

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEELANAU COUNTY SOLID WASTE COUNCIL WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 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 1:01 p.m. by Chair Marcia Harris. The meeting was held at the Leelanau County Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suttons Bay MI.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: M. Harris, J Fletcher, C. Sharp, L. Bahle, K. Cavanaugh, K. Ross, T. MacDonald, A. Gale,

Members Absent: T. Peterson

Ex-officio Members Present: J. Palmer

Ex-officio Members Absent: M. Bevelhymer
(prior notice)

Staff: G. Myer, Planning Director, J. Herman, Senior Planner

Public: D. Schaffer, L. Gulow, C. Forsyth, R. Lewis, B. Perkins, C. Hartesvelt

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Perkins suggested SWC look into snow removal for the sites and that Green For Life (GFL) needs to lock the bins so items do not fly out.

STAFF COMMENTS

Myer introduced Herman as the Senior Planner and said they will now be looking for a Planning Secretary but for the time being are still short staffed. She provided a schedule of all 2024 collections and went over current collection counts. There will be an advertisement for the electronic collections in next weeks edition of the Leelanau Enterprise.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Motion by Gale, seconded by Ross, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST- None.

CONSIDERATION OF JANUARY 3, 2024 MINUTES

Motion by Ross, seconded by Bahle, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on MMP

Dave Schaffer, Resource Recovery Manager for Grand Traverse County, said there is a potential option of a regional plan between Grand Traverse County, Benzie County and Leelanau County. He said all county administrators have met and agreed it would be best to have a tri-county approach and Grand Traverse County would act as the Designated Planning Agency (DPA) for the region. They would be the main point of contact and arrange meetings and advertising. There would be a singular planning committee for the region which would consist of industry members and elected officials from each county. Each county will still have their own county approval agency such as the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

Ross asked if they would be hiring a consultant? Schaffer said it would be a combination of internal support and a consultant in areas that they would need assistance in. Schaffer said they may need to put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) but Resource Recycling Systems (RRF) is their preferred choice. Bahle asked if all of the positions on the MMP are filled? Schaffer said the approving agency will choose to fill those seats. He does have a list of recommendations for those positions because they are specific seats and so many spots. The elected official will be from Grand Traverse County. Schaffer will work with Myer and Jesse Zylstra, Recycling Program Director of Benzie County, for meeting notices, community outreach, data collections, etc. Schaffer would like to have the meetings held in Grand Traverse County during the day time.

Chris Forsyth, Deputy County Administrator for Grand Traverse County, said they will need to work out an interlocal agreement, the overall structure, and who is going to play what role. Forsyth introduced Lydia Gulow who will be stepping in for Schaffer once he retires. There is a deadline of July 6 to report notice of intent to the state.

Motion by Bahle, second by Gale, to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners move forward on the development of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Grand Traverse County, and Benzie County, for the purpose of developing a multi-county Materials Management Plan. Motion carried 8-0.

Approve Mailing for 2024

Myer said this is the same flyer that was sent last year.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Sharp, to approve the mailing for June 2024 as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

Leland School Composting Liaison (Ross)

Ross said Leland School is interested in introducing kitchen composting which will help them level their certification in the Green School Program. The material that they will be producing in their compost will be used on their gardening program. They would like to use Leland School as a pilot before expanding into other schools. SEEDS Ecology and Education Centers does composting and have outreach potential. Ross met with Jennifer Flynn, EcoCorps Program Director for SEEDS, and learned that there is a \$250.00 fee involved to have SEEDS come in to do an assessment of their kitchen, volume and system at the school.

Myer left meeting to check with Finance Department on educational budget.

Cathy Hartesvelt, Interim Finance Director, explained all their budgets. She said the education budget is reserved for members to attend conference, seminars or to have a speaker come in to talk to members. She suggested they may want to create another line item and present it as an amendment for 2024 or an expanded recycling program for 2025.

Harris said that composting is their top priority, and asked where the funds can come from. Richard Lewis, Interim County Administrator, said they will need to present to him a formal request and it may need approval from the BOC.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus to have Ross as the Leland School composting liaison.

School Composting Surveys (Fletcher)

Fletcher suggested they create a hard copy survey that addresses composting and also recycling. Gale and Sharp would be eager to assist Fletcher. They will create a survey and bring it at the next meeting for approval.

Volunteer Sign-Up at Recycling Sites

Perkins commented that Suttons Bay, Northport, Cedar, Leelanau School, Glen Lake School, Elmwood, and the Government Center have volunteers to clean up the sites. Harris questioned Empire and members were not aware of any volunteers. Lewis suggested they send a letter to GFL that the sites are not being kept up cleanliness.

Composting Workshop- Poor Farm Barn Gardens

Ross said this is an outdoor, hands-on composting work shop at the Leelanau County Poor Farm Barn. Kate Thornhill is willing to do the composting seminar again for \$400.00. She will cover on getting compost started from scratch and there will be three stations; how to compost, how to apply, and then the workshop will move to Krulls Composting to see what a larger commercial business looks like. They are proposing a May 29th morning date and will make a flyer to disburse.

Motion by Sharp, seconded by Fletcher, to approve the Poor Farm Barns Gardens Composting Workshop and not to exceed \$400.00. Motion carried 8-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- None.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE- None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Perkins said there is no lighting at the Suttons Bay, Northport or Empire recycling sites which can lead to illegal dumping. He said Home Depot has solar lights for up to \$300.00.

STAFF COMMENTS- None.

MEMBER/CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Harris suggested SWC do something for Earth Day next year. Fletcher also suggested they do surveys at the recycling sites again.

Bahle brought in GFL's red and an old green trash bag for comparison.

ADJOIURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:26 p.m.

DRAFT