



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of July 22, 2015

One Haworth Center, Holland, MI

www.SWMSWC.com

Minutes prepared by: Max Thiele and Jill Adams

Members and guests toured Haworth in Holland, Michigan. Haworth in Holland employs approximately 2,500 people in manufacturing and 800 office staff. A common theme at Haworth is that waste reduction and recycling makes good business sense. Recycling is mandatory company-wide. In 1993, a 19,000 ft² recycle center was built on-site at Haworth. The recycling program brings in \$1.7 million in annual revenue, \$1.3 million net. The last time any waste was sent to a landfill from Haworth's US facilities was in 2009. Haworth recycles and otherwise diverts materials from the landfill that include batteries, metals, drywall, electronics, peg boards, compostable waste, plastic film, shoes/clothes, cardboard, plastic, and a wide variety of other materials.

Meeting called to order by Chair Max Thiele at 2:30 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; *Van Buren* –Richard Freestone.

Others Present: Allegan Co. Solid Waste Planning Committee members Michelle Herman (City of Wayland Clerk) and Tom Jessup (County Commissioner); Katie Venechuk, MDEQ; and Bill Gurn, Haworth.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Kelly, supported by Freestone to approve the 3/18/15 and 5/20/15 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Herman expressed appreciation to Haworth for the tour opportunity. Venechuk informed the group about the development of educational documents and outreach materials promoting recycling.

Financial Report: balance of \$5,736.25

Payment of Bills: none

Old Business:

2015 Scrap Tire Grant –

- Allegan County: August 1, 3 locations and trailers.
- Berrien County: April 30 – May 1, completed, 3 trailers.
- Branch County: August 22, 1 trailer scheduled with Deerpath.
- Calhoun County: May 30, June 27, 2 Trailers; 1 more trailer scheduled for July 25 with Deerpath.
- Cass County: August 10-15, Deerpath will host at their site with one trailer at the final Saturday if needed.
- VanBuren County: June 20, 1 Trailer completed, 1 more tentatively scheduled in August.

As of July 2, 2015 there has been a total of \$10,442.00 requested for direct payment from the MDEQ to Deerpath. Looking at 2 more direct payment request, one in mid-August and the last one in late August.

Commissioner Vrablic – reported that the Litchfield Co-Gen plant is closing due to EPA regulations. Greenhouse tomato operation is suffering an 80% turnover rate.

New Business: none

County Updates:

- Allegan - developing resolution for recycling refinancing ballot proposal.
- Berrien – successful 3rd annual Clean Sweep collection in partnership with Branch County.
- Calhoun – working on Marshall recycling center site, unsure if it will remain at current planned site; Williams and Kelly will be speaking at the Environmental Health Director Conference; preparing for Recycle Rama to take place at end of August.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 16, in Paw Paw, MI at 7 p.m.

Adjourn: adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.