

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Minutes of Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Land Administration Service Building
219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
www.SWMSWC.com

Minutes prepared by: Emily Hickmott

Meeting called to order by Member Max Thiele at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call of Counties: Members & Technical Advisory Council (TAC) Present: *Allegan* – Max Thiele and Rosemary Graham; *Berrien* – Ezra Scott and Jill Adams; *Branch* - Don Vrablic; *Calhoun* – Sarah Kelly; *Cass* – Clark Cobb; *Van Buren* –Richard Godfrey and Emily Hickmott.

Others Present: Chris Phillips, Best Way Disposal

Reorganization of the Board: Motion made by Scott, supported by Thiele to wait to reorganize the board until more members are in attendance. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Vrablic, supported by Godfrey to approve the March 20, 2019 Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Scott, supported by Vrablic to approve the January 16, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No comments.

Financial Report:

- Balance of \$9,350.83. Hickmott presented January 2019 and February 2019 PNC Bank Statements. All membership dues have been received except Calhoun County and those are in process.
- Bank Account Signer Update: Motion made by Scott, supported by Godfrey for Hickmott to write letter to PNC Bank requesting that the signature card be updated to remove Ziliak and add Thiele. Motion carried.

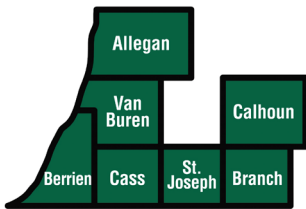
Payment of Bills: No bills.

Old Business:

- May 15 Meeting: Motion made by Vrablic, supported by Godfrey to move the May 15 meeting to May 22 at 7:00 PM. Motion carried.
- 2019 Speaker: The TAC has been in communication about the fall program at a KVCC. A lecture hall is available for about \$150-200. We would like to aim for the program to be in September. The room details can be confirmed in July once KVCC sets their fall schedule. Topics of interest include market information, lobbyist impact on industry, vendors, DEQ or MRC speakers for legislative updates and grant opportunities. The goal is to have topics and maybe speakers determined by the SWMSWC May 22 meeting. By July, it would be good to have the invitation and speakers set in place. The board is in support, so the TAC will keep working on these items.
- Kalamazoo County Invitation: Hickmott reported that Kalamazoo County Commissioners would like more information on what the benefits of membership are. Hickmott will further detail the benefits and send them along.

New Business:

- Chris Phillips (Best Way Disposal) – Recycling Service Challenges and Tipping Fee Sunset: Phillips reported that the following are some major challenges in the recycling service industry right now: Increase of material at recovery centers by 30% because of China cut off, costs rising because contamination allowance has decreased from 10% to 1-5%, virgin plastic is cheaper than recycled plastic, increase in cardboard because of Amazon prime movement, aspirational recycling, and lazy recycling. An inhibitor to the market includes a lack of end users to buy material. Best Way Disposal is not talking about narrowing



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their recycling services to control cost. Services will probably remain single-stream because resident participation is higher with single-stream. MI's tipping fee sunsets October 1, 2019. Recycling service industry wonders what the funding will be used for if sunset is removed and fees remain as governor proposes. Graham and Kelly discussed opportunity for SWMSWC to apply for grant funding to develop education. TAC will brainstorm list of possibilities to be ready to apply once application released in January 2020.

- MRC Conference Requests – Allegan requested and was granted \$200 support for conference. Van Buren requested and was granted \$325.00 support for conference. It was budgeted to help any commissioners that may want to attend a day or full conference if desired. Motion made by Godfrey, supported by Scott for up to \$800 of consortium funds to be made available to support Allegan and Van Buren County conference attendees, along with a commissioner. Motion carried.

Reports/Project Updates:

- Scrap Tire Grant 2019 Update – Hickmott read letter from Deerpath Vice President indicating that Deerpath will no longer accept direct payments from the State. Solutions were discussed and Hickmott indicated she would keep everyone in touch as conversations developed between the DEQ and Deerpath. One municipal agreement has been received up to this point; more agreements are expected to come in.
- 2019 Tour – Motion made by Thiele, supported by Vrablic to hold conversations and plans on tour until the tire grant solution is finalized.

County Updates:

- Allegan Co. – Graham is working on HHW collection logistics. Steve Noble at DEQ reported recently that 1-day electronics collections are on their way out.
- Berrien Co. – Adams reported that Berrien County 2019 Community Recycling events are set and being promoted. The first event of the year is the 10th annual Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Day on April 10th at Lake Michigan College. The 2019 event schedule mirrors the 2019 schedule.
- Branch Co. – Update was not made.
- Calhoun Co. – Kelly was called by Padnos who indicated they are paying for collectors to have 1-day electronics collections. Padnos will bring the trailer, can bring personnel, and will pay out for appliances. Kelly will forward this information to the SWMSWC.
- Cass Co. – Update was not made.
- St. Joseph Co. – Update was not made.
- Van Buren Co. – Update was not made.

Next Meeting: May 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

2019 Dates: July 17, September 18, November 20

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.