

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEELANAU COUNTY SOLID WASTE COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022 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 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, A. Gale, T. MacDonald, L. Bahle, T. Bolin
C. Sharp, J. Palmer (ad-hoc member)

Members Absent: M. Lautner, M. Bevelhymer, (ad-hoc member)
(prior notice)

Members Absent: P. Deering

Staff: T. Galla, Director, G. Myer, Senior Planner

Public: B. Perkins

PUBLIC COMMENT

Perkins said the Cedar recycling site has ambassadors who are helping four times a week to keep the site clean and Peshawbestown ambassadors are working three days a week to keep that site clean. One of the Leland recycling ambassadors called him and said all they have to do is call the county and they will clean it up, so they are no longer helping. The last he heard; Leland Township employees were cleaning it up. Perkins continued, saying the new Suttons Bay site is waiting on fencing and the Peshawbestown and Cedar sites need cameras positioned behind the bins. He hopes they install a camera at the Suttons Bay site, although there isn't any electricity available. Perkins wants a special dumpster at the recycling sites for boat shrink wrap during the time frame of May/June. Perkins showed members a trash grabber he uses, and said the SWC should ask for a grant to buy these and hand out to ambassadors.

Harris mentioned that Glen Arbor Outdoors has been working as an ambassador for the Glen Arbor recycling site. She was just there, is has been clean this summer consistently.

STAFF COMMENTS

Galla updated members on 2022 Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collections (HHW). 120 mattresses were collected during the June collection held at Glen Lake School. Staff considered holding another event this year, but will probably wait until next year. Saturday would be the best day of the week and staff has a lot going on already. 350 people participated in the HHW collection which was also held at Glen Lake School. The next collection is on September 12, in Peshawbestown and the final one is October 15 in Elmwood Township.

Galla continued, saying the new recycling site at the Road Commission has been paved. The amount and cost of the fencing proposed was surprising. She has a meeting scheduled today to discuss. The

Road Commission is concerned with people getting to the back area where their equipment is stored. This will be the most expensive site, and the county is paying for all of it. However, they are not taking the lease payment, so that money goes toward the cost of getting it up and running. Coordinating bids and efforts to get it paved took a while.

Galla continued, saying that installing cameras at the Northport recycling site is next. The cameras that are currently up and working are working nicely. The difficulty is getting the cameras located in a good spot and connected to Wi-Fi so that the footage can be viewed in the office. Otherwise, someone has to go out to the site and pull the card and bring it back to view. It has been a lot of trial and error getting the cameras adjusted properly in order to read a license plate. She has encountered some issues with one of the company's and will be switching over to the local company in Traverse City. Galla said the camera installed for the Cedar site has been the most disappointing. It had to be located quite a distance away in order to be connected to Wi-Fi, and there are things in the way that block the view. Galla questioned spending more money if the township was going to get rid of the site. In conclusion, Galla said the recycling post cards were mailed out in June. Staff received some good response.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Motion by MacDonald, seconded by Bolin, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

CONSIDERATION OF THE MARCH 1, 2022 MINUTES

Motion by Bahle, seconded by Bolin, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recycling Ambassadors for Recycling sites

Galla reported that there are ambassadors set up for several of the recycling sites, and a sign being ordered for the Northport site recognizing the Lions Club as ambassadors. Elmwood Township is next, even though they are an anonymous group, they need to be recognized. Harris said she will ask if Glen Arbor Outdoors wants to be recognized at the Glen Arbor site. Empire doesn't have anyone, but staff does not get reports of stuff being dumped. Gale said he has good contacts in Empire if needed and he has also been keeping an eye on the Cedar site. Galla concluded by saying that money can be taken out of the SWC budget to purchase the trash grabbers for the volunteers to use.

Perkins asked about installing cameras at Peshawbestown site and Galla said they have cameras there already for the casino. They have not asked the SWC to install additional ones.

