



## Minutes

### SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee

Monday, November 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Pokagon Band Community Center

27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

Role	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Solid Waste Facility Operator	Bob Kras	IP	A	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	
Hauler	Christopher Phillips (Vice-Chair)	IP	E	IP	IP	A	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	
Materials Recovery Facility Operator	Donovan Kelley		IP	E	IP	A	E	E	IP	E	IP	IP	
Composting Facility Operator	Adam Brent								IP	IP	IP	IP	
Waste Diversion, Reuse, Reduction Facility Operator	Sheila Bergen				IP	IP	IP	IP	A	IP	A	IP	
Environmental Interest Group	Kalli Marshall (Chair)	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	
Elected Township Official	David Kuhn	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	
Elected City/Village Official	Deah Muth	IP	IP	V	IP	V	IP	E	IP	E	E	IP	
Business that generates Managed Materials	Al Pscholka	IP	IP	E	E	A	E	IP	A	A	E	IP	
Regional Planning Agency	John Egelhaaf	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	
Sovereign Nation	Jennifer Kanine	IP	IP	IP	V	A	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	
<b>Berrien County</b>													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Dave Vollrath	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Jeff Doroh	IP	IP	IP	E	A	IP	IP	E	IP	V	IP	
<b>Cass County</b>													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Roseann Marchetti (Secretery)	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Amy Huser	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	
<b>Van Buren County</b>													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Kurt Doroh							IP	IP	A	IP	E	
Business that Generates Managed Materials													
IP - Present in Person; V - Participating remotely; E- Excused absence; A - Unexcused absence; A blank spot means the position is vacant													

#### Public Present

Adams, Jill  
 Koel, Lois  
 Field, Jaysen  
 Graves, Genevieve  
 Chubb, Deb  
 Plathe, Justin  
 Krcmark, Jeff  
 O'Brien, Mindy

### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Kalli Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Role call was taken, and it was established that a quorum was present.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Christopher Phillips moved to **“ACCEPT THE AGENDA.”** Al Pscholka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### 3. Approval of October 20, 2025 Minutes

Bob Kras moved to **“APPROVE October 20, 2025 MINUTES.”** Donovan Kelley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### 4. Old Business

#### *Working Groups Update*

The committee received an update on the working groups, beginning with an extensive discussion about Open Meetings Act (OMA) compliance. Bekah Schrag explained that if working groups are doing the bulk of the work and the main committee is only rubber-stamping recommendations, then those groups must comply with OMA requirements. She outlined what OMA compliance would entail, including in-person meeting requirements, record keeping, formal procedures, and public comment management.

Several concerns were raised about transparency and the capacity of volunteer members to meet these requirements, including that individuals had signed up for the working groups under the knowledge that they would be virtual meetings. The group explored multiple options for the future of the working groups, including dissolving them, keeping them as they are with closer committee review, or transitioning some into OMA-compliant bodies. A poll completed by all those at the meeting indicated that the preferred option was to keep the working groups as they currently operate while ensuring that all recommendations receive full committee review.

Following the discussion, Al Pscholka made a motion to **“dissolve the three county working groups and keep the Policy and Education Working Groups as OMA-compliant entities.”** Dave Vollrath seconded the motion. A role call vote was taken and the motion passed with all present voting in favor. Members acknowledged the need to reach out to current working group participants to assess whether they could meet in-person requirements, noting that some may face geographic limitations.

### *Public Survey Update*

Schrag gave the committee an update on the public survey for materials management planning, which has gathered 287 responses thus far. Most of the responses are from Berrien County residents over the age of 50. Schrag mentioned that reaching the younger generation should be a priority. Strategies to increase participation were discussed, including using individual signatures at the bottom of emails, social media posts, and posting flyers at large gathering venues.

## **5. Hearings**

None.

## **6. New Business**

### *Municipality Engagement*

Schrag spoke about the importance of getting municipalities engaged in the planning process, and keeping them engaged throughout the implementation of the plan. A quick survey was completed by those in the meeting to gauge best methods for how to engage municipalities. Discussion followed including how webinars are beneficial because they can be watched when there is free time, however distractions pose another challenge. David Kuhn suggested presenting at the Clerks' Association and Treasurers' Association meetings.

Chair Marshall reminded the committee that, as members of the Planning Committee, they also play a role in promoting the project and planning process. She emphasized that speaking with colleagues, giving presentations, and sharing information with various boards are effective ways to broaden outreach while distributing the responsibility across the committee.

## **7. Public Comment**

Lois Koel stated she was from the Cass County Conservation District.

Mindy O'Brien noted that while she will be unable to serve as a member on the Education Working Group, she will attend virtually as a member of the public.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

None.

## **9. Adjournment**

Christopher Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Vollrath supported the motion. Chair Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm. The next meeting will be held on December 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bekah Schrag

November 20, 2025