

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

January 9, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, Jill Barnard, John Conway, Mike Domsic, Jason Durocher, Bill Gadwau, Leonard Klein, Allen Luurtsema, Julie Mathieson, Mike McPherson, and Joe Yuchasz

Members Absent: Janet Person

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: None

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### I. Call to Order

Bob Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Leonard Klein, supported by John Conway, to approve the December 19, 2001 minutes as presented. Motion Carried – Unanimous**

### III Election of Officers

This meeting being the first of the year, new officers were nominated and elected. Leonard Klein nominated Mike McPherson as Vice Chair.

**Motion by John Conway to elect present slate (comprising Bob Peterson as Chairperson), with addition of Mike McPherson as Vice Chair and Howard Yamaguchi (Planning Office staff) as Secretary. Support by Joe Yuchasz. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### IV. County-wide Recycling Program

Howard distributed revised meeting handouts prepared by RRSI (two items) and a preliminary time line of the PA 185 process. In the ensuing discussion, the Council proposed further changes to the handouts and the need for a “talking points/cheat sheet” document for presenters at township meetings. Staff will prepare and distribute to the Council final edits of the handouts and the missing set of talking points at mid-week of the week starting January 14. The text of PA 185 will also be obtained by staff for distribution at the next SWRC meeting.

The Council also made the following township/village presentation assignments:

Banks Twp	Julie Mathieson
Bellaire Village	Jill Barnard
Central Lake Twp	Mike McPherson and Bill Gadwau
Central Lake Village	Mike McPherson and Bill Gadwau
Custer Twp	Mike Domsic
Echo Twp	Julie Mathieson
Elk Rapids Twp	Leonard Klein, Bob Peterson, and Joe Yuchasz
Elk Rapids Village	-----ditto-----
Ellsworth Village	Janet Person
Forest Home Twp	Al Luurtsema
Helena Twp	Howard Yamaguchi
Jordan Twp	Howard Yamaguchi
Kearney Twp	Jill Barnard
Mancelona Twp	Jason Durocher
Mancelona Village	Jason Durocher
Milton Twp	Leonard Klein
Star Twp	Mike Domsic
Torch Lake Twp	Bob Peterson
Warner Twp	Howard Yamaguchi

**V. Other Business**

Council members were briefed on correspondence between the Antrim and Leelanau counties concerning rewording the proposed Reciprocal Agreement governing conditions that allow Antrim to continue exporting solid wastes to Leelanau. Howard noted that establishment of a recycling program by Antrim County is one of the conditions listed in the agreement.

**VI. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be the regularly scheduled monthly meeting at **Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at 3 p.m.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

## January 30, 2002

### Minutes

Members Present: Mike McPherson, Jill Barnard, Mike Domsic, Bill Gadwau, Leonard Klein, Allen Luurtsema, Julie Mathieson, and Janet Person

Members Absent: Bob Peterson, John Conway, Jason Durocher, and Joe Yuchasz

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: None

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#### **I. Call to Order**

Mike McPherson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Leonard Klein, supported by Jill Barnard, to approve the January 9, 2002 minutes as presented. Motion Carried – Unanimous**

#### **III. County-wide Recycling Program**

Howard distributed hard copies of documents previously e-mailed or snail-mailed to the group. Also distributed were the current list of township board members and a calendar of township meetings for February. There was general dissatisfaction over the talking points document, which emphasized PA 185 rather than questions that could be anticipated by the Council members at township/village meetings. The group suggested that Jim Frey be present at the next meeting.

Another unanswered question was, “what are the consequences to the County if the County fails to implement the program outlined in the Solid Waste Plan?” Howard will contact DEQ to obtain the answer.

General discussion ensued on contacts thus far with township officials. Al Luurtsema and Jill Barnard noted that Forest Home is wary of new recycling proposals, as a previous attempt ultimately failed. Bill Gadwau noted that Central Lake is currently involved with Banks and another township in operating an existing, satisfactorily functioning recycling system. They may be reluctant to invest further in a county-wide system. Leonard Klein informed the group that Elk Rapids Township currently has a very favorable agreement with the Village of Elk Rapids over use of their recycling site, and their leadership would probably be opposed to a more expensive, county-wide system. Milton Township appears to be favorably inclined towards a county-wide recycling system. A question

was posed about where a permanent Bellaire recycling operation might be sited.

Howard agreed to send regular meeting updates to the group as reports come in from individual Council members after their Township meetings.

#### **IV. Leelanau County Reciprocal Agreement**

Howard distributed copies of the reciprocal agreement with Leelanau County, which was signed by Leelanau and sent to Antrim for execution. In view of the uncertainty over the consequences of a possible inability by the County to implement the Solid Waste Plan, the SWRC agreed that recommendation by the Council to the BOC for execution of the agreement should be tabled until the outcome of the various Township meetings become clear by next month's meeting.

#### **V. Communication**

Janet apprised the group of a grant opportunity from the Environmental Research and Education Foundation for environmental/solid waste education. These funds could potentially used for education/outreach components of a recycling program.

**Motion by Julie Mathiesen, supported by Jill Barnard, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the County pursue this grant for recycling education projects. Motion Carried – Unanimous**

#### **Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.**

The next meeting date will be the regularly scheduled monthly meeting at **Wednesday, February 27, 2002 at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

February 27, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Janet Person, Jill Barnard, Jason Durocher, Bill Gadwau, Allen Luurtsema, Julie Mathieson, Mike McPherson

Members Absent: Bob Peterson, John Conway, Mike Domsic, Leonard Klein, and Joe Yuchasz

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: Pamela Borgan

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### I. Call to Order

Mike McPherson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Janet Person, supported by Julie Mathieson, to approve the January 30, 2002 minutes as presented. Motion Carried – Unanimous**

### III. County-wide Recycling Program

Howard distributed a Township Meeting Scoresheet and several informational documents on PA 185. General discussion ensued on the reactions obtained thus far from the township/village meetings attended thus far. Central Lake township and village both opted **not** to participate in the plan, while Warner twp and the villages of Bellaire and Ellsworth have signed resolutions of support. The rest of the townships have opted to request more information before signing. Many townships are also involved with other issues and potential assessments.

