



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of Wednesday, January 18, 2017

219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

www.SWMSWC.com

Minutes prepared by: AJ Brucks

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

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

Others Present: Mrs. Ziliak; Phil Hover, Van Buren ISD; Kyle Boone, Pokagon Band; Chris Phillips, Best Way Disposal

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Ziliak, supported by Vrablic to approve the January Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Vrablic, supported by Freestone to approve the September meeting minutes as presented and accept there was no November meeting therefore no minutes present. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Introductions of the audience and interests in involvement between all organizations/agencies that were represented. Brucks will update email list so interested parties can continue to get agendas, minutes, updates and additional information.

Financial Report: Balance of \$5,134.25. Brucks presented the Financials and Bank Statement.

Payment of Bills: none.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

- MRC Update/Regional Meeting – January 24 is the first regional meeting in Galesburg at Bell’s Brewery. Local partners will come together to talk about challenges, successes, how to work together, give updates of current information and future plans of recycle in MI.
- MRC Conference (May 17-20)- Conference is scheduled in Lansing and agenda is being finalized. SWMSWC meeting will be changed to May 24th. Allegan & Calhoun plan to ask for financial support in attending at the next meeting.
- Recycle, MI Partners – Board would like additional information and representation from MRC discussing the Recycle MI program, why it is important for members, what will membership bring, how are they promoting across MI. TAC encouraged to have SWMSWC representing counties join to show support as well as have the same message/logo across the board in their education effort. It is \$150 to join the first year so \$1050.00 for the first year and then \$700 for each renewal year. Members are able to use ready-made professional press releases, Facebook post, public service announcements etc.
- SWMSWC Dues – Board would like to ask for dues on an annual basis so Counties know to put on SWMSWC on the budget annually. Brucks will develop a letter to be sent to each County.
- Educational Grant – Williams and Kelly talked about the MDEQ educational grant opportunities that will soon be available.
- Regional (educational outreach/planning) Effort – TAC committee will be working on educational plans that can be shared between all SWMSWC Counties.

Reports/Project Updates:

- Scrap Tire Grant 2017 – Williams submitted new grant to the MDEQ. He will be sending out the list of dates/trailer updates and will need to know everyone’s final dates/locations. Williams also updated there was funding specifically for the Zika Virus. Brucks commented she would like to see a tractor tire



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collection and this may be a good fit for additional Zika funding. Board also wants to see an Interlocking agreement from each county for the tire collection specifically showing County Commissioners that the SWMSWC is active and working together.

County Updates:

Allegan- Resource Recovery Participation Update: 7 Townships and 1 City in with the \$36 PA 69 Program, 8 Townships and 1 City in with the \$25 PA 138 Program, 1 Township in Hazardous Waste Only, 13 Township / City in combination not in the program. **Processing at MRFS:** Kent County is now going up to \$40 per ton in 2015. Chef Container is between \$45-\$50 per ton. **Allegan County Solid Waste Planning Committee** met in December 1) Stoddard Oil (Wayland MI) has a permitted facility to solidify oil sludge from their vacuum service trucks used to pump out shop drains, etc. In December the SWPC voted to open siting mechanism. In January, a group of the SWPC will reviewing application to determine if complete. The SWPC will meet end of February to determine if this processing center is consistent with plan.

Berrien- Ezra Scott is the new Berrien County Commissioner representative (*Board welcomed Mr. Scott*).

The 2016 Environmental Program Report was passed out to the Consortium member. Six Household Chemical and Electronics Recycling Events have been scheduled and will occur between April and October. Parks Dept. applied for a grant to improve the recycling program at Silver Beach County Park. Forest Lawn Landfill, 1 of 3 municipal solid waste landfills in Berrien County, will be closing on January 31, 2017.

Branch- Vrablic discussed a Recycle Center in Branch is looking for funding, strategic planning ideas to continue business into the future. Their County is unable to help a single business owner but feel her work and business is important to the community and expressed the need for any ideas to be communicated to them. Even with single stream recycling, prices are not high enough for currently to be sustainable for a small business owner.

Calhoun- Kelly updated they have changes happening in the Community Development Department, 3 new positions available and she is likely going to be moving buildings. The Recycle Center should be opening in 2 weeks, the first collection of 2017 was a huge success as they were able to collect over 600lbs of Styrofoam and dates, venue and material lists are developed for future collections.

Cass- Ziliak and Cobb will continue to be Cass reps. The HHW event is being planned for the fair grounds.

Van Buren- Brucks is working on a full contact list overhaul and passed around an Excel for members to change any information. Brucks is working on updating the VBCD recycle website so it is easy for residents to use.

Next Meeting: March 15, 2017

Future Meetings: Change to May meeting, now May 24th due to the MRC conference.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourn.