



Minutes

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee

Monday, October 20, 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	Oct	Nov	Dec
Solid Waste Facility Operator	Bob Kras	IP	A	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	E	IP	IP		
Hauler	Christopher Phillips (Vice-Chair)	IP	E	IP	IP	A	IP	E	IP	IP	IP		
Materials Recovery Facility Operator	Donovan Kelley		IP	E	IP	A	E	E	IP	E	IP		
Composting Facility Operator	Adam Brent								IP	IP	IP		
Waste Diversion, Reuse, Reduction Facility Operator	Sheila Bergen				IP	IP	IP	IP	A	IP	A		
Environmental Interest Group	Kalli Marshall (Chair)	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP		
Elected Township Official	David Kuhn	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	IP		
Elected City/Village Official	Deah Muth	IP	IP	V	IP	V	IP	E	IP	E	E		
Business that generates Managed Materials	Al Pscholka	IP	IP	E	E	A	E	IP	A	A	E		
Regional Planning Agency	John Egelhaaf	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP		
Sovereign Nation	Jennifer Kanine	IP	IP	IP	V	A	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP		
Berrien County													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Dave Vollrath	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP		
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Jeff Doroh	IP	IP	IP	E	A	IP	IP	E	IP	V		
Cass County													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Roseann Marchetti (Secretary)	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP		
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Amy Huser	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP		
Van Buren County													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Kurt Doroh							IP	IP	A	IP		
Business that Generates Managed Materials													
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

Marchetti, Jerry

Plathe, Justin

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Kalli Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Role call was taken, and it was established that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Roseann Marchetti moved to **“ACCEPT THE AGENDA.”** Christopher Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Approval of September 15, 2025 Minutes

Roseann Marchetti moved to **“APPROVE September 15, 2025 MINUTES.”** John Egelhaaf seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Old Business

Working Groups Update and Topic Brainstorming

Schrag updated the committee on the times and dates of each working groups' meetings. She also shared who the MMPC member was on each of the working groups. If any MMPC members want to join the meetings unofficially, they should email Schrag for the meeting link.

Schrag shared some of the topics that each working group will focus on and asked if there were any other topics that should be addressed. One suggestion was to have the policy group ensure that new state requirements are being met.

Discussion continued about who will be leading the working group meetings, setting the agenda, and facilitating the meetings. Schrag said she plans to start the process, and hopes that an individual will step up, however since she will be on the meetings, she is able to facilitate them.

Recycling Goal Review

Schrag reviewed the draft recycling goals and asked that the committee provide any feedback through an online activity. Members were given about 5 minutes to respond with what they liked or disliked, what might be missing, and any other comments on the goals.

5. Hearings

Hauler Perspectives and Considerations

Christopher Phillips gave a presentation on a private hauler perspective regarding curbside pickup. Phillips reviewed residential waste collection models, including subscription services where residents choose their hauler and pay directly, and COG models requiring recycling services regardless of participation. He also described single-hauler systems, where municipalities award contracts to one provider, noting this improves consistency but limits customer flexibility.

He discussed factors influencing service pricing, such as labor, insurance, disposal fees, maintenance, and administrative costs, along with the impacts of inflation,

service levels, billing methods, and route efficiency on affordability. To maintain cost-effective operations, Phillips highlighted automation and technology like GPS and AI cameras for route optimization, in-house CDL training to address staffing, and ongoing investments in fleet and employee development. Administrative improvements included expanding online billing, better communication on service delays, and stronger partnerships with material recovery facilities and truck suppliers. He also addressed challenges like container coordination and recycling contamination.

Safety protocols were emphasized, including separate trucks for trash, recycling, and yard waste, driver training, company culture, and contamination management, with a lithium battery fire cited as a cautionary example. Phillips noted the need to balance long-term contracts with market flexibility, highlighting that competition drives innovation. He discussed alternative fuels, including hydrogen and natural gas, CNG fueling stations, and methane recovery, and compared alley versus road collection.

6. New Business

Bylaws Update

Schrag explained that the bylaws need updated so that only one MMPC member is on the working groups, as there was not enough interest to have two MMPC members on each working group.

Roseann Marchetti moved to “**APPROVE THE BYLAWS AS AMENDED.**” Christopher Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Miscellaneous

Schrag mentioned an upcoming event hosted by the MRC in Allendale, MI to meet with recycling industry professionals and learn about end markets. She will send the invitation to the committee via email.

Roseann mentioned that the September 24th HHW and electronics drop-off event had over 188 vehicles participating from various townships and villages in Cass County.

9. Adjournment

Kurt Doroh moved to adjourn the meeting. Christopher Phillips supported the motion. Chair Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 2:19 pm. The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bekah Schrag

September 27, 2025