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling sites for 2023

Galla updated members, saying the Leland site has mainly two people in the neighborhood complaining and they want it out of there. It was established as a temporary site because the Popp Rd. site was in the works at that time. Since that time, the site on Popp Rd. was not approved. The County Board signed a 5-year agreement with the owners of the land in Leland, thinking it may be needed longer or in

case it was needed in the off season. The temporary relates to the fact that Leland Township issued a temporary permit to the owner for the Leland site, which limits what can be done. Fencing is not allowed. The site is very popular and a couple more bins have been added. GFL even moved the bins further to the north, away from the people who were complaining. Galla has heard that if the site wasn't removed, a formal complaint will be filed with the township. Galla said at this point, it will still be available for about five or six more months.

Galla continued, saying the contract with Solon Township for their recycling site expires at the end of the year. She has been working with Bevelhymer on another possible site. The township is not happy with the site and they have plans for that location. Galla asked members if they wanted to request Solon Township sign another one-year agreement?

Motion by Gale, seconded by Bolin, to request a 1-year extension to the Cedar recycling Site.

Discussion ensued.

Gale said he did attend some of the Solon Township meetings last year and their main concern was the debris blowing around and they wanted a camera. Gale feels they have addressed the issues. Galla said staff did have a couple calls and they tried to look back at the footage, but there is a tree partially blocking the view. It will cost more money to move the camera closer, and there wouldn't be any Wi-Fi available. If the camera is moved to the site, it would need to be enclosed in a secure weather proof box, mounted up high. Staff would then have to go out to the site and pull the card to view footage. Harris stated it was not worth further investment if the township would not agree to continue hosting the site.

Discussion ensued on Wi-Fi and camera capabilities.

Motion on the table carried. 7-0

Galla talked to Bevelhymer about getting the new green bins at each recycling site, and Cedar was a top priority. The tornado that hit Gaylord delayed Green For Life (GFL) getting the new ones to the other sites.

Composting

Harris mentioned the 30-40% food waste in America and questioned Gale about county-wide composting. Gale said the Bay Area Recycling for Charities (BARC) had to pull back all composting operations this year because the one worker they had was handling 30 accounts and got burned out. They have applied for some grants, hired two people to replace this one worker and are hoping to get back up and running this fall. They would like to expand into Leelanau County because they use Krull's Composting site in the county. A grant would allow food waste collection and processing. Composting wouldn't necessarily be the only thing happening. It would be sorted to remove any contamination, grinded, and then put through a dewatering system which would reduce the weight by 80% and the volume by 75%. What you would be left with in the hierarchy of food waste is feed stock for animals. The last options after reducing and reusing food waste is composting.

Harris mentioned working with Cherry Republic, Covid slowed that conversation. Harris also questioned whether Emmitt County did anything different there that could be replicated here. Gale stated that they have struggled with some of the same issues as BARC, but it is worth revisiting to see what they have learned. Gale concluded by saying that BARC is holding a Composting 2.0 Outreach Session at the Traverse City Commons, underneath the pavilion. Harris commented that maybe the

SWC should repeat the composting sessions previously held.

Bahle mentioned a new group getting started called Green Suttons Bay which covers recycling and lots of other environmental issues.

Harris stated they should revisit the schools and see what they are doing. Fletcher mentioned the survey he completed a few years ago and said the results showed the schools were doing a good to excellent job. He is not sure of today. Fletcher offered to repeat survey to see recycling/composting withing the schools. Is it part of the curriculum? Fletcher said Glen Lake School wanted money from the SWC to install signs and visual aids because they didn't have the capability within their budget. Bahle mentioned the recycling site at Glen Lake School and said the SWC pays them to have the site there and the school can't put up a site to make it very public. Wouldn't it make more sense to reduce the lease payment amount to allow a recycling bin for every school?

Galla stated they couldn't do that without looking at their contract with GFL. GFL is contracted to service a certain number of sites. She does not want to reduce the number of sites, especially since they might be losing one or two next year.

