



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of Wednesday, March 18, 2015

219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

www.SWMSWC.com

Minutes prepared by: AJ Brucks, Van Buren

Business meeting called to order by Chair Max Thiele at 7:03 PM

Roll Call of Counties: Members & Technical Advisory Council (TAC) Present:

Allegan – Max Thiele; *Berrien* – Andy Vavra and Jill Adams; *Branch* - Don Vrablic; *Calhoun* –Sarah Kelly; *Cass*- Robert Ziliak and Clark Cobb; *Van Buren* –Richard Godfrey and AJ Brucks

Others Present: Mrs. Ziliak was not able to make it, Ziliak reported that she was recovering from a stroke but was doing well.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Vavra, supported by Vrablic to approve the January 21, 2015 board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: N/A

Financial Report: Balance of \$6,686.25. Brucks will email out the user name and password for PNC on-line banking.

Payment of Bills: none.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

- MRC 2015 Conference- Adams updated that the MDEQ and Governor's Office is working in conjunction with the MRC Conference and it is being planned for May 5-7, 2015 in Kalamazoo. This conference will be a great opportunity for our regional staff and Consortium members to attend and gain knowledge of recycling in Michigan and how to best develop our programs here in Southwest Michigan. Adams handed out brochures and talked about the keynotes and economics of recycling in MI. Allegan and Van Buren requested funds of \$300 and \$150 respectively to help get the TAC member to the conference. Motion made by Vavra, supported by Ziliak to accept the request for funds and support Van Buren County for \$150.00 and Allegan County for \$300.00 to support in the conference fees. Motion carried. Motion made by Godfrey, supported by Vrablic to donate \$500.00 sponsorship funds to the Michigan Recycling Coalition to help with silent auction and/or speaker gift baskets for 2015 MRC Conference. Motion carried. Adams requested the help to find donated local items for speaker gifts as well as tin-can auctions. Items such as coffee, wine, chocolate, beer, locally grown food items etc.
- Scrap Tire Grant 2015- The MDEQ has awarded the SWMSWC a grant for the 2015 year. The total grant is for \$36,000 which means each participating County will get up to 3 semi's paid for to collect scrap passenger tires from residents. Williams will clarify size of tires that will be accepted free of charge and cost of larger equipment tires and tractor tires and if there are any charge for tires with rims. Williams updated that the paperwork is signed and headed to the State office. Each County will have to let Williams know date/location as well as schedule with DeerPath the appropriate date/time and location.

- Outreach Strategy for RRP- Brucks asked the Board and TAC Committee to brain storm and share ideas of outreach for their recycling programs: Letters to townships/villages/cities, links and info on website of townships/villages/cities, letters and emails to lake associations, flyers, news ad in free papers, signs and banners, relators associations outreach (Gary Walters on Red Arrow), press releases, radio ads etc.

Reports/Project Updates:

County Updates:

Allegan – Allegan County Resource Recovery looked into the P2 Grant application due on April 1 by the MDEQ but decided to back out due to time constraints. Allegan will apply next year. Kent County is asking for support for their P2 Grant Applications that will upgrade a recycling facility on the Kent/Allegan County line. The Resource Recovery program is moving forward with the surcharge Act 69 of 2005 to look as a funding mechanism to increase the surcharge revenue to >\$25 but <\$50 per year per household. This will go to the Board of Commissioners for approval in summer of 2015 with a ballot vote option in Primary of 2016. I have two regional HHW/Computer Recycling Events scheduled in May.

Berrien – Berrien was granted permission to work with Cass, Van Buren, and Branch counties on the 2015 Clean Sweep Program. Michigan's Great Southwest Sustainable Business Forum conducted a Legislative Update, although the topic of Recycling wasn't discussed as the recycling folks that attended hoped Adams was awarded Annual Sustainability Award. Adams has been busy planning and organizing the MRC Conference that takes place in May and encourages any Commissioner to attend.

Branch – Vrablic reported a posting for Clean Boats/Clean Water information and outreach for local lakes that talks about invasive species and water quality.

Calhoun – Kelly updated that Albion Recycling Center is up and running. Community Service people and volunteers are currently running it. They are collecting newspaper, cardboard, plastic, tires, metal, styrofoam. They are averaging 100 cars on Wednesday and 50-60 on Saturdays. Calhoun County is going to apply for a R2 grant and are looking for bids for a flat rate for electronics.

Cass – Ziliak reported their HHW is scheduled for May 16th and they will be collecting HHW, flags, hearing aids, reading glasses, tire and electronics and will be charging for their CRTs this year.

St. Joseph- N/A

Van Buren – Brucks updated a new outreach strategy with townships/villages/cities by emailing as well as mailing them information about the HHW program along with their contracts. Brucks posted a full sheet ad in the Paw Paw Flashes which covers around 14,000 papers around the County.

Other Comments: N/A

Next Meeting: May 20th, July Tour (TBA), September 16, November 18
Vrablic is going to check with the tomato facility to see if we are able to get in and tour.

Adjourn: Motion made by Varva, 2nd by Vrablic adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. Motion carried.