

Antrim County Solid Waste and Recycling Council

January 13, 2014

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Domsic, Gene Dawson, Bill Gadwau, Jim Palmer, Sue Reck, Robert Ricksgers
Members Absent: Mike McPherson, Susan Schuler
Staff Present: Janet Koch
Others: Kristy Mortham, Executive Director of the Antrim County Conservation District

1. Call to Order

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. Organization Meeting

Motion by Bob Ricksgers, seconded by Jim Palmer, to elect Susan Reck as Chairman and Bill Gadwau as Vice Chairman. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Domsic, seconded by Bill Gadwau, to set the meeting dates and times for 2014 as the 4th Monday of April, July, and October at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioner's Room. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Welcome New Members

There were no new members to the Council.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mike Domsic, seconded by Bill Gadwau, to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2013 meeting as presented.

6. Recycling Program Update

Mr. Ricksgers said the fence around the Mancelona recycling site has been removed. The Council wondered if it was for snow removal purposes.

The Council reviewed the 2013 usage and billing numbers. Ms. Koch handed out a summary sheet that listed annual tonnage from each site. The Council noted that every site has had increased tonnage. A discussion ensued regarding the causes of the increases. Possibilities discussed included new signage, increased awareness of the recycling sites, and the change to co-mingling from separated recycling.

There was a discussion to explore alternative vendors before the current recycling drop-off contract expires.

Ms. Reck asked if there is an audit of any kind done to ensure that all the recycling materials are actually recycled and not put into a landfill. Other Council members felt that if a recycling company was found to be doing so, that their reputation would quickly be damaged. Ms. Koch read out loud a 2009 email from Mark Bevelhymmer of American Waste listing where the different recycled materials are taken.

Ms. Reck asked about the cleanliness of the sites; none of the Council members had heard any complaints.

The Council discussed security cameras. Ms. Koch said that in her experience purchasing cameras of sufficient quality to be useful to law enforcement is very expensive.

Ms. Reck asked Gene Dawson if the Board of Commissioners still supports recycling. He said they did, if the fees were reasonable.

7. Various Matters

Ms. Koch asked the Council if there was any interest in establishing a county-wide program for collecting yard waste and compost. She said she'd been contacted by someone who was willing to volunteer time and finances to establishing a program.

Mr. Gadwau described Central Lake Township's operation and cautioned that when composting gets to a certain quantity, that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality gets involved. This can include requirements for laying asphalt and a mandated schedule for rotating the compost. The Council indicated that Antrim County is a rural area and that a county-wide collection for yard waste and compost isn't needed.

Ms. Reck said that the Council is always willing to listen to proposals. She encouraged Ms. Koch to invite the property owner to the next Council meeting.

8. Public Comment / Member Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Antrim County Solid Waste and Recycling Council

Minutes: April 28, 2014

Members Present: Sue Reck, Mike Domsic, Gene Dawson, Robert Ricksgers, Susan Schuler, and Heather Butler

Members Absent: Mike McPherson, Bill Gadwau, and Jim Palmer

1. Call to Order

Sue Reck, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Welcome New Member

Ms. Reck welcomed Heather Butler to the Solid Waste and Recycling Council.

3. Public Comment

Kristy Mortham, Executive Director of the Antrim Conservation District, distributed a copy of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection flyer to the council members and gave an overview of the arrangements for the collection days.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bob Ricksgers, seconded by Mike Domsic, to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2014 meeting as presented. [Added on July 28, 2014: "Motion carried."]

5. Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Mike Domsic asked if the Conservation District had sufficient volunteers. Ms. Mortham said they had some people lined up, but more were always welcome. Ms. Reck asked about advertising efforts. Ms. Mortham said they would be tracking advertising results from now on. She added that an advertisement would be placed in local newspapers two weeks prior to the collection date.

Ms. Mortham said the Conservation District contracts with a vendor for collecting the hazardous waste from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and that nothing can be collected after 1:00 p.m. She told the Council that in 2013 collections at Elk Rapids (August collection date) were over 10,000 pounds and that collection at Bellaire (May collection date) were about 4,600 pounds. It is her hope to increase Bellaire's collections in 2014 to reach 5,000 pounds.

6. Various Matters

Susan Schuler asked about brush removal in the county. Janet Koch said some townships and villages currently have brush collection sites, but not all.

Mr. Domsic commented that in Georgia recycled tires are put into asphalt. Ms. Reck mentioned that tires have been accepted at American Waste's "Clean Up and Green Up" days in Traverse City. These events are held twice a year on Sunday morning following the time changes. (*Staff note: the March 2014 event did not accept tires.*)

Emmet County Recycling

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, gave the Council a report on the tour she took the previous Friday of the Emmet County DPW's recycling facility.

The facility currently recycles approximately 60 different materials and is always looking for new markets for additional materials. Before the facility commits to a new material, they make sure there are two viable markets for the material. 97% of the recyclables from Emmet County supply Michigan businesses.

Examples of new materials being recycled at the Emmet County facility are plant flats, asphalt shingles, mattresses, and latex paints. Some of these materials, however, can only be dropped off at the facility.

A "dual stream" recycling method (paper-type products as one stream, mixed containers such as plastics, metal cans, and glass as the other stream) means cleaner materials. This is very valuable to the factories that Emmet County supplies, and can allow Emmet County to obtain a higher price for the recycled product.