The group directed County staff to convene in March an information session to which Township supervisors and board members will be invited. The meeting will present the program and solicit input on the needs of the townships. From this, the council could possibly devise a more limited (geographical) program using elements identified at the meeting --- potentially a basic program with additional costing for optional, costlier elements. The meeting will be timed so that Jim Frey of RRSI can be present. Howard will alert SWRC members of the date.

Also discussed was the possibility that the township representatives may request that the county consider a recycling/solid waste disposal combination option. The various options for both in use at neighboring counties were also discussed. Pamela Borgan informed the group that a Type A transfer station of the type she used to operate would cost \$25,000 for the building.

**IV. Leelanau County Reciprocal Agreement**

Given the above, discussion ensued on whether or not to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to sign the Leelanau County Reciprocal Agreement.

**Motion by Julie Mathiesen, supported by Jason Durocher, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to sign the Leelanau County Reciprocal Agreement. Motion Failed – 2 votes for, 5 against.**

The matter of the Reciprocal Agreement will be tabled until the next month, after the informational meeting.

**VI. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be the regularly scheduled monthly meeting at **Wednesday, March 27, 2002 at 3 p.m.** The informational meeting will be held earlier (before the Spring Break).

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:28 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

April 24, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, John Conway, Mike Domsic, Janet Person, Jill Barnard, Jason Durocher, Allen Luurtsema, Julie Mathiesen, Leonard Klein

Members Absent: Mike McPherson, Bill Gadwau, and Joe Yuchasz

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: None

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### I. Call to Order

Bob Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Janet Person asked to correct the minutes to reflect that Julie Mathiesen, not Janet Person, moved to recommend the Leelanau County Reciprocal Agreement to the County Board of Commissioners. Motion by Leonard Klein, supported by Janet Person, to approve the March 27, 2002 minutes with correction as noted above. Motion Carried – Unanimous**

### III. County-wide Recycling Program

Discussion ensued on the conclusions of the March 19 meeting, at which township officials were present to provide their input on the proposed county-wide recycling program. Julie Mathiesen informed the group that with the stated lack of interest by some western townships, we will concentrate on a program with the eastern part of the county. The consultant will provide us with the cost of recycling system only AND a cost for a combined solid waste transfer and recycling operation. Leonard Klein led the discussion on the Elk Rapids Township's lack of interest in the program, citing its unwillingness to assess more taxes and the fact that it is cheaper for the township to continue to piggyback on Elk Rapid Village's recycling operation. Mike Domsic reported that the Star Twp meeting went very well with encouraging notes from Arlen Turner, the supervisor. Pete Garwood will accompany Mike to the Custer Twp meeting. Howard missed the March Jordan Twp meeting due to a death in the family, and will attend the May meeting.

Some discussion ensued on the ability of the County, under PA 185, to declare the entire county as a Special Assessment District. Leonard Klein noted that in the past, Antrim County had used this for various projects. Staff will ask Jim Frey to address that question.

Also expressed was strong dissatisfaction with the inability of Jim Frey to be at the SWRC meeting. The Council directed staff to ensure that Jim provide the promised deliverables (cost of recycling and recycling-cum-transfer station, estimate of “critical mass,” etc.) several weeks prior to the May meeting so that the members will have a chance to study the results before Jim Frey’s presentation.

Finally, the SWRC discussed how the revised program may be introduced to the townships and villages. Possibilities include a general meeting or two, this time at night, similar to the March 19 meeting, and another round of township/village board meeting visits by members of the Council.

#### **IV. Other County Solid Waste Issues**

Julie Mathiesen noted that from the public meetings she attended, a variety of common issues appeared to be on the township board members’ and the public’s mind: burning of garbage and other materials, junk, etc. She would like these items to be placed on the SWRC’s agenda starting next meeting. John Conway noted that junk and burning ordinances may be under township jurisdiction, and we may need to check with Legal Counsel on this.

#### **V. Leelanau County Reciprocal Agreement**

Howard Yamaguchi reported that Trudy Gala, Leelanau County Planner, would be flexible on the wording and requirements of the Reciprocal Agreement should Antrim County’s recycling program initiative fail. Council agreed to table the issue pending further developments in the County-wide recycling program.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

**Motion at 4 PM, made by Leonard Klein, seconded by Mike Domsic, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.**

#### **Next Meeting Date**

**The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on  
Wednesday, May 29, at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

May 29, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, Mike McPherson, John Conway, Janet Person, Jill Barnard, Allen Luurtsema, Julie Mathiesen, Leonard Klein and Joe Yuchasz

Members Absent: Bill Gadwau and Mike Domsic

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: None

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### I. Call to Order

Bob Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Leonard Klein noted that his name was mis-spelled in several locations in the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Leonard Klein, supported by Al Luurtsema, to approve the April 24, 2002 minutes with corrections as noted. Motion Carried – Unanimous**

### III. Township Visits

Howard briefed the group on visits to Custer and Jordan Townships. Pete Garwood visited Custer Township, briefed the Township board on the proposed recycling system, and extracted a promise to put on the following month's agenda a vote for the resolution of support. Howard visited the Jordan Township board meeting, and discovered that many of the residents there already recycle and dispose of solid waste at East Jordan across the County line. The board supervisor will poll residents at their Spring Cleanup day (when bulky wastes are carried to the township hall) and inform us of the residents' intentions.

