

Minutes of the April 8, 2003 Regular Meeting of the Livingston County Solid Waste Management Committee

Meeting called to order at 8:10 am by Donna Waldoock, Vice Chairperson

1. Roll Call

Present Paul Perosak, Joan Runkel, Lori Cowan, Donna Waldoock, Dianne McCormick, and Don Tinson

Absent: Dave Rettell and Terry Wilson

Staff: Jennifer Melcher (LCDC)

Guests: Darlene Paulauski (Gleaners Community Food Bank), Keith Huff (Oceola Township), Erin Atkins (Onyx Waste Services), Bob Hanvey (Marion Township), Barbara Buit (Recycle Livingston), Rich Andersen (LCBOC), Brian Jonckheere (LCDC), Douglas Bennett (Superior Sanitation)

2. Approval of Minutes of 1-10-03 Regular Meeting

➤MOTION made by Tinson, SUPPORTED by Cowan, to approve meeting minutes was carried

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Absent: 2

3. Call to the Public

No response.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Jennifer Melcher indicated that there were two additions to the agenda – 5g – Howell Township’s Solid Waste Challenge Grant application, and 9c – Request for issues concerning Solid Waste Planning from Designated Planning Agencies.

➤MOTION made by Tinson, SUPPORTED by McCormick, to approve agenda with the additions was carried

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Absent: 2

5. Review and Approval of Solid Waste Challenge Grant Applications – Total Amount Requested = \$10,496.25 (Total Amount Available = \$12,000.00)

a) Tyrone Township – requesting \$2,200.00 (25%)

Jennifer explained that the grant application indicated that the maximum that one organization could apply for is \$1,800.00, or 25%. Don stated that we should not approve the applications for more than was allowed because it would not be fair.

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Absent: 2

g) Howell Township – requesting \$1,000.00 (25%)

Maureen Cross stated that she has worked with community clean-ups since the early 1990s. She worked the joint clean-up last year with Howell Township and Handy Township. Maureen said that this is a great program that really benefits the residents. She said that the application was two weeks late because they had an understanding with Handy Township that Handy would prepare the application materials this year since Howell did it last year. By the time Howell found out that Handy had not completed the application, the deadline had passed.

Dianne said that since Howell Township was present to state their case, and since there are funds available, she thinks the application should be recommended for approval. She also said that even though there are other local units of government that were unable to apply in time, they were not represented at the meeting to state their case.

➤MOTION made by McCormick, SUPPORTED by Perosak, to recommend approval by the Board of Commissioners of Howell Township’s Solid Waste Challenge Grant application for a maximum of \$1,000.00 or 25% of the total cost of eligible expenses, was carried

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Absent: 2

6. Review and Recommendation for Approval of Environmentally Preferred Procurement (EPP) and Waste Reduction Policy

Don Tinson asked if Jennifer had enough time to implement this program? Jennifer explained that this might require some time upfront to get the policy implemented, however, after that it would be mostly maintenance. She said that she has received support from the Purchasing Department, who also reviewed and approved the policy. They will integrate the policy into standard Requests for Proposals and Purchase Orders. In addition, our office supplies company will assist by identifying products made with recycled materials and tabulating purchases of recycled materials. The county also is far ahead in this policy since we already recycle office paper, purchase a lot of recycled products, and utilize energy efficient lighting, and low toxic chemicals.

Jennifer also explained that this is something that was specified in the Solid Waste Management Plan and that this policy in no way would require a department to select a “green” product over another product, it merely considers the entire life cycle of the product in the purchasing decision. Dianne asked if government were eligible for such achievements as “Clean Corporate Citizen”. Jennifer said that is a great idea and she would look into that.

Don said this policy is just what they envisioned when they created the plan and he is glad that they were not just “going through the motions” when they created the plan.

➤MOTION made by Tinson, SUPPORTED by Cowan, to recommend approval by the Board of Commissioners of the Environmentally Preferred Procurement (EPP) and Waste Reduction Policy, was carried

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Absent: 2

7. Establishment of Subcommittees within the Solid Waste Management Committee

Jennifer said that setting up subcommittees may help save some time – rather than calling around when we have RFPs needing review, there will already be three people on hand to review and comment. In addition, there are environmental “holiday” that we could be planning special events for, however, they seem to creep up quickly and it is difficult to plan on my own.

The following subcommittees were established.

- a) Special Events – Dianne McCormick, Terry Wilson (new member)
- b) Review of RFPs, Applications, etc. – Don Tinson, Donna Waldock, Dave Rettell
- c) Illegal Dumping Task Force – Paul Perosak, Lori Cowan, Joan Runkel

8. House Bills Affecting Solid Waste Planning

- a) HB 6396 (is being modified and will be reintroduced soon)
- b) HB 4152 (has been introduced)

Jennifer explained that these are two house bills affecting solid waste. HB 6396 as is written, would dramatically change the solid waste planning process, effectively eliminating counties in the planning process. This bill is being worked on by Ruth Johnson’s office as a way to target Canadian trash. HB 4152 has been introduced and would add a surcharge onto each ton of waste deposited into landfills. Dianne asked if this bill would benefit Livingston County. Jennifer said not necessarily – the use of the funds is very specific and must be used for recycling programs and since we do not have a recycling program, it may not help. Dianne asked if either of these bills will get any momentum and Jennifer answered that HB 4152 will most likely not pass since it will face opposition from the solid waste industry as well as from communities who generate funds via another method.

**** After the meeting, Jennifer recalled other reasons why HB 4152 would not pass. The surcharge would only be applied to residential and some light commercial trash entering landfills. It would not apply to waste incinerated, or industrial trash – which is a large majority of the waste generated in Michigan.*

9. Other Items

- a) Various DEQ Press Releases Regarding Solid Waste Issues
- b) Update of Various Programs

Jennifer briefly updated the committee on the household hazardous waste collection program and also said that we are looking into adding used cellular phones to the list of items that are accepted. A non-profit group is offering \$1, plus \$1 to the MRC for each cell phone collected. The cell phones are either refurbished for organizations or recycled. Dianne McCormick added that this is a great program that benefits all involved. Residents donating their phones can receive a receipt for tax purposes. And organizations such as LACASA or Senior Centers can collect the phones, receive the \$1 per phone, and then receive the refurbished phones at no charge.

Jennifer will look into whether the accessories are also accepted for donation.

c) Request for Issues Concerning Solid Waste Planning from Designated Planning Agencies

Jennifer said that in response to the proposed house bills, several designated planning agencies (DPAs) are meeting on a semi-regular basis to discuss how to become involved with making the solid waste planning process more effective for all involved. They have requested a list of issues from each DPA to bring to a meeting with the Michigan Association of Counties. Jennifer asked Don Tinson, Donna Waldock and Rich Andersen if they could think of any specific issues that were important during past planning cycles. Don and Donna agreed with what was presented and could not add to the list. Rich commented that it was important to keep the county involved with the planning process. He said that removing the county would remove the experts such as the Health Department and the Solid Waste Coordinator. He said if it was left in the hands of local units of governments, they may not have the staff or skills to control or manage solid waste facilities.

10. Adjournment

➤MOTION made by McCormick, SUPPORTED by Tinson, to adjourn meeting was carried.

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Absent: 2

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am by Donna Waldock, Vice Chairperson

➤Minutes respectfully submitted for approval by the Board by Jennifer Melcher, DPW Coordinator for LCDC.