



Minutes

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)

Monday, March 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	Nov	Dec
Solid Waste Facility Operator	Bob Kras	IP	A	IP								
Hauler	Christopher Phillips (Vice-Chair)	IP	E	IP								
Materials Recovery Facility Operator	Donovan Kelley		IP	E								
Composting Facility Operator	Kim Haneberg		IP	IP								
Waste Diversion, Reuse, Reduction Facility Operator	Sheila Bergen											
Environmental Interest Group	Kalli Marshall (Chair)	IP	IP	IP								
Elected Township Official	David Kuhn	IP	IP	IP								
Elected City/Village Official	Deah Muth	IP	IP	V								
Business that generates Managed Materials	Al Pscholka	IP	IP	E								
Regional Planning Agency	John Egelhaaf	IP	IP	IP								
Sovereign Nation	Jennifer Kanine	IP	IP	IP								
Berrien County												
Elected County or Municipal Official	Dave Vollrath	IP	IP	IP								
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Jeff Doroh	IP	IP	IP								
Cass County												
Elected County or Municipal Official	Roseann Marchetti (Secretery)	IP	IP	E								
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Amy Huser	IP	IP	IP								
Van Buren County												
Elected County or Municipal Official	Paul Schincariol	IP	A	A								
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Robert Baran	IP	IP	A								
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
Graves, Genevieve
Jaysen Field
Bergen, Sheila

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kalli Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. She took roll call, and a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Marshall presented the agenda with a revision. The revision was the removal of the Lake Michigan College presentation under Hearings as Al Pscholka was unable to attend.

Dave Vollrath moved to **“ACCEPT THE AGENDA WITH REVISION.”** David Kuhn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Egelhaaf moved to **“APPROVE FEBURARY 10, 2025 MINUTES.”** Kim Haneberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Work Program (Action Required)

Bekah Schrag provided an overview of recent changes to the Work Program. Updates included the listing of county representatives who serve on the MMPC, identification of each county's grant manager, and a note that Sheila Bergen from Hydro has not yet received formal approval from all three counties to serve on the MMPC. County budgets have also been added to the work program as part of the Materials Management Planning Grant application. The grant period is listed in the Work Program as October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, aligning with the State of Michigan's fiscal year.

Schrag noted that tasks have been clearly delineated, including those completed prior to October 1, 2024. Language has been added to indicate that this work was essential to finalizing the work plan for the grant application. Although the counties are not currently seeking reimbursement for this pre-award work—due to the potential delay in grant approval—they may pursue reimbursement at a later date.

Christopher Phillips inquired whether there is written guidance on the ability to carry forward funds between grant periods. Schrag responded that this had been confirmed in the most recent webinar.

It was further clarified that each county will draw down funds individually under the grant.

Amy Huser asked whether Cass County intends to wait until next year to request funds for work not included in the SMWPC contractual scope. Schrag indicated that Cass County is likely waiting to evaluate this year's progress and may request funding later for additional contractual services and/or educational activities.

Christopher Phillips moved to **"APPROVE THE WORK PROGRAM."** Dave Vollrath seconded the motion, and a roll call vote took place.

Approve: Jeff Doroh, John Egelhaaf, Kim Haneberg, Amy Huser, Jennifer Kanine, Bob Kras, David Kuhn, Kalli Marshall, Christopher Phillips, Dave Vollrath.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Bob Baran, Donovan Kelley, Roseann Marchetti, Al Pscholka, Paul Schincariol.

The Work Program was APPROVED.

Demographics

Schrag provided an update to the demographics section, which included corrections to population figures and the addition of 2029 forecast data. A question was raised regarding the inclusion of commercial and industrial forecasts. Jerrid Burdue, representing SWMPC, responded that economic forecasting can be incorporated into the plan.

Waste Generation

Schrag presented 2023 landfill data coupled with data from the 2016 Michigan Sustainable Business Forum finding on landfill composition. This included figures from municipal and commercial users but excluded out-of-state waste and identified the waste by material. Schrag suggested that there is room for large improvements in waste diversion methods relating to paper and cardboard, food waste, and plastics. Schrag mentioned that the region's daily trash per capita is at 6.4 pounds, while the national average is at 4.9 pounds. Schrag also presented tonnage on recyclables as provided by Recycling Works MRF and Best Way Disposal.

David Kuhn inquired about industrial waste and noted that industrial users typically do a better job of sorting and recycling their waste. He emphasized that, while the plan does not specifically address industrial waste, it is important that industry remains informed about the committee's efforts. Bob Kras added that, in general, industrial waste represents a relatively small portion of the total waste stream compared to residential and commercial sources.

A broader discussion followed regarding the need for improved data collection. Topics included encouraging solid waste haulers to report where recyclables are sent, and the potential benefits of contracts with single haulers to produce more complete and consistent data. While it was acknowledged that contract enforcement is beyond the scope of the committee, members agreed that demonstrating progress in data tracking is essential for securing future grant funding.

Jill Adams asked whether organizations such as Green Earth, Household Hazardous Waste programs, and Goodwill are included in recycling rate calculations. Schrag clarified that while these entities are not currently included in the recycling rate data, their efforts are still valuable and should be encouraged to increase usage.

It was also noted that LRS has submitted an application to reopen a recycling facility in Niles, although this information is currently based on word-of-mouth.

6. HEARINGS

Camp Friedenswald

Amy Huser gave a brief presentation on Camp Friedenswald and their ongoing sustainability efforts, including recycling and composting initiatives. The camp collects food scraps and other organic waste for composting and previously dropped off recycling at Recycle Works in Elkhart, IN. They have since transitioned to single-stream and cardboard collection with a dedicated hauler and also partner with TerraCycle for hard-to-recycle items.

Huser noted that one of the ongoing challenges is educating camp guests about what materials are recyclable and encouraging participation in composting programs.

United Container Company

Jeff Doroh provided an overview of United Container Company, which partners with large manufacturers across multiple states to repurpose corrugated boxes. The company operates under a unique business model in which they pay for, rather than charge for, box collection and then resell the reusable boxes.

Doroh noted that they are actively seeking additional business partners in Michigan and the surrounding region to help reduce freight costs and expand their operations locally.

ChewMax Pet Products

No presentation was provided since Bob Baran was absent.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerrid Burdue shared that he recently initiated recycling service at his grandfather's residence in Howard Township, Cass County. The service, provided by Borden, is available for \$8 per month.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Chair Marshall mentioned the upcoming Michigan Recycling Coalition Annual Conference from May 13-15 at the Muskegon Convention Center. More details will be sent out.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dave Vollrath moved to adjourn the meeting. Christopher Phillips supported the motion. Chair Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Submitted by:
Bekah Schrag

Date:
April 11, 2025