### IV. Jason Durocher resignation

Howard informed the Council that Jason Durocher had tendered his resignation from the Council. His duties at Waste Management have been expanded to include a much larger area of operation, making it difficult to attend daytime meetings. Waste Management has nominated Jim Palmer, district manager for the northern Michigan Group of Landfills and an Antrim Co. resident. Jim Palmer's nomination will be acted upon at the County Administration Committee meeting this month

## **V. Countywide Recycling Program**

Jim Frey of RRSI gave a presentation on a proposed countywide recycling program with a solid waste component, both for “with-” and “without Central Lake” options. (handouts attached to file copy) General discussion ensued on the necessity of refining the budget, counting which communities are in, determining assessed households, and determining inter-government agreement structures, and determining the appropriate role for the County. There was agreement that instead of a “one size fits all” plan, perhaps several regional approaches with different options tailored for that region within the County might be appropriate. Current estimates are based on 2000 census data, but other data (such as 911 info) can be used to refine the estimates of eligible households.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Council will entertain a proposal at the next meeting from RRSI for continued services that will enable the Council to move forward in the directions discussed. In the meantime, staff will check into 911 data available here.

## **VI. Marv Rubingh Contract Extension**

Howard Yamaguchi reported that the Rubingh Dairyland contract between the Rubingh, Central Lake Township, and the County is up for renewal. A proposal is to extend the contract through calendar year 2002, with a caveat to enable any party to start renegotiation at any time during the extension. Jill Barnard and Janet Person provided the Council with background on the project. The Council will discuss this matter further, and ask Bill Gadwau to further brief us.

## **VII. Burn Ordinance and Other Matters**

No progress on this front for this month, will be on next month’s agenda.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion at 5:03 PM, made by Leonard Klein, seconded by Janet Person, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.**

### **Next Meeting Date**

**The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on  
Wednesday, June 26, at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

June 26, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, Mike McPherson, Jim Palmer, John Conway, Janet Person, Bill Gadwau, Allen Luurtsema, Julie Mathiesen, Leonard Klein, Mike Domsic, and Joe Yuchasz

Members Absent: Jill Barnard

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: None

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### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

A new member, Jim Palmer of WMI, representing industry and replacing Jason Durocher, was introduced to the Solid Waste and Recycling Council.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Janet Person, supported by Al Luurtsema, to approve the May 29, 2002 minutes. Motion Carried – Unanimous**

### **III. Marv Rubingh contract extension**

Howard, Janet Person, and Bill Gadwau briefed the Council on the recent meeting between Marv Rubingh, the County, and Central Lake Township. In response to a question by Bob Peterson, Bill explained that the current arrangement allows for county-wide delivery of cardboard and newspapers at the Central Lake waste receiving station. Janet noted that the price charged by Mr. Rubingh to the county represents a much lower rate for hauling recycled papers off site than would be available from a commercial waste hauler. Howard noted that, the price per pull of cardboard has skyrocketed over the past few months to \$439 for a 30 cu yd container, forcing the Township to charge amount to the County. This is an unexpected increase, raising the price of cardboard pulls to the county to over \$10,500 per year. Bob Peterson noted that in the recent bid process for recycling services, the Village of Elk Rapids also experienced a similar rise in price per pull. Pete Garwood will inform the County Commissioners of the situation.

#### **IV. FY 2003 Budget for SWRC**

Howard presented the Council with the proposed 2003 budget for the Solid Waste and Recycling Council. After extensive discussion on the need for a solid waste coordinator to be budgeted for FY 2003, the Council moved to increase the proposed budget as follows to support a new position of Solid Waste Coordinator:

**Motion by Al Luurtsema, supported by Bill Gadwau, to change the proposed SWRC budget as follows: training from \$300 to \$1,000, supplies from \$150 to \$1,000, composting from \$500 to \$2,000 (new education campaign), travel from \$900 to \$2,000, and Printing/publishing from \$1,000 to \$3,000, and a new line item of Half-time Solid Waste Coordinator for 2003 for \$25,000 (inclusive of benefits). Motion Carried – Unanimous**

Pete Garwood would present the proposed budget to the Public Works Committee, which was in session concurrently elsewhere in the building. Howard will also collect solid waste coordinator job descriptions from neighboring counties.

#### **V. Countywide Recycling Program: new RRSI Contract**

Howard briefed the Council on the highlights of the new scope of work and contract form proposed by Jim Frey. Most of the discussion focused on the terms of the contract proposed by Jim Frey (the unavailability of intermediate materials, absence opt-out clauses, flexibility to change scope/budget, etc.). Howard noted that the scope of work will be as shown on the draft (with any changes suggested by the Council), but the terms of the contract will initially be those on the standard County contract form.

#### **VI. Burn Ordinance and Other Matters**

No progress on this front for this month, so Bob Peterson noted that it will definitely be on next month's agenda. Julie also noted that the Council needs discussion on whether we need a solid waste-cum-recycling program versus recycling only, and whether we need several regional programs.

#### **VII. Communication**

Howard introduced communication from Heidi Wayco-Bergen, currently a part-year resident of Mancelona. She is a recycling specialist and indicated her interest in becoming involved with the activities of the Council.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

**The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on  
Wednesday, July 31 2002, at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

July 31, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, Mike McPherson, Janet Person, Bill Gadwau, Allen Luurtsema, Leonard Klein, Mike Domsic, and Jill Barnard (3:50 p.m.)

