

Plan Implementation Advisory Committee Minutes

3/27/2023 | 9:00AM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Mason, Seegert, Simmons, Stone, Adams

Members Absent: Bukowski, Ohren, Smith, Williams

BPW Liaison:

Public Present: Ann Hubbard

Staff Present: Eggermont, Porta

Stone called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Todd Bukowski is absent, notice was provided.

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

Joe Ohren is absent, notice was provided.

Dave Seegert is present and attending remotely from Salem Township, Washtenaw County, MI

Chris Simmons is present and attending remotely from City of Manhattan, Riley County, KS

Lauren Smith is absent, notice was provided.

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

Marc Williams is absent.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda without amendment moved by Simmons, seconded by Mason. All in favor.

Approval of 1/23/2023 Minutes

Approval of minutes without amendment moved by Simmons, seconded by Seegert. All in favor.

Elections

Chair

Simmons nominated Stone for Chair. Seegert seconded. Stone accepted. All in favor.

Vice Chair

Stone nominated Simmons for Vice Chair. Seegert seconded. Simmons accepted. All in favor.

Secretary

Stone nominated Mason for Secretary. Simmons seconded. Mason accepted. All in favor.

Reports and Updates

County Updates

Eggermont provided an update that materials are ready for submission to the Board of Commissioners for acceptance of the agreement between GFL Arbor Hills Landfill and Washtenaw County for the new Home Toxics Center. The facility will open on June 1, 2023, for ten years.

Eggermont shared that Washtenaw County received a scrap tire cleanup grant from EGLE. These funds are used for collecting scrap tires at County Cleanup Days and other events where the county assists municipalities in hosting a tire collection.

Eggermont shared that Washtenaw County received a NextCycle grant to assist municipalities with setting up a contract for municipal waste and recycling collections. Eggermont noted that he plans on hiring a consultant to do stakeholder meetings to identify municipalities looking for contracting for solid waste services. The grant is for \$10,000 and Eggermont shared that he plans to administratively put matching funds from the county sponsorship program towards this unless there is any opposition or desire to put it through a review process.

Eggermont shared that Washtenaw County met with solid waste haulers to gather feedback about collection services for the school recycling program. The feedback from the haulers is that the larger the contract, the longer the term, and the more services included, the better the price and service will be. The county is working in that direction to put out an RFP through WISD to provide collection services for trash, cardboard recycling, and remaining materials single stream in carts. The county is looking at model RFPs from other school districts and talking with schools about service needs as they develop an RFP.

Eggermont provided an update that WRRMA did a follow-up materials audit that had thirteen samples. Overall, the results showed an increase in contamination. Additional details will be shared after the next WRRMA meeting when they review the audit results.

Porta shared that the County Cleanup Day dates for the year will be shared with the public later in the week. The county is implementing a registration system this year to space out the event traffic and minimize cars sitting idling for extended periods of time in line. Eggermont added that the county is looking for volunteers to assist at the events.

Member Updates

Simmons shared that the Ypsilanti Earth Day event will be taking place on April 16 from 12 – 5 p.m. at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. Simmons and Porta will be participating as Master Composters with an activity table. Simmons encouraged members to attend and check out the EDY4 Facebook event.

Mason provided an update on the Drop-Off Station project. There will be two public meetings coming up in mid-April that will start being advertised in the coming days. Visit A2dropoff.com to see more information and meeting dates. Stone inquired if any focus groups have occurred to discuss the site's entry fee because in the past there has been negative feedback from the community on the entry fee. Mason responded that the entry fee is on their list of questions that they are aware of but do not currently have an answer to. Following the site design, the next big conversation is how the site will be funded.

Subcommittee Updates

Stone shared that Bukowski provided a presentation on chemical recycling to the Education Subcommittee. The subcommittee will not meet in April and will meet next just following the Michigan Recycling Coalition conference, which may provide additional insights on chemical recycling. Eggermont shared that the Metrics Subcommittee has a timeline to take the proposed ordinance to a Board of Commissioners working session in August. Several conversations are needed considering the new solid waste law and how the Materials Management Plans will help with metrics.

Sponsorship Request: Recycling Ann Arbor DOS support

Eggermont provided an introduction that Recycle Ann Arbor (RAA) approached the county for infrastructure support for the Drop-Off Station (DOS). He reviewed their past year's financials, and they are not making much money.

Adams presented RAA's sponsorship application that the DOS is seeking financial support because it is currently in a difficult position to continue operating the site without increasing user fees. The DOS had received regional financial support from when it opened until 2009 when the subsidies that allowed no

user fee were removed. That is when RAA had to start charging a gate fee of \$3, which it maintains today. The increases in the cost of site operations coupled with the need for new equipment require additional financial support.

Eggermont shared that Bukowski asked via email what would happen if this sponsorship was not approved and if it is approved how will it impact other sponsorships. Adams responded that if it is not approved the gate fee would increase by double or triple. Eggermont shared that if we automatically approve for 2024, it eliminates competition for another large sponsorship. He then recommended adding a clause to the resolution that the Board of Public Works approve the RAA sponsorship for 2023, and tentatively for 2024, pending an application from another large sponsorship is received, in which case they both be competitively reviewed. If there are no other large sponsorship applications, then the RAA sponsorship continues in 2024 without a need for re-evaluation.

Upon a vote for approval of the RAA DOS Sponsorship Resolution, the vote was:

YES: Mason, Seegert, Simmons, Stone

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Adams

Policy, Planning, and Decision-Making Discussion

Eggermont indicated that one of the top priorities for the county is the upcoming materials management planning process. That process will provide useful discussions that will help with further policy and planning. Another top priority is the solid waste ordinance, which includes hauler accountability, metrics, and a potential avenue for funding. If the current ban on local plastic bag bans is repealed, the county will look to put the plastic bag fee ordinance through again on the local level. The county is also aiding local units of government with developing municipal contracts. Another planning priority is the new Drop-Off Station's long-term funding mechanism. Additionally, Eggermont noted that to get to zero waste and reduce greenhouse gases, we need to address organics as an upcoming priority. Stone noted that we will pick up this discussion in the future as there was limited time at the meeting.

New Business

No new business

Next Steps

Porta and Eggermont will work with Seegert to plan for the next meeting at the GFL Arbor Hills Landfill. Seegert added that anyone who wants to come is welcome to attend.


Public Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. moved by Simmons, seconded by Mason. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Angela Porta

Minutes approved by


~~Sarah Mason, Secretary~~
Nancy Y. Stone, Chair