

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

8:30 a.m.

WESTERN COUNTY SERVICE CENTER – via Remote.

Members Present: Dries, Smith, Schmidt, Maciejewski, Pratt, McCririe

Members Absent: McCormick

Liaison Absent: Commissioner Jason Morgan

Public Present: None

Staff Present: Theo Eggermont, Public Works Director
Lauren Koloski, Environmental Supervisor
Michelle Katz, Water Resources Service Coordinator

1. Call to Order/Member Virtual roll call

Chair Dries called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. Member Attendance

Dries, attending remotely, Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Schmidt, attending remotely, City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
McCririe, attending remotely, City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Maciejewski, attending remotely, City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Pratt, attending remotely, Benzie County, Michigan
Smith, attending remotely, City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by McCririe, supported by Schmidt to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes-May 19,2021

Motion by McCririe, supported by Schmidt to approve the meeting minutes of May 19, 2021.

5. Public Comment-Related to Meeting Agenda Items

Public Commentary- (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

No Public in attendance

6. Reports/Program Updates

A) Lake Improvement Projects Update

Assignment and Assumption of Contracts Aquatic Services

Koloski reported that Aquatic Services was purchased by Clarke Aquatic Services, therefore the Herbicide Lake Treatment contract for North Lake, Pleasant Lake and the Chain of Lakes was transferred to Clarke Aquatic Services. The only change is the contract is with a larger company, and she is hoping we may negotiate for better prices for services. Clarke will transition over the next few years, with Jeff Knox working with Clarke in the transition. Clarke Aquatic Services is currently based in Illinois, just starting to do work in Michigan.

Eggermont also mentioned Clarke Aquatic Services assumed the current contract held by Aquatic Services, the terms of the contract are the same.

Koloski also reported all the lake projects have had one round of treatments this year. She anticipates going back for treatment for milfoil issues on Whitmore Lake soon.

Koloski mentioned Base Lake had an algae bloom and she did some testing of the bloom and dropped off samples to State of Michigan Lab. The bloom appeared to have dissipated after the sample was taken. She notified the health departments of the findings. She also notified the residents of the issue. EGLE then tested for toxins. She expects the results back in the next week. Staff will keep monitoring the situation. Maciejewski asked if the Health Departments issued notifications. Koloski reported they did not as the bloom had dissipated. Maciejewski also asked about updates on the Chain of Lakes for any future issues. Koloski will double check to see if the BPW member are on the list serve email. Smith asked about Health Departments posting. Koloski mentioned it was posted at the public DNR launch. Smith asked about the time lag from samples taken and results. Koloski mentioned the bloom was not visible after the test sample results. Koloski mentioned they will be providing the lake residents with educational materials to identify those blooms in the future. Smith asked about determining the source of these blooms. Koloski mentioned EGLE is short on resources to determine the source, she also mentioned educating the residents on what could be fueling these blooms. Pratt mentioned in the off-season staff developed a protocol for HAB reports.

Koloski presented air table data that provides a form for the Chain of Lakes complaints/concerns log, creates a table to track resident concerns. She mentioned this information is very helpful to Lake management team. This information is shared with Progressive AE so they can accurately investigate the concerns and issues in the specific areas and allows follow up with the lake residents.

HRCOL Renewal Discussion

Eggermont reported the renewal coming up for the Chain of Lakes Project, last assessment for the project is in 2021. He mentioned they are working with the Townships for petitions from the residents and townships in support for the renewal on the Lake Project. Due to new projects expected to start next year, he is looking to shrink the project, possibly excluding some of the northern lakes in the Chain. He also mentioned that there are some challenges to provide those with treatments and permitting in those northern lakes, also issues with not having a unified goals among residents, creating a less successful program for those lakes. He feels there is a lack of support in the lakes located in the northern Livingston County lakes and asking for one resident for representation from those riparian's in those lakes for unified support.

Eggermont asked for board member comments. Dries mentioned there are several homeowner associations and the limitations on permits for treatment cause expenses to increase. Pratt mentioned harvesting is very expensive and the complaints received for those materials being picked up in the process. McCririe asked about special assessment districts, he has found that vast majority of residents are satisfied with the services and happy to pay the special assessments. However, a minority of lake residents will not be satisfied. He mentioned that information he has received has been most of those residents are happy with the lake improvement and the speed of which those weed issues have been treated. He feels the value of the services provided are successful.

Eggermont mentioned they are looking for 2/3 support from all the lake communities to be included in the Lake Project for renewal. Some of the townships are requiring 2/3 support for the townships to petition the Board of Public Works to proceed with renewal project.

McCririe and Dries discussed concerns about some of the lakes in the project vs not others within the Chain of Lakes.

B) PIAC Update
Approved Meeting Minutes from 4/26/2021
Received & Filed

C) WRRMA Update
Approved Meeting Minutes from 4/19/2021
Received & Filed

Quality Improvement Grant Update

Eggermont reported that the Quality Improvement Grant has launched, and an audit is underway. They are collecting samples this week to determine the contamination levels in the recyclable collections. He also mentioned starting next week the taggers will be checking carts for about 36,000 households for contamination over the next 8 weeks. There were mailing flyers that went out to the residents in those households to educate on clean recyclables. He has been attending Township meetings to let members know about this project initiative. They have also been in contact with the haulers, doing educational outreach via various social media platforms and township newsletters.