Members Absent: Joe Yuchasz, Julie Mathiesen, John Conway, and Jim Palmer

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: None

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### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Bill Gadwau, supported by Al Luurtsema, to approve the June 26, 2002 minutes. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### **III. Resource Recovery Specialist Funding and 2003 SWRC Budget**

Howard distributed position descriptions for resource recovery specialists from Grand Traverse and Ottawa counties, and noted that Julie Mathiesen had also collected sample descriptions from additional counties. Howard briefed the Council on the results of presenting the 2003 Solid Waste and Recycling Council (SWRC) budget request to the Public Works Committee. Due to a scheduling problem at the PW Committee meeting, Pete Garwood had presented the unchanged SWRC budget to the Public Works Committee before Howard could present the amended 2003 budget request. As a result, none of the requested changes in dollar amounts was considered by the Committee, nor was the request for a solid waste coordinator/resource recovery specialist (new budget item).

Leonard Klein questioned whether, in light of Grand Traverse County's retreat, it would be a waste of our resources to extend our consultant's contract. Discussion ensued on the topic and around a Waste Management ad that Mike McPherson brought to the meeting, and on current prices for recycling pulls. Bob Peterson noted that although our proposed recycling proposals themselves are sound, the example of Grand Traverse County shows that the public may not buy in. Janet Person opined that if the County Commissioners will not favor a solid waste coordinator position, how could the County ask the residents of the County to buy into a County-wide program?

Mike Domsic noted that in the absence of a County landfill, it would be difficult to generate a sense of urgency among the population on the need for such a program. Janet suggested that the Council focus on education and consensus building for a County-wide recycling system.

Howard briefed the Council on the status of the proposed contract with RRSI. They have made the technical proposal (as presented last meeting), and will be willing to enter into any reasonable contractual relationship with the County. They are waiting to hear from the County on a potential contract. Howard further noted that this year's proposed Consultant contract amount, \$8,000, is not budgeted. The \$12,000 requested for 2003 has passed the Public Works Committee scrutiny, but has yet to pass the Finance Committee scrutiny. Howard noted that the first part of the project would entail data collection and legwork by the Consultants.

Leonard Klein asked whether the County could perform the work itself. Janet Person and Bob Peterson indicated that a County solid waste coordinator could do the legwork, can comply with all state regulations and the solid waste plan, and other work. The total of \$20,000 requested by the Consultant could easily fund a part-time coordinator position for the County.

Bob Peterson asked whether any outside funding could be made available for a solid waste coordinator position. Janet noted that P2 funds from the state are on hold until a new governor is in place. Such a grant could probably provide up to \$50,000 per year for three years, but will require a commitment from the County to sustain the position thereafter.

Al Luurtsema suggested that the Solid Waste and Recycling Council consider a part-time employee as a coordinator to start. Mike McPherson asked whether such an employee would start with a county-wide needs assessment for solid waste. Al replied that the employee would start with education for the proposed recycling system.

**Motion by Bob Peterson, supported by Bill Gadwau, to table discussion of continuation of Consultancy contract with RRSI until later. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

**Motion by Janet Person, supported by Al Luurtsema, for the Solid Waste and Recycling Council to meet with the Public Works Committee to discuss the 2003 SWRC budget and request that the \$12,000 currently allocated for consultant services be moved to contractual services, and use the funds to hire a part-time solid waste coordinator to carry on PA185 work for a minimum of one year within the County. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

Howard was instructed to set up an appointment at or around 3 p.m. on August 28 with the Public Works Committee for the SWRC members.

#### **IV. Marv Rubingh Update**

Howard briefed the Council on the latest communication from Marv Rubingh. One possibility that Mr. Rubingh is pondering is that, should funds become available (through grants, etc.) to purchase a new shredding system for his farm, he should be able to take newspapers *and* cardboard from the Central Lake site for about \$400 per month. This is currently only in very preliminary stages of planning.

#### **V. Burn Ordinance and Other Matters**

Julie Mathiesen was absent today, so no further information was available. Mike McPherson asked whether this fell under the aegis of “solid waste.” The consensus was that as this could be a method of volume and material reduction for certain classes of solid waste (vegetative yard debris, for instance), it could fall under that category.

Janet Person asked the Council whether she should proceed with the Environmental Education grant for solid waste education. The Council instructed her to proceed.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

**The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on  
Wednesday, August 28, 2002, at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

August 28, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, Mike McPherson, Bill Gadwau, Allen Luurtsema, Leonard Klein, Joe Yuchasz, Julie Mathiesen, John Conway, and Jim Palmer

Members Absent: Janet Person, Mike Domsic, and Jill Barnard

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: None

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### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Al Luurtsema, supported by Bill Gadwau, to approve the July 31, 2002 minutes. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### **III. Public Works Committee Meeting – September 10, 2002**

Howard briefed the Solid Waste and Recycling Council (SWRC) that the Public Works Committee meeting was postponed until September 10, 2002. Howard also informed the Council that the \$12,000 requested for consulting fees for the 2003 budget was cut by the finance committee. The SWRC will have to select a spokesperson to attend the Public Works Committee meeting to press the case for re-instituting the budget line item and re-directing its use toward a part-time solid waste recycling coordinator. Howard also relayed Pete Garwood's suggestion that the SWRC make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) on the status of the recycling program. The finance committee ended up cutting the budget item because of uncertainty over its use. Len Klein opined that perhaps the BOC would be more favorably inclined toward re-instituting the funding, now that the revenue-sharing question has apparently been resolved.

**Motion by Joe Yuchasz, supported by Mike McPherson, to appoint Julie Mathiesen as the spokesperson for the SWRC before the Public Works Committee meeting of September 10, and to give a presentation to the Board of Commissioners concerning the status of the recycling program on September 12. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

#### **IV. Solid Waste Coordinator Job Description**

Julie Mathiesen distributed a draft Solid Waste Coordinator job description, compiled from a number of job descriptions from similar county-level positions around the state. Council member comment included suggestions to cut some items because the position is for a part-time coordinator. The description, as amended to incorporate member comments, would be recommended to the BOC.

