



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of Wednesday, January 20, 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 7:03 p.m.

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

Others Present: Mrs. Ziliak, Cass County resident and Katie Venechuk from MDEQ.

Reorganization of the Board: Current Officers: Thiele (Chair); Ziliak (Vice Chair/Secretary); Vavra (Treasurer).

Motion made by Vrablic, supported by Godfrey to nominate, close nominations and with a unanimous vote to elect Thiele for Chair, Ziliak as Vice Chair/Secretary and Vavra as Treasurer for the 2016 year. Motion carried.

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 Thiele, supported by Godfrey to approve the September 16, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Mrs. Ziliak is happy to be in attendance.

Financial Report: balance of \$5,734.25. Motion made by Godfrey, supported by Ziliak to approve the financial statement presented. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills: none

Old Business:

New Business:

- MDEQ Update by Katie Venechuk, SW MI region recycling specialist: Attached is Katie's Venechuk updated that was discussed. Also given out the Residential Recycle Brochure which can be found on the MDEQ website under Recycling 101. Adams asked if Consortium or Counties would be able to order brochure to handout at events and if residents requested information. Williams had the idea of MDEQ offering a grant that would help fund HHW materials similar to how the tire grants are working. Venechuk will check on these requests and get back with the Board. Venechuk and Kelly talked about the MRC Conference as well as the ½ day Governor Summit the first day of MRC Conference. Thiele asked about 30% recycling rate and Venechuk discussed the ratios they are looking at to come up with their numbers and percent's. The top residential recycling rate is estimated around 18% b/c of population, in order to get to a higher percent the commercial rate is going to have to make some huge changes. Manistee's commercial recycle program is a good example what is happening in MI.
- SWMSWC 2016 Budget: Total \$2,500. Operational \$500, Projects \$1,000 and Conference Workshop Attendance \$1000. Motion made by Vrablic, supported by Ziliak to approve the 2016 Budget as presented. Motion carried.
- Membership Dues Letter: Board approved the language in the letters, Thiele signed letters and Brucks gave them to appropriate County members. SWMSWC will not be asking for dues this year but will plan on asking next year 2017 in January.
- Scrap Tire Grant 2016: Williams updated that he had successfully submitted the grant for 2016 but the awards have yet to be announced.

- Governors Recycling Summit and MRC Conference-May 3-5, 2016: Motion was made by Ziliak, supported Godfrey to approve the request of \$300 funding support for TAC members from Allegan and Calhoun Counties to attend the MRC Conference in May. Motion carried.

Reports/Project Updates:

- Technical Advisory Committee- Adams updated the Board that the TAC Committee met and discussed upcoming year. Budget was proposed in New Business, MRC conference was also discussed. Adams wanted to see if the Board was interested in submitting a nomination for the SWMSWC for the MDEQ Excellence Award, Board was in support and Adams will submit the application. Meeting dates: the question of bi-monthly meeting to quarterly meetings with a tour was mentioned. November meeting is often canceled. Board could meet four meetings and a tour or three meetings and a tour. Board wanted to hold off until next meeting when two other Counties may be present.

County Updates:

Allegan- Act 69 Resolution: Board of Commissioners had a discussion on January 14; hopefully this Resolution will be approved at the January 28 meeting. Any interested local unit will have to sign to place ballot on the Aug 2 local primary. Allegan County Solid Waste Planning Committee: Met in October and discussed processing fees per ton. This program only has two MRFs that material goes to. Kent County is at \$10 per ton and Chef Container is still negotiating a per ton cost. Drop-site RFP: Sent out a drop-site bid package on behalf of five local units in the Resource Recovery Program. This will be for a three year contract with a two year extension. Monitored Depot/HHW and E-Waste: HHW: Staying with Drug and Lab for 2016. Valley City and I are negotiating dates and prices for 2016. Also the monitored depot's 5 year contract is expiring March 31 with Republic Services. Republic and I are negotiating a three year extension. Allegan County Information Services is going to give me more control for our Consortium website letting me make changes when necessary.

Berrien- The 2015 Environmental Prog. Report was distributed to members. Fluctuating recycling markets and dropping oil prices have negatively affected some recycling programs in Berrien, including Styrofoam/foam collection and used moto oil recycling. Adams applied for the MRPA Green Gift Grant in January to help purchase recycling bins for Silver Beach County Park. Awards will be announced in Feb. Plants for 6 HHW and E-Waste recycling events, as well as 1 tire recycling collection in 2016 are underway.

Branch- Litchfield Tire Plant is closing down due to EPA regulations.

Calhoun- Plans on submitting Embridge grant to sponsor recycling center. Job titles and descriptions have been changed to better fit the Counties Recycle Program, Kelly now has 2 prg. Technicians that she will be training. Phase I of the Marshall facility is in the process bins will be moved in the same location so when weather breaks it can be paved as well as a fence around the perimeter. HHW Contract went to US Ecology, E-Waste Contract went to Green Earth Recyclers, Republic for all collections sites and the community is interested in mini-grants for ideas like recycling at the farmers markets and in the downtown areas.

Cass- Recycle Collection is scheduled for May 21st. Currently going to collect HHW and hopefully have the tire grant to offer tires. Is working to find an electronic collector that will work with the County on these dates for an acceptable rate of charge for TVs and CRTs.

Van Buren- E-Waste contract with Green Earth has been going great and will continue another year. HHW dates and sites have been scheduled along with the collection of Latex Paint (e-paint/Jim Cosby out of Battle Creek). Brucks will be working on website recycle page and would like to put up a map that shows overlays of who picks up where for waste and recycling so residents can use map to see who covers their area. Brucks will check out what Counties like Allegan has uploaded on their website for ideas.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2016 – 7:00pm

Possible Tours: *Don Varablic will check with the tomato facility to see if we could tour it this fall *R & S Packaging in Paw Paw is a new non-styrofoam peanut packaging place that Godfrey reported *Marrone in Bangor is a manufacturing company for bio-pesticides *Calhoun's new Drop Off facilities

Notes:

2016 MRC Conference is May 3rd-5th at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Michigan.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourns, 8:55pm.