



## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of Wednesday, May 18, 2016

219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

www.SWMSWC.com

Notes prepared by: AJ Brucks

Meeting called to order by Chair Max Thiele at 7:02 p.m.

**Roll Call of Counties:** Members & Technical Advisory Council (TAC) Present: *Allegan* – Max Thiele and Ben Williams; *Berrien* – Andy Vavra and Jill Adams; *Branch* - Don Vrablic; *Calhoun* – Sarah Kelly; *Cass* – Clark Cobb; *Van Buren* – Richard Godfrey, Richard Freestone and AJ Brucks.

**Others Present:** none.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Freestone, supported by Vavra to approve the March Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Godfrey, supported by Vavra to approve the March 17, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** none.

**Financial Report:** Balance of \$5,734.25. Brucks presented the Financials in an excel spreadsheet as well as the latest PNC bank statement. Brucks reported checks that had been written at the last meeting had cleared and balance remained the same.

**Payment of Bills:** none.

**Old Business:** none.

### New Business:

- Governors Recycling Summit and MRC Conference was May 3-5, 2016 at St. John's in Plymouth. The Tech Assistance Committee reported they found trainings at this year's conference very beneficial as usual. Highlights of the Conference were as follows: Communication Training for different audiences such as schools, businesses or neighborhoods. Close the Look Keynote presenter. Drivers and Influences of Recycling such as oil prices, economy flow, smarter/new labels and advertisements. Tours considered on a Family Farm in Livingston Co. with not much land but with the landfill ban started a compost facility for grass, leaves, food waste and then sell it later. Safety – safety meetings to keep volunteers and works. The Trade show was great with booths of info, educational materials and give-a-ways. Organics Keynote talked about ugly produce and programs that work with communities to sell for cheap and support communities with less. The Detroit Zoo has redone their recycling image to show recycling/trash or rather "landfill" and has the 1<sup>st</sup> zoo bio-digester in North America and they stopped selling water bottles and put in water bottle filling stations. Study of Trash – trash was harvested from Kent Co. landfill (a waste audit of what was coming in) and found a high number of yard waste, 41% was able to be recycled, high amount of cardboard, e-waste, large amount a textiles and paper. Emmett Co. did a study with problematic items such as clamshells, Styrofoam sups and plastic bags that get wrapped up into the machines and cause problems. The MI update stated that 15.3% of households were now recycling which was only an estimated 481 lbs. per year per household for MI's population. 2016 Recycling Award for Enhanced Program "Excellence of Recycling Award" went to Calhoun County and Kelley was able to accept the Award along with members of her team for the Recycling Center in Albion. MRC also gave an

award to the SWMSWC for our effort of educational programming and working together as a team to better recycling in our area. The recycled glass award will be shared around the 7 counties and a letter to the Calhoun Board will be developed and sent congratulating them on their award. Other information about the conference will be available on the MRC website at a later date.

#### **Reports/Project Updates:**

- Williams updated he mailed the grant back to MDEQ, there will be direct deposit again through DeerPath and the State of MI. Williams passed around a current schedule of the participating Counties collection for any changes. The total grant is \$36,000. The grant will pay up to \$1,000 for a trailer with less than 500 passenger tires equivalent (large tires will be paid for separately) and not to exceed \$2,000 for a full semi van trailer with over 1,000 PTE. We should receive the final executed grant before the end of May.

#### **County Updates:**

Allegan- Williams reported 1: HHW/E-Waste Events: May 7, regional event: 250 cars in 3 hr event. Estimated volume: 25,000lbs of e-waste and 7,000lbs of HHW. June 4, 2016: Hamilton Regional Collection Event. 2: Cheshire and Overisel Twp applied for a tire grant on their own and received. Both have scheduled with Deerpath and have a direct payment to vendor. 3: PA 69: On August 2, 2016, 9 communities will place a \$36 recycling proposal on their ballot. Working on a factual information newsletter to assist local units. 4: Processing Costs: The Solid Waste Subcommittee has been reviewing haulers concerns pertaining to new processing cost that are being implemented on curbside and drop-site recycling material. Kent Co DPW is currently charging \$10 per ton with a potential increase to \$30 per ton for 2017. Chef is proposing \$40 per ton for 2016-2017.

Berrien- Adams updated they had their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Reduce Reuse Recycle Day and served 685 residents on April 13, 2016. Berrien collated about 4 semi-trailers of tires on May 12 & 13. The largest most exciting change is the start of recycling at Silver Beach which is their busiest beach in the County.

Branch- Vrablic updated he was able to talk with the tomato plant greenhouse about a tour in August. It is planned for Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. The tour will be about the water recycling effort of the 100 acre under glass greenhouse.

Calhoun- Kelly updated about their past collection; they had an increase of e-waste and recycled 55,039 lbs., 735 lbs. of Styrofoam, collected \$600 donations, 1,700 Facebook hits and had 30 youth volunteers. It is getting bigger and well-known. In July the new Recycle Center will open, the Road Commission putting in new fence to hopefully limit the dumping and after hour's usage as well as create a nice and neat facility. The current recycling center high numbers are currently with newspaper which weighted in at 40,000 + lbs. collected.

Cass- Clark updated the Cass HHW is scheduled for May 21 and will be collecting electronics along with household chemicals. They are working on finding a final electronic recycle and now will talk with Green Earth Recycling to see what they have to offer as an event fee.

Van Buren- Brucks updated she toured the Kzoo HHW and learned a lot about the operations and gained ideas about a future facility for VBC. Brucks is also meeting with Best Way to see how a partnership can develop to support the schools that are not yet working on recycling as well as updated them about what the VBCD has planned with recycling efforts. Collections are set for the year, staff is pushing around the idea of offering a weekday afternoon/evening collection instead of a Saturday collection to see if it gains resident participation.

**Next Meeting:** August 17<sup>th</sup> Tour in Branch County

**Future Meetings:** September 21, November 16

Other: Board requested send a message to our Board of Commissioner letting them know that the SWMSWC received the Scrap Tire Grant Award as well as the MRC Recycling Award at Conference. Adams will share a script that she had written for her BoC.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourn; 9:05pm.