

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEELANAU COUNTY SOLID WASTE COUNCIL WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AT THE LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER.

Proceedings of the meeting were recorded and are not the official record of the meeting. The formally approved written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Bahle. The meeting was held at the Leelanau County Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suttons Bay MI.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: L. Bahle, C. Sharp, T. Peterson, K. Ross, K. Cavanaugh, T. MacDonald, A. Gale (1:06 pm)

Members Absent: J. Fletcher
(Prior Notice)

Ex-officio Members: M. Bevelhymer
(Present)

Ex-officio Members: J. Palmer
(Absent)

Staff Present: T. Galla, Director

Public Present: T. Dowd, K. Page, B. Perkins

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

STAFF COMMENTS

Galla updated members on the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) / Electronics bids and recommendations going to the County Board, status of reservations for last two collections, and the 2% grant applications that staff will submit again this year for tire and mattress recycling. Galla noted the collection at Peshawbestown is full but staff opened it up for a few more appointments. Collections are now filling up a month ahead. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) is interested in a tire collection so they may do tires and mattresses at their location next year. Also, she sent out the Site Host Agreements for a 5-year renewal for the following: Northport (Leelanau Township), Elmwood Township, The Leelanau School, Empire Village, Grand Traverse Band (GTB), and Glen Lake School. So far, staff has received GTB and Glen Lake School agreements, and The Leelanau School has agreed and will sign after the County Board signs. Galla briefly commented on composting and said there is discussion under New Business today.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Motion by Ross, seconded by Peterson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

(Gale present)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

CONSIDERATION OF JULY 25, 2023 and AUGUST 7, 2023 MINUTES

Motion By Ross, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the July 25th minutes, as presented. Motion carried 7-0

Motion by Sharp, seconded by Ross, to approve the August 7th minutes, as presented. Motion carried 7-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Materials Management Plan (MMP) Planning Committee and Roles

Bahle noted the quick guide and membership for MMP. Galla stated there is a minimum number of members if you can't fill all the slots. She commented on a multi-county plan and multi-county planning. She has participated in webinars from the state and there have been questions on the benefits of a multi-county plan. She has talked to cohorts in Benzie and Grand Traverse County and the three of them feel that the development of the multi-county plan might be beneficial, but they could not see the benefit once the plan is approved. Galla noted this was on the agenda because it was brought up to her after the July meeting that maybe the MMP and SWC should both exist. The SWC has duties with recycling, recycling sites, HHW, budget, etc. and having an MMP committee that will get money from the state and also do those tasks may not work. Those tasks may not be covered with costs from the state to develop the MMP. Galla did not send the recommendation of the SWC to the Board yet so if they want to reconsider the motion that recommends the MMP exist and not the SWC, then they need to handle that today. In looking back at it and reconsidering, Galla can see the need for both committees. The MMP is going to work on the Plan. Once that Plan is done, then the SWC may not be needed. The MMP is a permanent committee. They are going to probably have some similar members so the meetings could be back-to-back. Close out one meeting and start the next.

Bahle said that was a reasonable explanation as to why there should be two committees. Ross asked how many applications there were for the MMP and Galla said three. The deadline is today that the Administrator's office set to get applications in but that is not the date from the state. She is expecting the announcement from the state soon on starting the process, so the MMP probably needs to be set up by the end of the year.

Gale asked if other counties are combining into one committee? Galla said she did not know how others were doing this. Gale asked if there were any suggestions from EGLE and she said, no. When they asked questions about a multi-county plan, there were benefits discussed. The MMP has to be set up according to statute. Gale said they have the ability to consider combining in the future. Galla noted according to the statute, the MMP is a permanent committee so it is not going away when the Plan is finished. Gale said it might make sense to not combined them at this time and consider it when the Plan is done. Sharp questioned if it was their job to try and fill the slots? Bahle said they could assist by contacting people and asking them to apply. Galla said she also sent it separately to Kasson Township as the landfill sits in their jurisdiction and it would be good for someone from the township to apply.

Cavanaugh said their issue is whether or not they rescind their previous action. She asked Galla about previous discussion on this and Galla stated she thought about it and now feels it would probably be better to have them separate at this time, but it is up to members. If they want the prior recommendation sent to the County Board, she will send it on. The County Board is the approval agency for the MMP so

they have to make sure they get slots filled and Galla will assist. If the SWC can assist, that would be good. Bevelhymer said that from prior experience, he recommends keeping them separate for now and possibly consolidating them in the future. Bahle said it would be practical to have as many of the SWC members as possible on MMP to lessen the amount of explanation and education that is needed.

