



Minutes

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)

Monday, February 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Pokagon Band Community Center
27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Baran, Bob
Doroh, Jeff
Egelhaaf, John
Haneberg, Kim
Huser, Amy
Kanine, Jennifer
Kelley, Donovan

Kuhn, David
Marchetti, Roseann, Secretary
Marshall, Kalli, Chair
Muth, Deah
Pscholka, Al
Vollrath, Dave

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Schincariol, Paul
Kras, Bob
Phillips, Christopher, Vice Chair (excused)

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Adams, Jill
Graves, Genevieve
Johnson, Stacey
Filkins, Lindsay
Johnson, Jason
Palthe, Justin
Schoonmaker, Daniel

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.

Secretary Roseann Marchetti moved to **“ACCEPT THE AGENDA”** Dave Vollrath seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marchetti moved to **“APPROVE JANUARY 13, 2025 MINUTES.”** Deah Muth seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Bekah Schrag mentioned a vacancy on the committee due to John Giczewski from Hydro no longer being with the company. An interested party from Hydro was mentioned to potentially replace him. The application process and approval by the County Board of Commissioners were discussed before the new member could join the committee.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Materials Management Planning Grant Draft

SWMPC discussed the planning process for the materials management grant, which includes a base of \$60,000 per county, an additional \$10,000 for a multi-county plan and a fifty-cent per cap for each county. The grant requires an approved work program, which will be approved at the next meeting. SWMPC then discussed the draft work program, which included topics of the planning committee formation, the planning grant application and reporting processes, the plan area profile, writing and drafting the plan, and additional tasks required to create the Materials Management Plan in Year 1. Year 1 is being defined as October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 to seek partial reimbursement for previous planning efforts. SWMPC also discussed the need for public participation and engagement with cities, villages, and townships.

Schrag mentioned that EGLE will only reimburse expenses dating back to October 1, 2024, and listed outreach to local congress members as an option for those who may want to advocate for expanding the reimbursement period.

The committee will be asked to approve the work program at the next MMPC meeting on March 17, 2025.

6. HEARINGS

Survey Findings

Schrag presented topics based on the MMPC survey findings in order to answer any questions or concerns the committee has about the planning process and overall goals of the Materials Management Plan (MMP). Schrag gave an overview of the Materials Management landscape in the State of Michigan, including that the tons per capita is 72.1% higher than the national average. Schrag then defined the roles of each member on the committee, stating that they each bring a unique perspective to the committee, and being actively involved in the planning process is crucial. The committee members were encouraged to share insights from their organizations, engage with public participation efforts, and help shape solutions for waste reduction and recycling. Schrag presented on the roles of local units of government and businesses in the planning process, and defined the process of the plan creation using the Michigan Recycling Coalition Timeline.

Diversion Programs – Pokagon Band

Justin Palthe presented on the existing diversion programs present at the Pokagon Band. The Pokagon Band offers a composting program and has successfully diverted 515 pounds of food waste since the start of it, which is used in the Medicine Garden and the Three Sisters Garden. The Kowabdanawa odë kè department is also working on expanding the composting program to casinos and tribal housing. There are challenges with commercial recycling services, as the current provider is not offering the same level of service as before. Alternative solutions are being explored. Palthe highlighted the household hazardous waste collection program and efforts to clean up dumping sites on Tribal properties. Additionally, the Pokagon Band has been conducting educational activities on recycling and composting. Marchetti mentioned there was an upcoming hazardous waste drop off event and the Tribe is welcome to bring materials in.

MMCE Reports

Daniel Schoonmaker discussed his organization's work with the Materials Management Community Engagement grants that brought together 8 counties in the Southwest region of Michigan to conduct surveys and provide reports relating to materials management, including waste management and recycling practices. Schoonmaker discussed the characterization of waste categories in Michigan, noting that the largest category is solid waste, followed by industrial waste and construction waste. He also highlighted the increase in food waste and the potential for more cardboard waste due to increased recycling efforts. Schoonmaker mentioned a

survey with industry members to determine the current recycling rates and the impact of contamination and quality on these rates. He also discussed the economic impact of not recycling, estimating a loss of 8 billion dollars over the next 10 years. Lastly, Schoonmaker emphasized the need for more recycling centers and the importance of implementing a materials management plan. Schoonmaker mentioned that they are working on an integrated solid waste management plan and an inventory of ways to serve it. He also expressed interest in sharing best practices with other organizations. The conversation ended with plans to revise and share their findings in the future.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Landfill Reports

Schrag discussed the State landfill reports, with the two landfills in the region, Orchard Hill and Southeast Berrien County Landfill, having 47 and 13 years of remaining capacity, respectively. Schrag discussed the characterization of waste categories in Michigan, noting that the largest category is solid waste, followed by industrial waste and construction waste. It was noted that 30% of waste comes from out of state or out of country, with some coming from as far as Massachusetts. SWMPC also mentioned that some companies are integrated and may bring their routes to cheaper facilities, even if it means a longer drive. Donovan, a district manager of recycling works in Indiana, added that a lot of Indiana's trash stays within Indiana landfills, especially those owned by Republic and WM. He also noted that the location of hauling routes determines where solid waste goes, with Michigan City being closer to a landfill on the border than one in Indianapolis. Schrag then presented findings based on each County as to the type and location of their waste being landfilled.

Recycling Reports

Schrag presented the findings from the State of Michigan recycling reports. She mentioned that only one organization in the region is providing data to the State, and realistically, most of the region's recycling is not being counted in these numbers. The SWMPC will research further methods for figuring out recycling rates for the region. The current recycling rate was discussed, with the consensus being that it is around 20-25%. The need for more industrial-scale recycling facilities was emphasized, with the current capacity being insufficient to achieve the 45% goal. The conversation ended with a discussion on the recycling facilities in the region, with the need for more data on the region's recycling practices being highlighted.

Waste Generation

Due to time, Schrag suggested moving the Waste Generation agenda item to the next meeting. The Committee agreed.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lindsay Filkins, the owner of Filkins Vinyards in the Coloma area mentioned the ongoing odor issue with the Orchard Hill Landfill. She mentioned they have plans to expand their business with overnight accommodations, however they are worried that the odor may hurt business. They have sought recycling options though only residential bins are available at their location. They also mentioned that they believe the landfill causes groundwater and other health issues.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Marshall shared information about the Michigan Recycling Coalition's compost event on February 27th and the Annual Recycling and Organics Conference on May 13th.

Schrag asked the committee about length of the meetings, and it was decided that the meetings should try to stay within a two hour timeframe.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dave Vollrath moved to adjourn the meeting. Deah Muth supported the motion. Chair Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.

Submitted by:

Bekah Schrag

Date:

March 10, 2025