The Emmet County recycling model does not rely on tax dollars and has room for expansion. Currently, Emmet County processes recycling for Cheboygan, Presque Isle, and Otsego Counties. Emmet County trucks haul the Otsego County drop site bins; Cheboygan and Presque Isle contract out to haul their bins. Republic Services hauls for at least one of those counties.

Ms. Reck started a discussion of possible funding sources for the recycling program if the current funding is reduced or eliminated. The two alternatives the Council noted were millages and fees.

Ms. Koch said she will do some research on state statutes regarding fee assessments and report back to the Council at their next meeting.

7. Public / Member Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Antrim County Solid Waste and Recycling Council

Minutes July 28, 2014

Members Present: Sue Reck, Heather Butler, Gene Dawson, Mike Domsic, Jim Palmer, Robert Ricksgers, and Susan Schuler

Members Absent: Bill Gadwau and Mike McPherson

1. Call to Order

Sue Reck, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of April 28, 2014 Minutes

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, distributed copies of the minutes to the Council members. Ms. Reck noted that "Motion carried" should be added to the motion in #4.

Motion by Mike Domsic, seconded by Bob Ricksgers, to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2014 meeting as corrected. Motion carried - unanimous.

4. Quarterly Recycling Totals

The Council discussed the totals and noted that the amount of materials recycled has been increasing.

5. Fee Structure Possibilities

A description of funding options had been included in the Council's packets. These options included an appropriation from the general fund, millages, and a collection per household, among others. The Council agreed that passing a recycling millage would be difficult. Ms. Reck said a millage wouldn't fair to farmers, who often own significant acreage.

Ms. Koch was asked to get an estimate from the Equalization Department regarding the number of households in Antrim County. This data will give the Council an approximation of revenue from a per household collection.

The Council asked that the topic be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, which will be October 27, 2014.

Ms. Reck mentioned that the current recycling contract will expire in September 2015. She noted that sending out bids might be necessary within the next meeting or two. Ms. Koch said she'd research when the dates of the previous bids were sent and talk to the County's civil counsel about their schedule regarding contract review.

6. Various Matters

Ms. Koch said she was working with Mike Spence, Assistant Village Manager for Elk Rapids and Mark Bevelhymmer of American Waste, to reduce the number of complaints regarding full bins at the Elk Rapids recycling site. It is hoped that the number of pulls can be increased in the summer months rather than increasing the number of bins. Renting a new bin will cost \$100 per month and it will reduce the amount of parking spots.

Ms. Koch also mentioned that the waste receiving station in Central Lake Township accepts brush from non-township residents for a fee. A pick-up load would cost approximately \$10. Non-residents, however, cannot drop off grass clipping and leaves.

7. Public / Member Comment

Mr. Dawson told the Council about a company in Alba that recycles asphalt shingles into new shingles. He said they ship product overseas. *[Note: the company is Moderne Slate, 5377 Kregulka Road, Alba. Their website is <http://www.moderneslate.com>.]*

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Antrim County Solid Waste and Recycling Council

Minutes October 27, 2014

Members Present: Sue Reck, Heather Butler, Gene Dawson, Mike Domsic, Robert Ricksgers,
and Susan Schuler
Members Absent: Bill Gadwau, Jim Palmer, and Mike McPherson
Others present: Janet Koch, Dave Kotwick

1. Call to Order

Sue Reck, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of July 28, 2014 Minutes

Motion by Mike Domsic, seconded by Bob Ricksgers, to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2014 meeting. Motion carried - unanimous.

4. Quarterly Recycling Totals

The Solid Waste and Recycling Council (SWRC) reviewed the quarterly figures.

5. Fee Structure Possibilities

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, distributed copies of the information she'd gathered regarding the approximate number of households in Antrim County. **(See attached pg. 1.)** The approximate total was 17,309 and includes the number of residences on the tax roll and the agricultural parcels with property addresses. The Council had asked Ms. Koch to obtain that number to assist in determining funding possibilities for the recycling program that are outside of the general fund. Public Act 69 of 2005 allows counties to collect up to \$25 per year from households in local units of government that have approved an agreement with the county. Previous to the start of Antrim County's recycling program in 2009, some of the Council members had approached various local units of government regarding such an agreement, but met with little success.

6. Various Matters

Ms. Koch told the SWRC that the next meeting of the Buildings, Lands & Infrastructure Committee (BLI), a committee of the Board of Commissioners, would have an agenda item regarding a new recycling Request for Proposal (RFP). The BLI will be considering splitting the RFP into two parts, hauling of the recyclables and the receipt, processing and marketing of the recyclables. It is hoped this will enable more entities to submit bids and therefore create a more competitive bidding process.

Several members of the SWRC requested site visits to both the Emmet County and the American Waste recycling facility. Ms. Koch said she would get back to the SWRC members with dates.

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Ms. Koch said Banks Township had recently contacted the Administration Office regarding littering and dumping issues at the recycling location in Ellsworth. Ms. Koch said she'd installed a new sign and that there had been discussions regarding the construction of a fence around the bins. A fence, however, can be a problem for snow removal.

Motion by Mike Domsic, seconded by Bob Ricksgers, to request that the Village of Ellsworth be contacted regarding the suggestion of a different site for the recycling bins due to the litter and dumping issues. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Domsic asked Ms. Koch if the Administration Office had received any feedback regarding bin contamination from American Waste, the current recycling vendor. Ms. Koch said they had not.

Ms. Koch said the Antrim County website is currently being redesigned and that the recycling information should be easier for site visitors to locate.

7. Public / Member Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.