

Muskegon County  
Solid Waste Planning Committee  
May 6, 2019  
2:00 p.m.

Muskegon County Governmental Complex / Training Center – Room 119  
97 E. Apple Avenue  
Muskegon, Michigan 49442

Kim Arter, Chair

Sidney Shaw, Vice Chair

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Arter at 2:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Kim Arter, Dan Broersma, William Crabtree, Kathy Evans [arrived at 2:02 p.m.], Leo Evans, Commissioner Foster, Chris Hall, Jennifer Hernandez, Russ Jones, Wayne Kuerth, Kerry Rattinger, Sidney Shaw, Terry Sladick [arrived at 2:02 p.m.], Doug Wood

Excused:

Absent:

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 & Sustainability Administrator

The group went around the room and introduced themselves and welcomed the new members.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Vice Chair Arter opened the nominations for Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

**SWPC-19-001** Moved by Commissioner Foster, seconded by Jennifer Hernandez, to nominate Kim Arter as Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

Moved by Doug Wood, seconded by Terry Sladick, to nominate Sidney Shaw as Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

There were no other nominations for Chair.

Both Sidney Shaw and Kim Arter stated why they would like to be the Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

Votes for Kim Arter (7)– Commissioner Foster, Chris Hall, Jennifer Hernandez, Russ Jones, Wayne Kuerth, Kim Arter, Leo Evans

Votes for Sidney Shaw (7)– William Crabtree, Kathy Evans, Kerry Rattinger, Sidney Shaw, Terry Sladick, Doug Wood, Dan Broersma

Discussion ensued regarding a tie vote.

**SWPC-19-002** Moved by Commissioner Foster, seconded by Jennifer Hernandez, to recast by roll call vote for either Kim Arter or Sidney Shaw as Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

Votes for Kim Arter (8)– Wayne Kuerth, Russ Jones, Jennifer Hernandez, Chris Hall, Commissioner Foster, Leo Evans, Kathy Evans, Kim Arter

Votes for Sidney Shaw (6)– Doug Wood, Terry Sladick, Sidney Shaw, Kerry Rattinger, William Crabtree, Dan Broersma

Chair Arter presiding.

Chair Arter opened nominations for Vice-Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

**SWPC-19-003** Moved by Commissioner Foster, seconded by Kerry Rattinger, to nominate Jennifer Hernandez as Vice-Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

Moved by Terry Sladick, seconded by Doug Wood, to nominate Sidney Shaw as Vice-Chair of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

There were no other nominations for Vice Chair.

Votes for Jennifer Hernandez (4)– Commissioner Foster, Jennifer Hernandez, Kerry Rattinger,  
Chair Arter

Votes for Sidney Shaw (10)– William Crabtree, Kathy Evans, Leo Evans, Chris Hall, Russ  
Jones, Wayne Kuerth, Sidney Shaw, Terry Sladick, Doug  
Wood, Dan Broersma

Sidney Shaw accepted the position as Vice-Chair.

Chair Arter opened nominations for Secretary of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

**SWPC-19-004** Moved by Commissioner Foster, seconded by William Crabtree, to appoint  
Greg Leverage as Secretary of the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

There were no other nominations for Secretary.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

Greg Leverage accepted the position as Secretary.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**SWPC-19-005** It was moved by Commissioner Foster, seconded by Chris Hall, to approve  
the minutes of the August 6, 2018 Solid Waste Planning Committee  
meeting.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **SCHEDULED MATTERS**

None

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

None

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Landfill Expansion Update (Greg Leverence)**

Greg Leverence stated the County looked at options for expanding the Solid Waste facility. The County completed a request for qualifications for landfill engineering services and Golder Associates, Inc. was selected by the Board of Public Works. Greg Leverence stated Golder Associates, Inc. has started to develop construction plans in order to obtain a permit to expand. The landfill will expand to the west of the current facility. Greg Leverence stated they have approximately 3 years left in the existing facility and another 2 to 3 when they expand into another section of the landfill. Greg Leverence stated Golder Associates, Inc. will also be working on a final fill plan.

Matthew Farrar asked Greg Leverence to inform the members on the role of this committee. Greg Leverence referenced Section 2 from the bylaws.