Galla continued, saying that with regard to the sign, she has asked the school numerous times about the sign. The person handling it had some health issues, she will follow up again. That site is well used, they only have two bins, but people are getting more accustomed to it being there. Galla questioned if the suggested bins at the schools were for school use only because the SWC should not be paying for the school to recycle. The bins are supposed to be open to the public. If a school wants a container, they can get one on their own. Gale mentioned kids fundraising to get bins in the school hallways was a good idea. Harris stated they haven't had a focus on schools in a while, kids who recycle turn into adults who recycle. Fletcher will move forward with surveying the schools again.

Shrink wrap recycling

Gale talked about BARC and their system for collecting and recycling shrink wrap. They work with Doctor Shrink, who provides a large bag used to put boat shrink wrap into and take to a recycling place. A drop off place is coordinated and his trucks then pick up the bags. Gale is not sure if adding another bin at the recycling sites for shrink wrap is a good idea. The bag costs \$7.00 at BARC, and one bag holds wrap for two boats. Sharp commented that they should sell the bag when they sell the shrink wrap. Bahle agreed, and said it seems like it should be automatically included in the price of the shrink wrap. Sharp questioned if shrink wrap could be collected at the HHW collections? Galla suggested collecting it at the mattress collection. Gale agreed, it would just be another vehicle and cost. BARC usually starts collecting in May and is done by July.

Contracts expiring 2023/bid process

Galla reported that contracts for GFL, Comprenew and ERG expire in 2023 and she is sure there will be an increase. Galla would like to schedule next year's collections before the contracts expire. At the regional level, they have discussed ERG coming up for a week, and collecting at our collections along with Grand Traverse County and surrounding areas. Galla continued, saying she will use the 2022 contracts and rough them in for next year. Also, she will check on the online bid sites that the county uses to see if she can lock in any bids. Galla will bring back any recycling site contracts that need to be renewed as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Perkins stated stickers need to be placed above every window on the recycling bins advertising each collection the county is holding. He went to the road commission and told them he was going to be the recycling ambassador for the site. Best Buy has cameras like a cell phone for less than \$100. The Suttons Bay School has a recycling bin of their own. Cedar gets 200 cars a day, all year, that come to the central business district of Cedar to recycle. Perkins continued, saying regular clean-up is the best township convincer. Go to the township and say this is what we do. Glen Lake School absolutely needs to be fixed; it is a waste of collected tax money. Galla questioned what Perkins meant by that statement. Perkins stated there is no signage and it is located at the top of a driveway that says “do not enter authorized vehicles only.” Galla said the site is used all the time; her family uses it and she sees people using it. It’s not a high-volume site, but it definitely meets a need. Perkins said that when he has asked people about using that site, most don’t even know it’s there. Galla said it is advertised everywhere. Perkins stated a road sign would be nice. He has been asking for years, why hasn’t this been done? Galla stated she addressed the sign earlier. It’s not her property, she can’t go dig the hole. Perkins said the road commission is responsible for putting the sign up. Galla said she is aware of this; she has talked with the road commission several times and will continue to follow-up with them.

Gale mentioned putting a plexy-glass encased bulletin board at every site would be a good way to advertise future collections. Harris agreed, and suggested they look into the idea. Perkins stated that people don’t look around, they drop their stuff off and leave. Harris said the recycling bins have a lot of stuff already on there and it can get confusing. Galla said they are not our containers either, they belong to GFL. Harris mentioned the metal signs that were previously used at the sites to advertise HHW collections. Galla said they had to stop advertising at the recycling sites because people thought the HHW collection was at the recycling site.

STAFF COMMENTS

Galla mentioned the Popp Rd. site, and said she doesn’t know if this could be revisited again with the township board. The township received the bids, but did not approach the county to pay. Is this something the SWC would like to pursue? Galla said she doesn’t think they will have the Leland site next year because the township can’t keep approving a temporary site. Galla will put this on next month’s agenda.

MEMBER/CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.