



Minutes

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee

Monday, January 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Pokagon Band Community Center
27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Baran, Bob
Doroh, Jeff
Egelhaaf, John
Huser, Amy
Kanine, Jennifer
Kras, Bob
Kuhn, David
Marchetti, Roseann, Secretary
Marshall, Kalli, Chair
Muth, Deah
Phillips, Christopher, Vice Chair
Pscholka, Al
Schincariol, Paul
Vollrath, Dave

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Giczewski, John
Haneberg, Kim
Kelley, Donovan

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Adams, Jill
Field, Jayson
Graves, Genevieve
Palthe, Justin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kalli Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. She took roll call, and a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Marshall presented the agenda with revisions. The revisions included adding the Materials Management Planning Grant RFP to agenda item #5 and adding Grant Funding to agenda item #7.

Al Pscholka moved to **“ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH REVISIONS.”** Secretary Roseann Marchetti seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marchetti moved to **“APPROVE 11.20.24 MINUTES.”** Vice Chair Christopher Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

Work Program Extension

Bekah Schrag stated the work program extension was granted with a new deadline of March 31, 2025.

Materials Management Planning Grant RFP

Schrag presented the Request for Work Program document from EGLE, including the provided work program template. She stated she will email the committee the document.

Marchetti asked if each county must apply, to which Schrag responded yes. Schrag explained that SWMPC will write the majority of the narrative and timeline, but each county will need to work on a budget. David Kuhn inquired on what the grant award includes. Schrag explained the grant award includes all aspects of planning and implementation but does not include land acquisition and equipment. Jill Adams asked how we will be reimbursed for 2024 expenses, to which Schrag responded that has not been made clear. John Egelhaaf commented on how the reporting portion might be challenging and SWMPC is working on the details.

6. HEARINGS

Recycling Programs – Berrien County

Jill Adams, Director of Berrien County Parks Department, presented on the Berrien County recycling programs. Programs include five collection events a year focusing on items that should not go to the landfill, such as hazardous waste. Adams shared details on these events in which they work with Green Earth for electronics drop off, Tri-Power Recycling to collect Styrofoam, onsite shredding at three of the events, and partner with Cycle-Re-Cycle to recycle bicycles at one of the events. She went on to share other Berrien County recycling options such as clean sweep sites to collect pesticide waste, tire recycling collection events, free recycling drop off centers, and recycling offered at Silver Beach County Park. Adams concluded with the recycle search on the Berrien County website, program staffing throughout the years, and funding.

Recycling Programs – Cass County

Roseann Marchetti presented on the Cass County recycling programs. She stated that Cass County sponsors two events a year occurring in the spring and fall at the Cass County Road Commission. This year those events will occur on April 21st and September 24th. These events focus on the collection of hazardous waste, electronics, and tires. Marchetti shared a flyer listing permitted items at these events and pointed out other items of note including eyeglasses, medical waste, and flags.

Recycling Programs – Van Buren County

Kalli Marshal presented on the Van Buren County recycling programs. Programs include two year-round electronics sites, four year-round tire drop off locations, nine

battery drop off locations at libraries, and three recycle roundup events. Marshall stated that Van Buren County produces a recycle guidebook that can be found online, and physical copies are also sent out.

Al Pscholka asked how to convince counties to be transfer stations. Chair Marshall responded that it took relationship building to create good partnerships. Jeff Doroh posed the question, what is the incentive for residents to recycle and to recycle properly. In response to this, Jill Adams and others spoke on the need to educate the public and how to get the word out.

7. NEW BUSINESS

MRC Timelines

Schrag presented the timeline of the plan, showing the goals for each month for the next 18 months. Schrag provided this timeline in the binders passed out during the meeting.

Demographics

Schrag went over some of the demographics tables by county and shared that more aspects will be soon added to this section. Pscholka said the Berrien County population is incorrect. He stated the cities are listed twice, some of the numbers are incorrect, and Watervliet is listed as a city and a village. Marchetti said she does not believe Ontwa Township grew as much as the percentage shown. Schrag said she will look into these errors.

EGLE Reports – Facilities, Services, Infrastructure

Schrag presented a map of recycling facilities in our region that can be found on EGLE's website. She stated that the data was compiled by EGLE in 2023. She told the committee she will share the link with them to this map.

Grant Funding

Chair Marshall asked for ideas on what the counties would like in the budget. She suggested feasibility studies. Pscholka suggested education on recycling and drop off location awareness.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9. MISCELLANEOUS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Al Pscholka moved to adjourn the meeting. Roseann Marchetti supported the motion.
Chair Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Submitted by:
Maria Vettraino

Date:
January 21, 2025