**Motion by John Conway, supported by Bill Gadwau, to recommend the draft position description for a solid waste coordinator to the county Board of Commissioners, and direct Howard to secure the necessary places on the respective agendas. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

#### **V. Burn Ordinance**

Julie Mathiesen handed out a general information sheet on open burning and its regulation by DNR and DEQ. She noted that at most township meetings to which she went during the SWRC's PA185 information series of meetings, complaints about unrestricted burnings came up. In Antrim, we only need a permit from DNR when burning tree stumps and other natural materials. DEQ will allow burning of household wastes given certain restrictions. DEQ will not regulate nuisance smells/odors from household waste burning.

Al Luurtsema noted that some townships have burn ordinances. Julie has not had the time to research township ordinances yet. Len Klein recounted that Elk Rapids Township has no ordinance: When such an ordinance was considered some years ago, opposition from orchard owners caused the shelving of the proposal. Julie asked the member whether a county-wide burn ordinance to regulate nuisance from neighbors' activities may be appropriate. She noted that it is an issue that straddles air pollution and solid waste concerns.

Len Klein cautioned that such an ordinance must take into account the proximity of affected neighbors. Bob Peterson and Joe Yuchasz noted that the village of Elk Rapids has an ordinance, mainly to control leaf burning --- all households tended to burn leaves on same day, with deleterious consequences to air quality and respiratory health. Because of that, the burn ordinance for the village had widespread support. Al Luurtsema wondered whether we can avoid enacting ordinances through implementing recycling. Joe Yuchasz further noted that the Elk Rapids ordinance effectively proscribes burning of tree stumps and other vegetative debris. Hence the Village invested in a chipping service and free distribution of resulting mulch to the residents. Any jurisdiction enacting such an ordinance may need to provide similar alternatives. Such ordinances need to distinguish between urban areas and rural areas. Subdivisions typically have nuisance problems from unrestricted burns.

## **VI. Member Comment**

Al Luurtsema asked for guidance on what to inform the Forest Home Township board when they inquire about the progress of the recycling program. The Council members indicated that the proper response would be to indicate that progress is being made, albeit at a slower pace at this time.

Bob Peterson suggested that the Coordinator/Planner Office send the townships an upbeat update informing them of the current situation.

Julie Mathiesen asked whether the SWRC should inform the townships and BOC that we are looking at recycling and garbage, or recycling only. Al Luurtsema noted that it seemed that the recycling system was not in question, but the solid waste system was. Len Klein noted that Grand Traverse residents residing adjacent to Elk Rapids indicated that the fixed recycling fee generated much opposition, particularly among the part-time residents.

Joe Yuchasz noted that 70-80% of the folks that come to use the garbage drop-off use the recycling facilities, but very few folks come to recycle only. Bill Gadwau confirmed this observation for Central Lake as well, and strongly suggested that solid waste be combined with recycling.

John Conway noted that revenue sharing dollars may be available, and some discussion ensued on current construction costs of a compactor station. Jim Palmer will research current costs and report next meeting.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

### **Next Meeting Date**

**The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on  
Wednesday, September 25, 2002, at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

September 25, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, Mike McPherson, John Conway, Jill Barnard, Allen Luurtsema, Leonard Klein, Joe Yuchasz, Julie Mathiesen, Janet Person, and Jim Palmer

Members Absent: Mike Domsic and Bill Gadwau

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: Laura Stanek, Pamela Morgan, and Melinda Chisolm

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### **I. Call to Order**

Bob Peterson called the Solid Waste and Recycling Council (SWRC) meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Joe Yuchasz, supported by Mike McPherson, to approve the August 28, 2002 minutes. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### **III. Budget Situation Update**

Howard reviewed the events to date on the budget situation for the part-time solid waste coordinator position, covering the Council's decision to go and perform the initial program and consensus building in-house via the coordinator, the request for a 2003 budget item switch from the \$12,000 requested for consulting services to that for a coordinator position, the dropping of the \$12,000 from the budget request, and the subsequent presentation by Julie Mathiesen of the Council before the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

Commissioner Laura Stanek clarified to the Council that the \$12,000 was removed from the budget request because there is already approximately \$100,000 in the solid waste reserve fund; given the uncertainty and lack of clarity in the timing of the need for the position, the Finance Committee felt that when the need arose, the Reserve Fund could be tapped for that purpose. To access the funds, the SWRC will need to make a recommendation to the Finance Committee, which in turn would bring the matter up to the full Board of Commissioners.

She also explained to the Council that the Solid Waste Reserve Fund was established several years ago to help fund the implementation of the County's solid waste plan and its component projects. Some funds are added to the fund annually, but due to budget constraints, no funds were added to the reserve fund this year.

In response to a question by Julie Mathiesen on the various encumbrances that might be tapping the fund, Howard briefed the Council on the current situation with the cardboard recycling at the Central Lake site and the Marv Rubingh project. The very large increase in the price for cardboard pulls would have to be borne by the County, and this is not budgeted. The County has not yet seen an invoice from Central Lake Township reflecting the increased costs.

Discussion ensued on the agreement between the County and Central Lake Township. Laura Stanek confirmed that the County receives and reviews monthly invoices from Marv Rubingh, but had yet to see invoices from Central Lake reflecting these increased costs. The Council instructed Howard to gather and analyze all contract documents and encumbrances relating to the Central Lake recycling project, and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

One possibility for reinstating the dropped consultancy cost (which would be used toward a solid waste coordinator) would be to fund it in 2003 out of the solid waste reserve fund, and request out of the SWRC budget in subsequent years.

