

Thursday, October 27th, 2016

St. Joe's Hospital

5301 McAuley Drive
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

[VIEW GOOGLE STREET MAP](#)



WCCSWM Meeting

OCTOBER 2016 PACKET

TOUR

~5:00PM

MEETING AGENDA

~5:30PM

Park in Lot B or C

Meet in Main Entrance lobby

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of August 25th, 2016 Minutes**
- 3. Approval of October 27th, 2016 Agenda**
- 4. Task Force Updates**
 - a. Product Stewardship Initiatives
 - Pharmaceutical
 - E-waste
 - Carryout Bags
 - b. Master Composter Certification Course
 - c. Washtenaw Food Policy Council
- 5. Legislative Updates**
 - a. SWPC Amendment
- 6. Local Community Updates**
- 7. Adjournment**

Meeting Minutes

RheTech

from Thursday, August 25th, 2016

Attendance

1. Noelle Bowman, Washtenaw County
2. Amelia Brown, Washtenaw County
3. Jon Tulman, Washtenaw County
4. Bruce Bawkon, Scio Township
5. Alex Williams, Superior Township
6. Chris Simmons, Ypsilanti City

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** (5:58pm)

2. **Approval of June 23, 2016 Minutes**

- a. Minutes approved as printed.

3. **Approval of August 25, 2016 Agenda**

- a. Agenda approved as printed.

4. **Task Force Updates**

a. Product Stewardship Initiatives

i. Pharmaceutical Waste

1. Noelle: The past clean-up day in Northfield Township was our first County-run clean-up day where pharmaceutical waste was collected for disposal. A law enforcement officer must be present (per DEA rules) to collect materials, which we are working to have as a regular part of the collection days.
2. Alex: We should add that pharmaceutical waste will be collected on the collection day fliers.
3. Noelle: We have had some inconsistency with being able to get law enforcement representation at the clean-up days which is why we have been hesitant to put that on the fliers.
4. Jon: If we could get a better contact for getting police representation at these events, let us know.

ii. E-waste

1. Chris: We changed our vendor as Vintage Tech closed their Canton Branch, and have now delivered our first load to Great Lakes Electronics Recycling. We are not under contract, so we are still interested in exploring and talking to other vendors.

iii. Plastic Bags

1. Noelle: Yesterday, the Michigan Grocers Association formally came out in support of the SB853, the main reasoning being it supposedly adversely affects commerce and subjects retailers to a “patchwork of policies.” The alternative to local legislation would be to pass a state-wide policy, which is unprecedented.

b. Master Composter Certification

- i. Chris: Master Composter class is starting soon, and enrollment is at Ann Arbor Rec & Ed. We had reports that people were having trouble finding the enrollment online, but haven't looked into that.
- ii. Noelle: We will be adding the link to the sign-up on the Washtenaw County composting page, and everyone can direct people there. The members that have completed all seven classes and their volunteer hours will be receiving their Master Composter certificate on Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 PM at Washtenaw Community College. Barry Wilkins will be present at this event and will be giving us a tour of his composting system.
- iii. Noelle: I have also been in touch with Nancy Stone, and for 2017 we are going to include Master Composter Recognition in the E2P2 program. Recognition of excellence will be in the areas of compost education and another category. We will need to find some kind of Master Composter logo to use for E2P2 purposes.