Eggermont also reported Ypsilanti Township is the first member to approve the amended WRRMA membership for the City of Ann Arbor to join the Authority. He also mentioned it is expected to have a new member representation from Pittsfield Township for WRRMA in July or August that will then create full member representation of the authority which is required to proceed with the amendment.

Dries asked about tracking the progress from the Quality Improvement Grant initiatives. Eggermont mentioned that continued contamination checks is currently being provided by the Grant funding and it is possible with Townships and WRRMA support they could possibly continue to do sampling at a slimmer scale to ensure educational outreach is being met for contamination.

D) Solid Waste Funds Priorities Discussion

Eggermont asked to have discussion on current Solid Waste funding balance and maintaining a balance to continue to cover critical programs, staffing if the current landfill funding ended. He asked what the Board Members priorities are for the Solid Waste fund.

Suggestions:

Smith mentioned developing composting infrastructure program, expanding access and educational. Maciejewski asked about composting at a regional or back yard level. Smith replied both would be great, with emphasis improving on educational outreach. She mentioned a regional approach would be ideal. Eggermont mentioned conducting a study to determine the hurdles and next steps to achieve this at a regional level. Smith agreed a study would be the way to begin this program.

Eggermont mentioned a present suggestion is the Drop off Replacement as facility is on unstable ground and needs to be replaced. He is currently working with City of Ann Arbor to apply for grant to assist in replacing it before it fails. Maciejewski mentioned the drop off station could not be improved at the current location. She mentioned that there is another location the City of Ann Arbor owns in Pittsfield Township. He mentioned there are entry fees for basic services the drop off station receives for those households that do not have access to other recycling options. They also receive electronics and other items at this facility. Eggermont/Maciejewski mentioned that the City of Ann Arbor only pays for maintaining the facility, but there is no funding from the City of Ann Arbor for this type of infrastructure improvements.

E) Directors Report

Manchester Tire Collection Event Flyer

Eggermont mentioned the county, in partnership with the Conservation District, is conducting a tire collection in Manchester on Saturday, June 26, 2021. This is a low-cost and easy effort to collect those items with Scrap Tire Grant funding. He also mentioned they are looking to conduct more of these events in other municipalities within the County this year as well.

County Clean Up Days Flyer

Eggermont mentioned there is a Whitmore Lake (Northfield Township) Clean Up Day event scheduled for June 26, 2021. He also mentioned they have finalized plans to conduct events in Saline Township July 31, 2021 and Ypsilanti, August 14, 2021. GFL will be donating bulky waste services for some of the events as well.

Eggermont also mentioned the Resolution to Approve a Solid Waste Sponsorship application for collection of reusable 1lb propane cannisters, providing a pilot program to serve as a model for expansion throughout Michigan. The PIAC reviewed and recommends approval for the National Stewardship Action Council's application for approval on a sponsorship in the amount of \$9,999.00. They have also partnered with U-Haul to refill these containers at a low cost to consumers.

Request for BPW member(s) attendance for meeting with Arbor Hills Landfill

Eggermont mentioned they are in the process of scheduling the annual meeting for early or mid-August with GFL to discuss Host Agreement and is looking for any Board of Public Works members that would like to attend. Jim Dries and Drew Schmidt volunteered with Lauren Smith interested if others couldn't make it.

Eggermont provided update on the landfill's odor complaints mentioning that they have decreased and remain low. He also mentioned that the leachate issues they have had and are adding a larger tank. He also mentioned to the PFAS issues are associated with the fire at the MRF a few years ago. They are reconstructing the MRF and expect to be operational by 2nd quarter of 2022.

June 29th WWRA Public Hearing

Eggermont reminded everyone about the WWRA Public Hearing on June 29, 2021 at 5:30 via zoom.

7. Action Items

A) Memorandum of Claims –Vouchers #8259-8261

Motion by Maciejewski, supported by Schmidt to approve vouchers #8259-8261.

B) Sponsorship Resolution for Reusable Propane Cannisters Project

Motion by Pratt, supported by Schmidt to approve Sponsorship Resolution for Reusable Propane Cannisters Project

8. Financial Reports

Received and Filed monthly financial reports.

9. Other Business

Maciejewski updated on GFL issues in Dexter Township with recyclables not being collected correctly. She mentioned the driver for GFL in her neighborhood said he was told to combine the trash and recyclables. She mentioned that many of the residents are dissatisfied with the current services from GFL, as most of the neighbors have held back their recyclables and taken them to the drop off site in the township.

Dries also mentioned that in Scio Township they have a single hauler agreement with the township and his neighborhood has asked GFL for carts for their recyclables. Eggermont mentioned a probable long-term solution is to work with Dexter Township to develop a process possibly for haulers and carts available. Dries mentioned maybe something they can discuss with GFL at the annual meeting next month as well.

10. Public Comment- General/Un-related to Current Meeting Agenda Items

Public Commentary- (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

No Public in attendance

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

James Dries, via remotely

James Dries, Board of Public Works Chair