#### **IV. Solid Waste Coordinator**

Julie Mathiesen distributed Solid Waste Coordinator job descriptions that was presented to the county Public Works Committee, and briefed the Council on her meeting. John Conway confirmed that after Julie's presentation to the BOC, the Board referred the position to the county Admin Committee. Laura Stanek noted that if the Admin Committee agrees to the creation of such a position, the Finance Committee could take the required funds from the solid waste reserve fund.

Janet Person asked what the \$12,000 would buy the county. Would the Admin Committee decide on what type of position would fit the budget? Julie Mathiesen responded that if we are going to tap the reserve fund, we should ask for more and set up the position for a half-time person.

Al Luurtsema noted that we should perhaps start with a quarter time person first, as we may not be ready for a half-time position in the course laid out for us by RRSI. Julie agreed that was the original intent, but it would be exceedingly difficult to attract a professional for a quarter-time position with no benefits. Leonard Klein noted that the original intent was to obtain a local sub-professional individual to perform the legwork for the consultant. It had somehow transmogrified into a full-blown professional job description, and that because the program had not yet started, it would not be a self-funding position. Janet said that her impression was that we wanted a full professional to replace the work that the consultant would have been doing for us at greater cost. John Conway added that perhaps we should have the position described as a "temporary part-time" position.

Julie responded that the SWRC is really back to the drawing board, given the lukewarm response to our proposals. We are not necessarily following the PA185 route at this point, so we really need to have somebody start the process from scratch through consensus building and data gathering. Al Luurtsema noted that such a position could still be filled by a sub-professional individual. Leonard wondered whether we still shouldn't be following the road map laid down for us by RRSI, given than we wouldn't be changing any more minds in the process. Julie responded that this opposition was precisely why we were starting from scratch. Jim Palmer asked whether or not PA138 was an option. Julie noted that PA138 has a cap of \$25 per domestic household, and covers recycling only. Hence we would want an alternate path for Antrim County.

Janet Person noted that this position exists to listen, to formulate, and to negotiate. A part-time position is probably a good idea. Bob Peterson wondered if \$12,000 would be enough for a salary. He asked the Council members what might be a reasonable recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for a salary for such a position. Perhaps provision of a range of dollar figures may be appropriate? Leonard Klein noted the need for a convincing argument for a coordinator position.

Discussion ensued, and the consensus was that given that there are 20 villages and townships in this county, the position would require at least 40 hours per month to attend village council and township board meetings. Assuming another 40 hours per month for research, reporting, and administration, the position would need about 80 hours of time per month. This would be equivalent to a half-time position. The Council's consensus was to drop the \$12,000 figure, and to request a half-time position instead to the BOC.

**Motion by Joe Yuchasz, supported by John Conway, to recommend to the Administration Committee that a half time position (~ 80 hours) to be created per the proposed position description (attached) to fulfill Antrim County's program commitments per the Solid Waste Management Plan. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

Further discussion ensued on the reporting arrangement. While the position would be formally under the oversight of the county Public Works Committee (or the Public Works Board under a PA185 arrangement), the guidance and reporting for the work would come from the SWRC.

#### **V. Grant Application Update**

Janet updated the SWRC on the Environmental Education grant application currently being assembled. As it stands now, Marv Rubingh wants to put in a request for \$26,000 for a cardboard grinder and \$8,000 for a retrofit of his existing equipment. We are also considering requesting education funding for the proposed countywide recycling program.

Extensive discussion ensued on the appropriateness of including the Rubingh equipment requests in a grant application going in under the County's name. The Council discussed various potential liability problems and recyclable material hauler options. Julie noted that perhaps the county should consider other options than the purchase of a grinder.

Janet also mentioned that we could potentially request grant funding for a solid waste coordinator position. John Conway requested Janet to include the solid waste coordinator salary in the grant request. Janet will have the filled application ready for review by SWRC members in the next meeting announcement packet.

Janet also touched on the possibility of grant funding through the EPA Office of Solid Waste. She will provide information to the Coordinator/Planner Office.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

Pamela Morgan introduced Melinda Chisholm to the SWRC. They have started a new waste transfer/recycling station in Mancelona, and are working with Emmet County solid waste officials as well. They are interested in working with the Antrim County SWRC for the countywide recycling program.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

**The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on  
Wednesday, October 30, 2002, at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

October 30, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, John Conway, Jill Barnard, Allen Luurtsema, Leonard Klein, Joe Yuchasz, Julie Mathiesen, Janet Person, and Jim Palmer

Members Absent: Mike Domsic, Mike McPherson and Bill Gadwau

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: Matt Morgan and Kyle Bell

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### **I. Call to Order**

Bob Peterson called the Solid Waste and Recycling Council (SWRC) meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Janet Person, supported by Joe Yuchasz, to approve the September 25, 2002 minutes. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### **III. Public Works Committee Update**

Howard briefed the Council on the county Public Works Committee meeting taking place that afternoon concurrently with the Council meeting. The agenda items of interest to the Council are Marv Rubingh's contract renewal (and offer to take cardboard), and the cardboard pull invoices from Central Lake Township. The Public Works Committee is expected to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on whether or not to continue, modify, or halt the ongoing programs. Marv Rubingh will be at the Committee meeting to make his case. Some Council members voiced concern that the Public Works Committee would be making a decision without input from this Council.

