



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of Wednesday September 16, 2015

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 7:07 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* – Rob Ziliak and Clark Cobb; *Van Buren* –Richard Godfrey and AJ Brucks.

Others Present: Mrs. Ziliak, Cass County resident.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Vrablic, supported by Ziliak to approve the July 22, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Financial Report: balance of \$5,734.25. Brucks presented the financials and bank statements to the board.

Payment of Bills: none

Old Business:

- 2015 Scrap Tire Grant- Williams sent a report; Deer Path is being paid on time this year. Totals: 14 Trailers which included 11,509 PTE for a grant total \$22,702 out of \$36,000.00.
- 2016 Scrap Tire Grant-Deer Path will be pay directly again and accepted the partnership if the SWMSWC submits an application. Motion made by Ziliak, Supported by Cobb to submit 2016 Scrap Tire Grant to the MDEQ. Motion carried. Changes to any collection sites as well as scheduled dates should be sent as soon as possible to Ben Williams for him to make the updates in the grant application. Collections should not be held before April 1 as we do not usually hear about grant until then.

Question of the cost of tire difference between Deer Path, Jim in IN, White Pigeon facility and the recycle place in Calhoun should be looked at; Brucks will call for quotes by the next meeting.

New Business:

- Michigan Recycling Meeting with Stakeholders in August, Allegan County- Sarah represented with Chef Recycling to MDEQ. A hot topic was curbside and it sounds like the Governor has an interest as there are not many communities with curbside and it is not offered in rural areas. There is conversation that all haulers will have to require Recycling at State level and if it is not possible for them they may not be able to haul and areas where curbside is not available will have to have it offered. Brownfield development areas are also a concern. Lastly the cost of CRTs and TV's within the electronic recycling is a concern for who is still not taking them, who is paying for them and if they are being recycled properly. Thiel asked about the retailer's take-back program and making it more mandatory by closing the loop holes that are currently in the legislation. Adams commented that Green Earth Electronic Recycling is working out for her in Berrien County; they are local and have been around for year. Brucks commented that Van Buren County will soon be partnering with them for all the electronic collections.

- MRC/DEQ- Recycle By Design- handout and flyer (PET example reduces carbon footprint) was passed out. MDEQ minute from last meeting were also passed out. Cobb discuss his trip to Colorado and their Community Recycling Program, they have Recycle bins instead of trash bins on roads, asphalt recycling program etc. He thinks we should look into what other states are doing so we don't reinvent the wheel and can mirror what is being successful. Vavra also commented on what Minnesota is heading up when it comes to Recycling. Kelly also handed out the 2015 report that measures recycling in the State of MI. They suggested we look at what most sophisticated States and Counties (Germany, across Europe) are doing to make headway in Michigan.

Reports/Project Updates:

Katie updates that DEQ documents for education are being drafted examples being tips for local media, Facebook and Website. There is also the 2016 P2 Recycle grants RFP is available. MDEQ would like a focus of a place to recycle and new places able to take a material to produce a final product; this would create a place for a certain material, jobs to help create this product and an end product coming out of Michigan.

County Updates:

Allegan-Resource Recovery Program has been in communication with the Board of Commissioners about a resolution that would allow interested townships to place on the Aug 2, 2016 ballot an amount greater than \$25 but less than \$50 per year, per home to fund recycling programs. Out of the 19 townships, 11 have expenses exceeding revenue with the \$25 funding structure in 2015. Allegan County Solid Waste Planning Committee will meet in October to discuss processing charges per ton for single stream recycling programs. (We have two places that want to charge so this will be a battle determining the price per ton outcome. Kent County will charge about \$10 per ton.) Household Hazardous Waste program once again has not let up. October 10, 2015 I have a regional E-waste collection in Otsego, MI. Valley City: Allegan County is at \$.13 per pound of TV's with a \$150 pick-up fee and \$.01 credit. Matt Biolette with Chef Container has resigned with Chef and will be the new municipal sales contact for Northern Lower MI for Republic Services.

Berrien-Clean Sweep Grant has been maxed out for FY2015. Berrien was granted an increase for a total grant of \$26,783. This grant assisted with the cost of pesticide disposal in Berrien, Branch, Cass and Van Buren Counties. Berrien had 4 community HHW and E-Waste events, with 2 more to go in 2015. Berrien will be going out to bid for HHW services in 2016. In 2016, Berrien plans to try to keep programming and events similar to 2015.

Branch- Litchfield Tire Plant is closing down due to EPA regulations. Branch had a successful tire collection with the use of inmates. Vrablic reported they had a successful collection and besides passenger tires they had ½ dozen tractor and loader tires.

Calhoun- Recycle Roma was 4 hours long collecting materials from 600 cars; electronics, cardboard and 40 tons of HHW. The Albion Center is getting a new fence around its perimeter and there is concern about the Resource Recovery budget because as less materials go into the landfill the funding supporting the programs also goes down.

Cass- Cass had its HHW, Tire and Electronic Recycling Collection event and it was a success. They had fewer tires than previously but were able to collect a significant amount.

Van Buren-Brucks would like to produce and share, or share the production of a month Recycle Rant or Recycle Ramble to send as a press release to our region residents.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 in Paw Paw at 7 p.m. *Note that Thiele will not be in attendance. 2016 Dates: January 20, March 16, May 18, July-Tour, September 21, November 16

Notes:

2015 National Resource Recycling Conference is September 28-30 in Indianapolis. Kelly discussed there are a few potentially good workshop topics including curbside/bin sessions.

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

Adjourn: Meeting adjourns.