



## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of Wednesday, March 17, 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 7:00 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* – Bob Ziliak and Clark Cobb; *Van Buren* – Richard Godfrey, Richard Freestone and AJ Brucks.

**Others Present:** Mrs. Ziliak, Cass County resident and Jim Granholm, Green Earth Recycling

**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 Ziliak, supported by Clark to approve the January 21, 2016 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 Thiele, supported by Vavra to accept financial report. Motion carried.

**Payment of Bills:** Two checks were written and signed for Allegan and Calhoun Counties each for \$300 for the support of the MRC Conference.

**Presentation:** Jim Granholm, Green Earth Electronics Recycling, Saint Joseph, MI – Jim, standing at 7'1" is an ex-NBA basketball player who has dabbled in many businesses. Jim met an associate that was working with electronics and with the knowledge of knowing 187,000 computers head to the landfill a day and the concern about this own computers and the info they contain sitting in his basement he decided to get into the field of e-waste. Jim has been in Berrien County for six years owning and operating Green Earth Recycling. Green Earth Recycling works to reuse and repurpose what they can first and then recycling as much as they are able, they also shred and wipe clean any hard drives with proper equipment. 70-79% of what they get is tube TV's which hold up to 20lbs. of lead in each and up to 75% of what comes in still works. The new screen monitors and computers contain mercury instead of lead so is still a household hazardous waste. Jim sits on an advisory board with the MDEQ and works on the legislation that puts into place an electronic ban. A problem is a scarp prices fluctuate so frequently, a few years ago a roll off bin full of TV's would price out at \$1,000 and now is under \$100. The draft for the bills are hard and ever changing as companies go in and out of service because they buy into electronic recycling when prices are good and disappear when they are bad. For example a place up in the Upper Peninsula of MI has a place where they dump off of their TV tubes and currently the MDEQ isn't able to do anything about it, it is referred to as the tube-farm. Best Buy is currently taking TV's and monitors for \$25.00 a piece for any size. Jim suggests to everyone trust but verify, you may trust a company but put the effort in to see where their recycling is going. Green Earth checks out all of their companies downstream of them to make sure each and every one of them are recycling properly.

### Old Business:

- SWMSWC Meeting Dates-Board decided to keep the scheduled dates of bi-monthly with a summer tour the same.

### New Business:

- Governors Recycling Summit and MRC Conference-May 3-5, 2016-Adams passed around the MRC agenda brochure and made comments on some of the programs. Kelly updated there are currently 39 vendors and the Lieutenant Governor will be presentation.

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

- Williams updated he spoke with Wade at the MDEQ and we will not hear about the grant until mid-April due to the issues in Flint. He also updated that the Cass location at DeerPath may have to change because MDEQ will not allow the collection site at the recycler's location. Board requested we ask MDEQ to see if they would allow a spotter/counter third party at that location.

### **County Updates:**

Allegan- Williams reported the Board of Commissioners have passed a resolution and will be on the fall ballot for recycling fee throughout the County. William has all of his 2016 dates for collections scheduled and is ready for spring. Thiele mentioned that Saginaw Co. is the number one county to be using rubberized asphalt, they currently are using 10,000 per lane mile and it seems to be holding up just as well as regular asphalt, it is 30% more expensive but so far on the 10 year research project is holding up just as well.

Berrien- Adams updated that Brucks, Katie Venechuk at MDEQ and her met to discuss prog. Issues in respective counties. Katie and Jill also met with National Cart Marketing, a company helps pay for recycling carts through advertising on the lid. Berrien Co. 2016 recycling event fliers have been distributed around the County. The first event is the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Day on April 13 at Lake Michigan College. Park Staff is discussing the future funding issues facing the Berrien's Resource Recovery Programming, which will be critical during budget planning season this summer.

Branch- Vrablic updated he was able to talk with the tomato plant greenhouse about a tour in August. It is tentatively planned for Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am if folks can let him know if they can make it or not. The tour will be about the water recycling effort of the 100 acre under glass greenhouse.

Calhoun- Kelly updated on behalf of MRC- the Recycle By Design has been postponed/tabled for the time being as the MDEQ is focusing all of their efforts and funding on the Flint crisis. There is an increase of recycling efforts in Flint as companies like Shupan are collecting water bottles. Republic MRFs at ReCommunity does not take recycling in bags so Shupan is working on capturing the bagged bottles and Republic is working on capturing the loose bottles. The current Mayor is not addressing recycling like they should and Flint is now calling for donations of funding and not donation of water as buildings are to capacity of donated bottled/jugs of water. In Calhoun Co. recycling is huge. Kelly gave a PowerPoint to the road dept. and township regarding recycling. Tuesday morn their facility opened and collected 1300 lbs. of cardboard, 2.5 tons of mix and scrap tires. Kelly is working with her Solid Waste Committee to update a plan and keep the effort going at the facilities.

Cass- Ziliak 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 the VBC one page flyer of events will be in the papers next week. Brucks will also be working on a large update with the recycle guide this year and have it professional designed for a new look of recycling. Brucks is working on finding funding so all residents of the county will received a updated recycle guide.

**Next Meeting:** May 18, 2016 – 7:00pm

**Future Meetings:** August Tour TBA, September 21, November 16

### Notes:

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

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourns, 8:55pm.