### **IV. Solid Waste Coordinator**

Howard informed the Council that upon the recommendation of the county Administration Committee, the Board of Commissioners at their October meeting approved the temporary position of part-time solid waste coordinator. The line item of \$12,000 is still in the Solid Waste and Recycling Council budget, as it turned out that it was not dropped from the budget request as previously thought. The coordinator's benefits must also come out of the \$12,000. The plan is for an employment ad to appear in the papers in early November, with interviews of short-listed candidates scheduled for the December Administration Committee meeting. The Board of Commissioners could then approve the candidate at their December meeting, and the position could start immediately on January 2, 2003. Pete Garwood requests that Bob Peterson (or another Council member designated by him) to sit on the interview panel.

Solid Waste and Recycling Council  
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Julie Mathiesen informed the Council that the Admin Committee thought that a quarter-time position rather than a half-time position would be warranted. The question remains whether we can hire qualified personnel for \$12,000 (including benefits). Howard asked the Council whether the job description should be modified. The consensus in the Council was that it would be a conflict of interest for a Council member, a consultant, or a waste hauler/contractor employee to be employed as the county solid waste coordinator.

Discussion ensued on the duties of the coordinator. Janet Person reminded the group that the Board of Commissioners needs to see positive results as a result of this hiring. Leonard Klein noted that the original intent of the position was to do the local legwork to further the PA185 project, obtaining counts of habitable dwellings in each township in preparation for the creation of a special assessment district. Janet Person and Julie Mathiesen noted that this would eventually be part of the person's duties.

Leonard Klein noted that the original intent of the position was to do the local legwork to further the PA185 project, obtaining counts of dwelling units in each township in preparation for the creation of a special assessment district. Janet Person and Julie Mathiesen noted that this would eventually be part of the person's duties. Howard reviewed the sequence of consultant (RRSI) activity to date.

Leonard, Janet, and Julie continued their discussion on the duties of the coordinator, which would include numerous meetings to gauge the demand for various types of services in the different areas of the county. Leonard noted a basic rationale behind recycling, the need to keep more materials out of landfills.

The Council reached a consensus that the position description should be used "as-is" for the advertisement. Bob Peterson noted that a work plan would be required for the person coming on board in January. Janet Person, Julie Mathiesen, Bob Peterson, and Howard Yamaguchi will prepare, in time for mailing with the next meeting's agendas, a draft work plan for the solid waste coordinator.

**V. Grant Application Update**

Janet Person informed the Council that private source funds were not accepting applications until July of 2003. She also reminded the Council that the Antrim Conservation District cannot write grants on behalf of individuals.

**VI. Public Comment**

Matt Morgan of North Country Transfer Station in Mancelona, accompanied by Kyle Bell (same firm), introduced himself and reiterated North Country's desire to work with the County on recycling programs. They are currently working with Emmett county to obtain information on recycling equipment, markets, and other arrangements. Responding to a question, Mr. Morgan indicated that 5-compartment containers (20 cu yds.) cost \$3,000.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**\*\*\* Next Meeting Date: Note Change of Date !!! \*\*\***

**To avoid the Thanksgiving Holidays, the next meeting will be on  
Tuesday, November 26, 2002, at 3 p.m.**

# Solid Waste and Recycling Council

November 26, 2002

## Minutes

Members Present: Bob Peterson, Jill Barnard, Allen Luurtsema, Leonard Klein, Joe Yuchasz, Julie Mathiesen, Janet Person

Members Absent: Mike Domsic, Mike McPherson, Jim Palmer, John Conway and Bill Gadwau

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi, Pete Garwood

Others Present: Laura Stanek, Marv Rubingh

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### **I. Call to Order**

Bob Peterson called the Solid Waste and Recycling Council (SWRC) meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Al Luurtsema, supported by Joe Yuchasz, to approve the October 30, 2002 minutes. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### **III. Central Lake Cardboard Recycling and Marv Rubingh Contract**

Bob Peterson introduced the subject and briefly introduced the handout materials included with the agenda. The handouts comprised relevant segments of County Commissioner meeting minutes and Solid Waste Management Committee minutes over a seven-year period. Commissioner Laura Stanek briefed the group on why the Finance Committee was interested in input from the SWRC on whether this proposal is consistent with the County solid waste plan before Finance Committee decides on the Marv Rubingh contract.

Bob Peterson noted that the question is whether or not we want to accomplish part of the solid waste plan through the Rubingh contract. Joe Yuchasz recommended against turning off an ongoing recycling program, stating that starting up the program again would be extremely expensive and time-consuming. The question, instead, is why only one community is receiving the benefit of county funding.

Julie Mathiesen was concerned that the Public Works Committee did not request input from the SWRC. She also had questions on the operation of the system: Is the paper recycling open to the entire county? Does Mr. Rubingh have to monitor paper throughput? Can this program be made part of the countywide system? An ongoing project should not be discouraged, but will this be open to all, and will there be a time limit?

Pete Garwood noted that the intent was always to have the county-paid portion open to all county residents. However, the new contract will need to explicitly state those terms. Marv Rubingh noted that Central Lake takes paper from the entire county, but other recyclables are limited to townships that pay in.

Jill Barnard noted that other recyclables are also accepted from everybody that pays at the site. Joe Yuchasz stated that Elk Rapids collects a millage from the Village and neighboring townships, but recyclables are accepted from everybody.

Marv Rubingh stated that initially Central Lake was non-committal, but because Central Lake had the site, the Township was approached, but agreed to the project under certain conditions. After a while, cardboard started getting put in paper hoppers, and the need for cardboard recycling came about. Pete Garwood noted that that was when the county agreed to pay for half of cardboard pulls.

