

Plan Implementation Advisory Committee Minutes

1/23/2023 | 9:00AM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Bukowski, Mason, Ohren, Simmons, Stone, Adams, Williams

Members Absent: Seegert

BPW Liaison: Smith

Public Present:

Staff Present: Eggermont, Porta

Stone called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Todd Bukowski is present and attending remotely from City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Sarah Mason is present and attending remotely from City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI

Joe Ohren is present and attending remotely from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Dave Seegert is absent.

Chris Simmons is present and attending remotely from City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, VA.

Lauren Smith is present and attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI.

Nancy Stone is present and attending remotely from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Sean Adams is present attending remotely from City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Marc Williams is present attending remotely from City of Chelsea, Washtenaw County, MI

Public Comment

None

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda without amendment moved by Ohren, seconded by Williams. All in favor.

Approval of 12/5/2022 Minutes

Stone indicated a correction that “seek” should be “seeks” in the second sentence of County Updates.

Stone suggested adding in the second paragraph of Member Updates that Great Lakes Tissue can recycle paper hot cups with plastic liners. Stone also suggested in the same paragraph changing “toilet paper” to “tissue papers” and changing “Canada” to “Canada’s EPR programs”.

Approval of minutes with amendment moved by Ohren, seconded by Williams. All in favor.

Reports and Updates

County Updates

Eggermont provided an update that the Home Toxics Center will be closed a little longer due to delays in the new vendor’s contract. The delay was caused by a legal review that was triggered by the addition of a clause to include the GFL Home Toxics Center within the same contract. Staff are using the closure to clean up the facility and improve organization.

Eggermont shared that the new GFL Home Toxics Center contract negotiations are in process. A request has been made to EGLE to change the requirement for the site to be open four days per week for four hours per day to a minimum of 850 hours per year instead. The original consent judgment stated that the

facility would open on January 1, 2023. The current agreement for opening the facility is now on or before June 1, 2023. Once agreed upon, the document would go to the BOC for acceptance.

Eggermont shared changes to the School Recycling Program that are being considered to increase participation in education programs, be able to expand to more schools, and redirect staff time to other waste reduction activities in schools such as cafeteria composting. The county is looking at having a reimbursement program where the schools have agreements directly with the hauler and the school can request reimbursement for recycling services from the county if they complete minimum education requirements and submit recycling metrics. Staff are in the process of preparing outreach to schools and haulers to share goals and inquire about the changes to determine a solution that will work for all parties.

WRRMA

Eggermont shared that WRRMA's attorney gave a presentation to the City of Dexter's council about what a collaborative waste and recycling contract would look like. Eggermont also noted that WRRMA has a recycling audit coming up as a follow-up to the Recycling Quality Improvement grant. WRRMA sent out a survey to the low participation households, as identified by the cart tagging program, and found that residents want more clarity on what can be recycled and confidence that their items are recycled into new items. WRRMA will be partnering with the MRFs for information and to do an education campaign to increase participation and decrease contamination.

Member Updates

WWRA

Williams shared that he is looking more into how much material is coming to the drop-off sites from outside communities. Williams provided an update that he met with The Recycling Partnership to go over the results from the Recycling Quality Improvement grant project and reported that they found a 90 percent decrease in the number of bins that contained more than 20% contamination.

DOS

Mason provided an update on the Drop Off Station project that the City of Ann Arbor received an EGLE grant for. RRS was hired to complete the site design and engineering. The project now has three design concepts and is preparing to begin engagement sessions, starting with stakeholders that have a vested interest because they have knowledge of the industry, or their residents may be using the facility. A public engagement session will be held following the stakeholder session. Board members will receive an email this week inviting them to provide feedback on the three site designs online and to attend a virtual engagement session in February. Ultimately, the plan will go to the Pittsfield Township Planning Commission, which is currently anticipated to be in the spring. The total cost of the project has gone up from the original estimate of ~\$4.5 to 6 million. The goal is to open the facility in summer or fall of 2024.

Subcommittee Updates

Stone shared that the Education Subcommittee discussed the MRF standards at the MRFs in Washtenaw County. The group ended the meeting with additional questions about plastics and textiles that will be discussed at future meetings. The group is also curious about the recent Part 115 changes.

Eggermont shared that the metrics subcommittee work has been folded into the ordinance he is working on. Eggermont noted that with the Part 115 changes, he is looking at how that will impact the ordinance and working in those adjustments to the ordinance draft. Eggermont shared that he gave the Board of

Commissioners an update on Part 115 and also let them know he'll be back with an ordinance request.

Part 115 Update and Discussion

Eggermont gave a presentation on the Part 115 updates. The original goal of Act 451 of Part 115 was to ensure enough disposal capacity in landfills. The new goal is to focus on managing materials rather than disposal. Bukowski asked if landfill tip fees go into the funding and noted that Michigan has one of the lowest tip fees in the country. Eggermont responded that tip fees did not increase with the Part 115 updates and the goal is that increasing markets for materials through benchmark recycling standards is going to help increase the amount of material recycled. Bukowski asked if there is anything in the updates about reducing food waste and if composting is included in the recycling rate calculation. Eggermont responded that compost is included in the calculation and there is funding that can be used for increasing food waste composting capacity, however, there is no specific benchmark for food waste like there is for recycling. Eggermont noted that counties will now need to create Materials Management plans and that comes with new criteria for the standing planning committee. Eggermont would like to see if the county can work in another model to allow people who are not part of the specific organizations included in the state's requirements for the planning committee to have a voice. Simmons suggested the subcommittee model if it is legal to have advisory subcommittees. Stone noted the controversy of having the Governor not sign the Part 115 package of bills due to chemical recycling addition and asked if anyone had additional insight. Eggermont shared that the Michigan Recycling Coalition doesn't think the additions about chemical recycling merit the opposition as those types of facilities would have to be sited by the county and the plan. Adams shared that RAA is not in support of chemical recycling because it is a linear process. Bukowski added the chemical recycling industry has been pushing to be considered a manufacturing process as opposed to a waste process because the regulations are less strict. Roughly 20 states regulate it as manufacturing.

New Business

Planning session for PIAC top three priorities in 2023

The board participated in a brainstorming activity by sharing ideas about what PIAC should focus on in 2023. Individual responses were categorized, and then the three categories were given names. Board members decided that one category would be discussed per meeting and established an order of starting with policy, planning and decision making, followed by expansion of services, followed by engagement.

Next Steps

Public Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m. moved by Simmons, seconded by Bukowski. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Angela Porta

Minutes approved by Sarah Mason
Sarah Mason, Secretary

03/30/2023