5. Legislative Updates

- a. Noelle: The Solid Waste Planning Committee is currently in the process of amending the existing county plan. At this point we are on schedule, and hoping to tentatively open the plan for public comment at the beginning of 2017. We will be meeting twice before then, so Jeff will give a more complete update at our next meeting.
- b. Jon: At our next meeting on Wednesday, September 14th at Chelsea Library, we will hopefully be finalizing the draft of our goals and objectives.
- c. Noelle: All of the SWPC meeting minutes and agendas are available online at recycle.ewashtenaw.org
- d. Chris: Ann Arbor has terminated their contract with ReCommunity, and ReCommunity has filed suit. There are several articles on MLive about this issue. The City of Ypsilanti is eager to be able to have an outlet in Ann Arbor again, but also acknowledge that price and safety were an issue with ReCommunity running the MRF.
- e. Noelle: At our last SWPC meeting, a WWRA came and shared that they were accepting single stream materials from Ann Arbor to assist the City of Ann Arbor in the interim, but this only lasted about two weeks. Ann Arbor is now contracting with Waste Management for waste and recycling services.
- f. Jon: Chelsea has started accepting glass recycling again.
- g. Noelle: The issue is that the closest glass recycling facility is not local, and so it's not cost-effective to transport glass to recycling out of state.

6. Local Community Updates

- a. Chris: It would be a great time to remind people and get the word out on the Master Composter class, which starts in the coming weeks. Our Facebook page is called Washtenaw County, MI Michigan Master Composters and will give you updates if you want to share that link.
- b. Noelle: For the past year we have been developing the Zero Waste Washtenaw program, and these past couple months have been very active. We partnered with the Michigan Brewers Guild for Beerfest, Huron River Day, Saline Summerfest, 5 Healthy Towns Farm to Table in Chelsea, and Superior Day. Our website www.ZeroWasteWashtenaw.com includes the

complete list of events and corresponding event metrics, as well as a link to register for volunteering. We will be facilitating Zero Waste at the upcoming WCC Welcome Day, and are partnering with the Students for Sustainability group. Our last event of the year will be Saline Oktoberfest. The program goal is to reach 45,000 event-goers over the course of two years (2015-'17) and we are well on our way to achieving that goal. The Michigan Brewers Guild Beerfest was a new event for us this year and we are looking forward to improving that partnership significantly next year, and luckily the director of the guild is very committed to achieving their environmental goals.

- c. Chris: On April 1st, Ypsilanti recycling drop-off site put into effect a citizen-only policy, which they have started enforcing. We are sending people to the Clark Rd. drop-off from Ypsilanti Township and need to figure out where to route citizens of Superior Township. It is primarily electronics and Styrofoam recycling right now. Back when we had county revenue sharing, we were required to take waste from all county residents, and Ypsilanti city residents made up about 45-50% of drop-off participants. Outside of that we got a huge percentage of participants from Ypsilanti Township residents, so it is unfortunate to restrict our services to just city citizens. The millage also failed by 39 votes and we have to hire a new city manager, so it is not a great time to approach changing this policy.
- d. Alex: At the beginning of 2017 Superior Township is hoping to roll out a new website with text updates, which would help remind citizens about local collections.
- e. Jon: It would be helpful for the HHW program if everyone could let citizens know that you can't just show up to drop off waste during the week, they have to make appointments or use the scheduled HHW Collection days. The Saturday collections end the third Saturday of November but appointment-only collections run year round. We have been averaging 200 cars per Saturday collection and about 25-30 appointments per week. We have also been doing some rearranging of how we collect materials and some repairs, and it is a much smoother operation now.

- f. Noelle: We also finalized a contract with a Non-profit organization from Detroit called Rippling Hope, where we send our still-usable latex paint.
- g. Jon: Rippling Hope is a church-based non-profit that works with 26 local organizations. They came last Saturday and took their first load, about 100 gallons of paint. It saves them a ton of money, and saves us about \$5/can. When I set up appointments over the phone I now go through a protocol to have people set aside usable paint so we can re-use as much of the material as possible.
- h. Noelle: The paint that isn't taken by Rippling Hope is sent down to Matthew: 25 Ministries for re-blending and is used for disaster relief projects domestically and internationally.
- i. Jon: Rather than disposing of 25-lb propane tanks, we now take the new tanks and bring them to RAA's Re-Use center and match them with the grills they sell. We also strengthened our "In-house" HHW diversion efforts and have diverted about 2,500 lbs. of hazardous waste to employees who use the products at home. Overall, our HHW diversion rate has increased significantly.

7. **Adjournment** (6:48)