preliminary Recyclables Transfer Station Review

Matthew Farrar stated he has been working with Greg Leverence on a transfer station cost breakdown. Matthew Farrar stated they looked at many figures and today's cost to recycle would be \$126.00 per ton. Matthew Farrar stated they looked at one landfill rate and at \$32.00 per ton that could cover trash and recycling. Matthew Farrar explained as recycling increases and trash decrease the total landfill rate would increase to \$60.00 per ton if recycling reaches 30%. Matthew Farrar stated this would be for a new transfer station and they will next look at the costs of an existing transfer station.

Matthew Farrar stated they still want to create a culture of recycling in Muskegon. Matthew Farrar stated there are many obstacles we face.

Chair Fisher went around the room and got everyone's thoughts on the information presented.

Chair Fisher reminded everyone the next meeting is the first Monday of November.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Solid Waste Planning Committee the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Effects on Current Recycling Businesses

Collection Prices do not cover costs

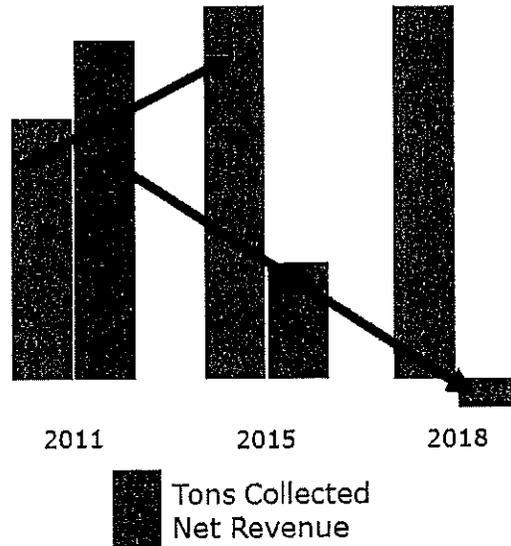
- Unable to subsidize from commodity sales after China Sword

Light-weighting leads to more items per load

- We have more material to process per ton

Lack of Public Education and Contamination drives additional costs

- Cross contamination
- Disposal costs from residual



While we continue to process mixed paper and old newsprint, we are proactively evaluating the need to dispose of excess material that deteriorates beyond the point of commercial value, or poses safety risks.

1

China Sword Immediate Impacts

- Adjusted processing speeds to improve quality of sorted material
 - As a result, some facilities are unable to handle daily material volume
- Adding human resources to our sort lines, and increasing self-inspections to further reduce contamination
- Exploring investments in newer, more accurate sorting technology (in select markets)
- Actively exploring other domestic and international markets
 - Many are flooded by the global industry shifting away from China

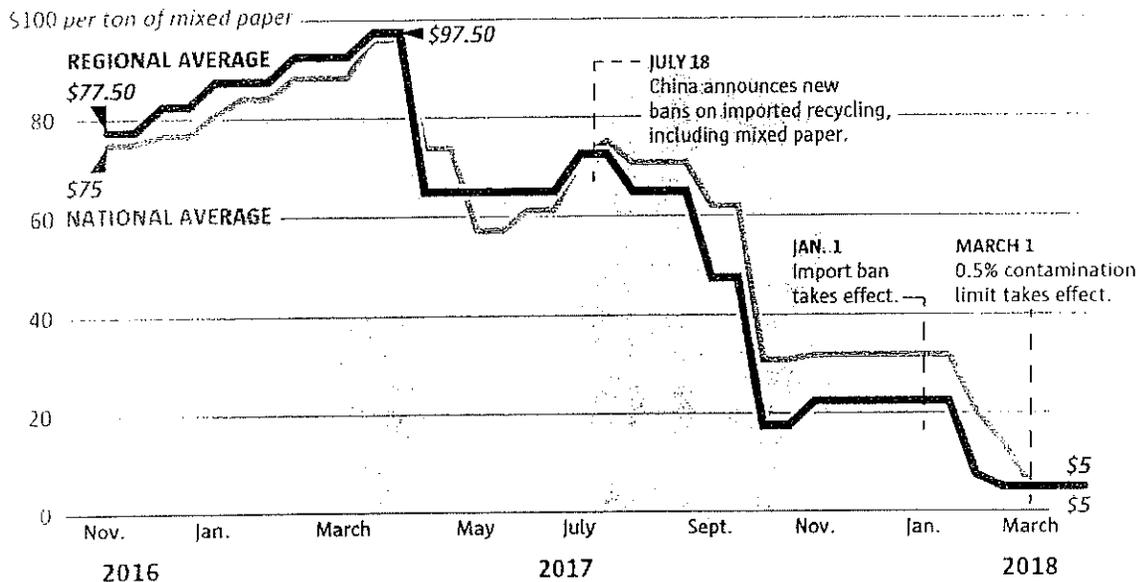


Jan 2018 – Processed bales in Northwest, without market buyers, deteriorated by weather

While we continue to process mixed paper and old newsprint, we are proactively evaluating the need to dispose of excess material that deteriorates beyond the point of commercial value, or poses safety risks.

China closes the door, prices crash

The average price paid to recyclers for a ton of mixed paper in the Pacific Northwest and across North America has plummeted in the last year.



Source: RecyclingMarkets.net

EMILY M. ENG / THE SEATTLE TIMES

China Sword Explained

For decades, China has been the largest importer of the world's recycled commodity, and the U.S. was 40% of the inbound stream.

In 2017, China announced efforts to clean up the country, which included dramatic changes for acceptance criteria of imported recyclables.

- A significant reduction in acceptable contamination levels (From ~3% to 0.5%) in any recovered paper and plastic grades.



- Additionally, China banned all mixed paper from import, regardless of contamination levels. (20% of historical stream).



Reductions took effect in March 2018, and drive costs and changes at most recycling facilities in the country to meet new standards