### **B. Recycle Rewards Program (Leo Evans)**

Leo Evans stated they were asked to look into options for a recycle rewards program similar to the one the City of Grand Rapids offers its residents. Leo Evans explained the program is based on points that can be redeemed at participating companies for discounts on products/services. Leo Evans stated it was determined the City of Muskegon was not big enough to support such a program.

Doug Wood gave a background of how the City of Grand Rapids developed their program. Doug Wood stated they have a scale out system on the collection vehicles that weighs the customer's curbside recyclable materials. Customers would earn points they could go online and redeem. Doug Wood stated he hasn't been involved for a while so he was unsure of the success of the program. Doug Wood stated there were costs involved in setting up the program.

Kerry Rattinger stated a rewards program would be difficult due to the number of companies that pick up recycling and each company would have to weigh and input the information for each customer. Kerry Rattinger stated the cost to run such a program would be high.

**C. Community Recycling Service Closure (Kerry Rattinger)**

Kerry Rattinger stated the Community Recycling Center in Muskegon closed March 31<sup>st</sup>. Kerry Rattinger stated in today's commodity world, it was not economically feasible.

Terry Sladick asked Russ Jones if Roosevelt Park still offers recycling. Russ Jones stated they do and pick up is bi-weekly. Russ Jones stated they do not track the amount of recycled materials.

Sidney Shaw asked that the County advise the committee regarding updating the Solid Waste Plan at the next meeting. Matthew Farrar stated staff was waiting for the State of Michigan to make a determination regarding the rules. Greg Leverence stated he met with 5 individuals from the MDEQ last week regarding the landfill expansion. Greg Leverence stated he asked the MDEQ representatives if Michigan was going to move in the direction of a material management plan or not. They didn't have an answer. Sidney Shaw stated to have an approved plan would be a good thing. Matthew Farrar thanked Sidney Shaw and Doug Wood for their offer to help with the plan.

Commissioner Foster spoke to Sidney Shaw's request. Commissioner Foster stated he has spoken to staff and they are aware of direction the County board is expecting of this group. Commissioner Foster stated the focus of this group will be changing. Matthew Farrar referenced what Greg Leverence stated from the bylaws and stated the focus of this group is the Solid Waste Plan.

Matthew Farrar stated the Public Works department will continue to work on sustainability. Matthew Farrar gave the committee members an overview of things they are currently working on. Some of those items included:

- a partnership with Goodwill for recycling electronics at the landfill site
- staff worked with Cedar Creek Township on a grant to place recycling containers at the township's site
- Solid Waste is working with WMSRDC on cleaning up environmental sites

Chair Arter asked Greg Leverence for an update on the Recycling Events that took place on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Matthew Farrar stated they served a record number people at the event. They had 5 semi-trailers of tires, a box truck full of shredded confidential papers, 2 semi-trailers of electronics and a semi-trailer of hazardous materials. Greg Leverence stated the next Recycling Event will take place in October. Greg Leverence also mentioned the upcoming tire only events at Fruitport Township, Cedar Creek Township and Whitehall High School.

Chris Hall asked if municipalities that have a recycling drop off site could offer county residents a pass to drop off materials. Commissioner Foster stated Cedar Creek Township is looking into a program like that. Matthew Farrar stated there are costs associated with recycling and people just don't want to pay for it.

Kathy Evans asked if the subcommittees created last year still exist. Commissioner Foster stated when the appointments for the new members were made there were no subcommittees considered. Commissioner Foster stated it will be up to this committee to decide if a subcommittee is necessary. Commissioner Foster stated the Solid Waste Planning Committee does not have a budget. Commissioner Foster stated this is an advisory committee whose role is outlined in the bylaws.

Chair Arter asked Matthew Farrar for an update on the HHW site on the north side. Matthew Farrar stated they worked with an engineer and the White Lake Solid Waste Authority to develop plans for a HHW drop off site. Matthew Farrar stated the township voted not to allow any HHW sites in their township and we will respect their decision. Matthew Farrar stated staff considered the Ott Story site; however there are things going on which makes that site not feasible.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Kathy Evans passed out a handout on the upcoming Asset Management Summit Invite on May 16, 2019 at Muskegon Community College.

Commissioner Foster stated Jennifer Hernandez also sits on the Board of Public Works and they will be updating the Board of Public Works on what this committee is doing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Solid Waste Planning Committee the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

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Kim Arter, Chair