

Meeting Minutes
Solid Waste Committee Meeting
January 20, 2023

In Attendance: Gretchen Janssen, Joel Keranen, Susan Burack, Jonathan Nagel, Lisa McKenzie, Michael Mallow, and Horst Schmidt.

Welcome – Gretchen welcomed all attendees.

Public Comments – All attendees were encouraged to join in the conversation throughout the meeting.

Introductions were made all around.

Organization – Gretchen and Lisa will collaborate on meeting minutes. All attendees were encouraged to attend SWC meetings regularly.

Meeting dates for 2023:

January 20

March 17

May 26

July 21

September 15

November 17

Meetings will be held in the 5th floor conference room.

(This was not discussed in the meeting but Gretchen will post these dates on the County website and in the courthouse. Gretchen will provide meeting minutes to the County Clerk.)

Goals

- Transfer Station
- Recycling Efforts
- Updating County Solid Waste Plan

General discussion ensued for the remainder of the meeting.

Susan Burack asked if the trailer purchased with ARPA funds is used to haul garbage to Greenland. Gretchen will confirm this., and reported Cameras have been installed as well.

Susan asked if the Transfer Station has a wish list. Gretchen will look into this.

An issue at the Transfer Station is that people who bring their general trash to the TS are not sorting out the items that could be recycled.

Susan shared history on the grant received for the baler and building at the TS and informed us that the TS no longer has a cardboard baler.

The items that the single-stream recycling bin at the TS will accept are: paper, cardboard, plastics, and currently glass. The cost to bring recycling to the TS is \$5/car load and \$10/truck load. Waste Management hauls our recycling to Marquette. The TS will accept scrap metal and waste automobile oil (any sort of oil-based product that cars use) at no charge.

EGLE has grant money available. County Engagement Grants. WUPPDR is working on pre-planning for the update of the County Solid Waste Plan. They are identifying gaps and opportunities for communities to work together. County will need to file a Notice of Intent. Planning won't be completed until 2024.

\$50k/year is available plus 50 cents per capita with another \$10k if County collaborates with other Counties.

Houghton County's current Solid Waste plan is from 2002.

CCRI is working with townships to get recycling drop offs in Calumet & Lake Linden. Joel Keranen said that townships don't have the resources to provide this service.

CCRI is also working on promoting composting. Susan said that 30-38% of waste that goes to the landfill is compostable.

Jonathan said that other communities across the country who use Waste Management to haul waste have leveraged their contracts with WM to have them provide other (recycling) services.

We need regular hazardous waste and tire collection. Koppers has held electronic waste collections and Good Will also accepts electronic waste on a regular basis. Hancock has received a grant to hold a tire collection event.

Hancock's recycling to waste ratio is 40%.

Board of Commissioners should reach out to townships to encourage cooperation in recycling efforts.

Many tourists to the area have expressed disappointment in the lack of availability of recycling bins. Tourism Bureau reports some members would recycle.

CCRI goals include:

- Working with townships, schools, and the Transfer Station
- Using social media to promote recycling
- Providing webinars on a quarterly basis.

Jonathan stressed that we need strategies for reuse and reduction as well as recycling.

Jonathan also said that it would be useful for us to conduct a waste characterization analysis at the TS to learn the percentage of recyclable material that goes into the general trash. We discussed getting a grant to conduct this research. This information would be helpful in future grant applications. We need to:

- Identify the data we want
- Get the data
- Take action/monitor

Lisa is going to see if Evan Lanese or Racheal Pressley would be available to work on applying for this grant as soon as possible. There is a February 2023 deadline. Susan asked if the County would act as the fiscal agent. Gretchen said the Board of Commissioners would have to make this decision.

Susan said we should all we should all look at recycle906.com (Marquette County's Waste Management's web site) and Emmet County's recycling efforts. They make money from their recycling. She also mentioned that CCRI will soon have a 'Waste Wizard' on their website that will help residents with recycling questions.

Jonathan said we could incentivize recycling by raising the cost of general garbage.

Gretchen will send the EGLE webinar information to attendees of today's meeting.

Horst suggested that Gretchen report CCRI's recycling activities at the monthly Board of Commissioner meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.