Motion by Gale, seconded by Sharp, to rescind the motion of July 25 to have the MMP replace the SWC. Motion carried 6-1. MacDonald opposed.

Galla mentioned upcoming training sessions and one on October 5th that is a webinar. Right now, it's important to get applicants and have the County Board make appointments. She referenced the chart in the agenda packet and the number of steps to complete; they are at the beginning and it is a 36-month process. It starts with the County Board filing the Notice of Intent and designating the Designated Planning Agency (DPA). She will continue sending emails and information to SWC members so they are aware of the process. Ross asked about training and Galla said staff will attend right now. Once new members are appointed to the MMP, they should also do some of the trainings so they understand their role and the process.

Bevelhymer mentioned the October 19th session the Northern Michigan Region planning in Emmet County on the Materials Management Plan and said he is signed up. Galla said she is also. Galla noted that during the multi-county discussion, it was noted that multi-county plans would help those from the industry so they don't have to go to so many meetings. However, they need to set up what works best for the county. Bevelhymer commented there are 4-5 coming from industry. Bahle noted they have a very dedicated group here and many are not eligible to serve on the MMP. She mentioned the statute and the minimum required but it doesn't say they can't have more at large members. They have 9 members on the SWC and MMP needs a minimum of 7, and it doesn't say you can't have more. Galla felt it was 12 members unless they can't get those slots filled and then it is the 7 members. Peterson agreed.

Bevelhymer said he applied. Galla noted there are applications from Bevelhymer, Bahle, Ross and Palmer.

Update: Composting Session 9/28, and Spring Session

Galla said there are two composting sessions being planned for residents, one is September 28th, from 9-11 a.m. with Kate Thornhill, and the other will be set up in the spring with Amy Freeman. Each will cost around \$750.00 to put on and the cost will come from the recycling fund. More participation is needed for the September 28th session so she encouraged members to continue to spread the word. Galla asked for a motion to approve a maximum amount for the September session, to come from Fund 230 recycling fund.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Peterson, to approve up to \$750.00 for the speaker cost, for a 2-hour composting session on September 28, money to come from Fund 230. Motion Carried 7-0.

Potential Tour of Recycling facilities

Bahle noted the week of composting tours coming up. Galla said members should go to the latest link she shared and try to get into one of the tours. There will be one in Leelanau County and one in Grand Traverse County. Galla then mentioned trying to do a tour of the recycling facility in Traverse City. Bevelhymer noted they are open to do tours at the GFL facility in Traverse City and Wednesday or

Thursday is best. The City of Midland is coming in October. GFL just got a contract with them for 17,000 curbside pickups in the City. Galla will send out a doodle poll and figure a date for the tour.

Review of Revenue and Expenses

Galla reviewed the budget sheets and the bottom line for each year going back to 2018. 2018-2021 they underspent the budget, and in 2022 they overspent. She reviewed the Fund Balance and projected expenses for the rest of 2023. She is projecting they will overspend the revenue again this year so Fund Balance would be used to balance that budget. Right now, she didn't see the need to ask for an increase in the recycling fee if they are sitting well with Fund Balance. Whenever it is requested, there needs to be time for the jurisdictions to put it on the tax bills before they are done in November. She noted that this is all based on current expenses. They know HHW costs are going up and electronics could be lower or higher, plus any other expenses. If they wanted to send a request to increase it, they need to do that pretty soon. MacDonald asked if the 2024 budget would go over. Galla replied that she has the 2024 budget submitted and it can be amended along the way, if needed. Bahle noted that the public already approved an increase a few years ago and inflation has chewed away at things. It seems more practical to do smaller incremental increases rather than a larger increase at one time. Do one dollar and go to \$30.00. MacDonald said they are 3-4 years into the new cycle and Galla confirmed, saying it was a 10-year approval. MacDonald said they have not raised this for 3 years and they should start doing small incremental increase each year as costs have risen and not wait. Taxpayers approved it and that is what it is for. Our costs are increasing. It's a reasonable choice to bump it up a bit. Bahle suggested going from \$29.00 to \$30.00 is a practical way to approach it. Ross questioned how much it would generate.

A short recess was taken while Galla checked with Equalization Department.