Julie Mathiesen asked if Marv Rubingh will be doing both the paper and the cardboard. Marv replied that Central Lake is the billing agent (to the county) for paper. Because cardboard pulls are now a problem, Marv had the idea to take in cardboard as well. In response to a question, Marv noted that he is currently being paid to take 14 cubic yards per week and is paid \$300 per month. He explained his new proposal, in which he will be paid \$400 per month for paper, and \$7 per cu yard for cardboard up to a maximum of 30 cu yards per week. He will have a 30 cu yard container. Howard noted that disposition of amounts in excess of the 30 cu yards per month needs to be negotiated with the Township.

Al Luurtsema informed the SWRC that some alternatives do exist to local cardboard recycling. If we could bale our cardboard wastes, then Recycle America will pay us \$45/T delivered. Shredded paper can go to Habitat for Humanity for insulation. The problem is in handling the shredded product for delivery to end-users. Joe Yuchasz noted that baling cardboard may not be practical or economical for one community to handle (storage), but countywide, it may be feasible.

Julie Mathiesen asked whether there is any way to take Marv's proposed system and market the service on a countywide basis. Marv Rubingh replied that there were no takers from other farmers when the offer was originally made, possibly because of the labor required, new management procedures needed in the field, etc. A philosophical acceptance of environmental stewardship over aesthetics and other concerns among farmers is needed first. Other problems include the fact that the product cannot be used for milk cows. Paper is also heavy to handle.

Janet Person inquired whether there may be a way to put recycling containers, unmanned, in eastern part of county. Joe Yuchasz noted that the biggest problem is separating junk from recycling bins, and Elk Rapids has always needed a full-time attendant at the bins on recycling days.

Leonard Klein emphasized that the current system (Marv's paper recycling) is a working system, and the County should keep it so. We should work on extending the existing contract. Bob Peterson felt that if Marv Rubingh's price is competitive, the County should take the offer. But, he noted, it begs the question whether or not other sites such as Elk Rapids should also be funded by the County. Perhaps such assistance to existing recycling operations could be one model for future extension of the County's recycling system.

Leonard Klein, Joe Yuchasz, and Julie Mathiesen discussed the possibility of the County Board of Commissioners declaring the whole county or parts thereof as a Special Assessment District per PA 185. PA 138 was another possibility. Julie Mathiesen asked about the possibility of executing a contract, but creating a collection system to collect countywide locations? Are there any avenues to serve more areas of the County? Joe Yuchasz stated that if entering and extending into this contract is a way to transition to future for an eventual county-wide program, it would be fine. If this system does not develop from this point, then it is not acceptable from a countywide viewpoint.

**Motion by Al Luurtsema, supported by Janet Person, to recommend to the County Finance Committee to:**

- ✓ - extend for two (2) years the County's existing paper recycling contract with Marv Rubingh per the terms agreed upon by Mr. Rubingh and the County Public Works Committee (excerpted below);
- ✓ - enter into a new 2-year contractual agreement with Marv Rubingh for cardboard recycling per the terms agreed upon by Mr. Rubingh and the County Public Works Committee (excerpted below);
- ✓ - re-evaluate, at the end of the two-year period, whether or not the recycling operation should be terminated, or, alternatively, incorporated into a countywide recycling program.

**- Unanimous**

Some SWRC members voiced concern with the role of the Township as the invoicing agent, given the poor invoicing record of the past year. To address these and other concerns, SWRC makes the following recommendations for incorporation in the contracts:

- Marv Rubingh should invoice the County directly, with payments made directly to Mr. Rubingh. Copies of the invoices should also be sent to the Township for their information;
- Spell out the fact that the paper and cardboard recycling are open to all residents of Antrim County;
- Disposal of recyclable cardboard in excess of 30 cu yards per week is the responsibility of Central Lake Township;
- Marv Rubingh will work with the Solid Waste Coordinator to monitor the amount of recyclable cardboard and paper pulls.

The Coordinator/Planner Office will correspond with Central Lake Township to obtain details of cardboard pulls and prices of the past year, and request that future invoices contain such details.

**IV. Excerpt from Public Works Committee Minutes of October 30, 2002:**

Motion by Don Schuiteman, supported by Bob Wilson, to recommend to the Finance Committee and the Board of Commissioners, the County enter into a two (2) year contract with Mr. Rubingh to take 14 yards of paper per week at \$400 per month and cardboard at \$7.00 per cubic yard with a cap of 30 yards per week. The service will be invoiced through Central Lake Township (if they agree to be the invoicing agent). Motion carried – unanimous.

**V. Solid Waste Coordinator**

Howard briefed the Council on the status of the solid waste coordinator hiring process. Three applications were received by the County, two of which came from current members of the SWRC. The County Administration Committee is expected to invite two of the applicants for an interview at their regular meeting on December 5.

Julie Mathiesen and Janet Person reviewed the proposed scope of work for the Solid Waste Coordinator (distributed with the agenda). Julie Mathiesen noted that an additional item, brought up by Leonard Klein, still must be included in the scope. This would be the Coordinator's working with the Township assessors in determining the number of dwelling units in each Township.

**VI. New Meeting Date**

The SWRC agreed to hold no meeting in December.

The Council also discussed a new meeting date. The current meeting date (last Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m.) also coincides with the meeting date of the Public Works Committee, which is the oversight committee for the SWRC. The tentatively agreed-upon date is **3 p.m. on the Monday Before the Last Wednesday of the Month**. The next meeting date is **Monday, January 27, 2003**.

This meeting date assumes that the Public Works Committee will continue to meet on the last Wednesday of the month. Pete Garwood cautioned that the Public Works meeting date may change, because two of the three current members were not voted back into office. The new Public Works meeting date will not be known until the Board of Commissioners hold an organizational meeting early in the year.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

**\*\*\* Next Meeting Date: Note Permanent Change of Date !!! \*\*\***  
**Monday, January 27, 2003, at 3 p.m.**