(Bevelhymer left meeting)

Galla returned and the meeting reconvened. Galla reported that there are 16,125 recycling fees in the county so a \$1 increase would be \$16,125.00 additional dollars. Members asked when it was increased last. Galla said it started in 2005 for 5-year term according to the statute and every term after that is a 10-year time period. It was approved in 2010 and again in 2020. The increase from \$27.00 to \$29.00 occurred sometime between 2010 and 2020.

Motion by Gale, seconded by Ross, to request the County Board approve adding \$1.00 to the yearly recycling fee, to go from \$29.00 to \$30.00. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion on Composting Exhibit and Cost

Ross spoke on the idea to bring composting to another centrally located place, such as the Poor Farm Barn which is a county owned park. Leo Creek wanted to have some of their costs covered for their creation of the composting exhibit. Ross felt it was an exciting piece and she is looking for support from the SWC to cover the costs. Galla said there is \$500.00 in the education budget which is not spent, they are not tied to a line-item budget so they could go above that as long as they balance out the entire budget at end of year. They need an invoice to pay from it and if the SWC is putting any money in, it would be nice if there was some credit for the SWC, as well. Ross said the sign is very well made and would be great addition for the site. Bahle thought this was the best park facility to pair with that concept. Ross noted the total cost will be about \$675.00.

Motion by Sharp, seconded by Gale, to use the \$500.00 from the education budget to support this

endeavor. Motion carried 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Perkins questioned if a member of the SWC would qualify for the environmental slot on the MMP? He is working on lighting for the Suttons Bay site and Northport recycling sites. Northport is requesting a camera and the camera can't see if there are no lights. He is saying this now because he may be back to ask for funding for the lights. Suttons Bay has a camera at the Road Commission, but no light, and Northport has the opposite. They did have some major dumping problems and need cameras, but they also need a light.

Tim Dowd said he is a proud member of CROWD and reminded members of the report that was brought from Rotary Charity and EGLE that CROWD represents composting which is a large part of the material management. Along those lines, Dowd said it could potentially be a money-making process. To verify that, just talk to Emmet County, Barry Krull or Morgan composting. They've turned it into a business. CROWD talked about how to manage all this at their meeting and the discussion went to the point that it needs to be joint collaboration. Dowd continued, saying that it sounds like they are having trouble meeting the slots for the MMP committee. He knows Galla didn't appreciate the fact of taking this to multi-county operation, but if they can't find qualified people to do it, maybe it's time to consider that. They have to look at the demographics of finding these qualified people to manage this situation and what to do with all this stuff. Also, Kristin Page put in a lot of effort for this trip to Emmet County for September 15th and all SWC members are all invited. Dowd concluded by thanking members for all their work.

STAFF COMMENTS - None

MEMBER / CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Bahle applauded the CROWD group and encouraged them to have someone from the group fill out an application for MMP. Ross said it takes concerted effort to ask for applicants and the Energy Task Force is not set yet either.

Bahle noted the short-term rental information to landlords will wait until spring. If they can do a bulk purchase for composting bins, it could be offered to homeowners at cheaper cost. Stackable containers with handles work well for recycling. Cavanaugh said the MMP can include a multi approach to something like composting, without having to do a multi-county plan. They could site something in the plan that might cover multi-counties without having a multi-county plan. Galla said there is a lot that needs to be done to figure out the preferred alternative for dealing with materials. Bahle stated that they don't have the big volume producers in the county, so on a commercial scale, they need to merge.

Gale noted that BARC was collecting from about 30 different customers, about 2000 lbs. a day, 3 days a week. About 600,000 pounds per year. They tried a lot of things like doing it themselves, getting certified, etc. They came across Barry Krull and his composting and gave him a lot of food waste, but he does not like the plastic materials in it. Because of his site, the slightest breeze will blow things into the neighbors and then you have township issues. BARC had a person working for them that left last year and they decided to stop until they have the right equipment and staffing. Gale said it took a few years to get revenue above expenses. They have a fundraising mechanism on their website which is a first step. They will get back into it.

Bahle reminded members of the regional meeting in Petoskey, at the EMS station on October 19th. Petoskey is one of the places that pledged to be using renewable energy by a certain date. Bahle noted a few locations that are using panels on roofs and said it was exciting to hear the city manager had everyone on the commission in favor of this.

Ross felt there was a tie-in with the Energy Task Force to work hand in hand with them to make some major changes on how they deal with a lot of things. It is an exciting time.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.