

# Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

9/21/2020; 1:00 PM

## Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:** Auth, DiPietro, Perry, Nicholls, Akers, Fordice, Simmons

**Members Absent:** Stanfield, Weirich

**Washtenaw County Staff Present:** Eggermont, Krupp

**Attorney:** Davis

**Members of the public present:** Maciejewski, Weinert, Ukena

Akers called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM

### Roll Call

Ann Arbor Township: Present

Pittsfield Township: Not present

Scio Township: Present

Ypsilanti Township: Not Present

City of Dexter: Present

City of Saline: Present

City of Ypsilanti: Present

### Public Comment

None

### Approval of agenda for 9/21 meeting

Motion to approve agenda without correction moved by DiPietro, seconded by Auth. Roll call vote: Yes (5)  
All in favor.

### Approval of Minutes

*8/17/2020 Meeting Minutes Approval*

Motion to approve without correction moved by Nicholls, seconded by Auth. Roll call vote: Yes (5). All in favor.

### Ann Arbor MRF Presentation

Eggermont introduced Bryan Ukena and Bryan Weinert from Recycle Ann Arbor (RAA).

RAA is currently transferring recyclables to RRRASOC until Fall 2021. They are leasing and re-equipping the MRF building under a 10-year contract from the City of Ann Arbor. The MRF will be able to process 30,000 tons of material in an 8-hour shift, 14,000 of which will be used by the City of Ann Arbor's recycling. The additional capacity can accommodate WRRMA and other locations. The City/RAA contract allows for assignment to WRRMA with mutual consent. RAA raised MRF funds through a combination of private bank financing, close loop partners, and an EGLE grant. They have a 10-year contract with Pratt for paper and cardboard recycling.

Auth inquired about plastic recycling issues and profitability. Ukena explained that since they are lightweight, bales are lighter and bale prices are set by weight. Because oil prices are currently low, manufacturing with recycled vs new plastics costs about the same. Ukena emphasized that recycling is not the answer, but a bridge to a solution of waste reduction. RAA thoroughly checks that their end markets are recycling plastics instead of burning them.

Ukena emphasized he aims to build community trust that materials are being recycled. RAA tries to educate residents on not only what they can and can't recycle, but also to explain why items are in those categories. For potential MRF customers, RAA is looking for what volume they bring, the quality of their material, and long-term relationships.

Perry wondered about legacy costs and RAA's unionized workers. RAA's workers are part of UAW (United Auto Workers). As a result, RAA has an average worker stay 12.5 years, which is high for the industry. In addition, since employees are all well-established, there are less injuries and an extremely low cost on workers comp. Ukena expects 20-22 full-time union jobs for the MRF.

## Unfinished Business

### *Contracts Document*

Akers suggested moving the contracts document to the next meeting due to timing. DiPietro agreed and inquired if scheduling meetings for an hour and a half would be better moving forward.

Motion to move the contracts discussion to next month moved by Auth, supported by DiPietro. Roll call vote: Yes (5). All in favor.

## New Business

### *2021 Draft Budget*

Eggermont will send the budget send to municipalities in October, with request for objections to be received by December. DiPietro wondered if the grant would require additional expense for salary.

Eggermont anticipates salary budget surplus from this year that should cover the difference.

Auth inquired about consultants and contracts. Eggermont explained that it depends on the logistics of the grant. The largest item in there would be contracting the personnel to complete the "Feet on the Street" portion.

Vote to approve the 2021 budget moved by DiPietro, supported by Fordice. Roll call vote: Yes (5). All in favor.

### *2020 Summary of Activities*

Eggermont will send the 2020 Summary of Activities to municipal boards with the budget. Auth asked for a rephrasing or clarification on community service levels. DiPietro requested removing the potential for materials hauling. Auth agreed.

Motion to approve as amended and forward to municipalities moved by Auth, supported by DiPietro. Roll call vote: Yes (5). All in favor.

## Reports

Auth recommended reading the NPR article on plastics recycling.

Eggermont will send out information on an EGLE webinar about Part 115.

## Next Steps

Auth would like to hear from GFL or Waste Management to learn more about how they handle plastic recycling. Eggermont to reach out.

Davis suggested looking at the strategic outline at the next meeting.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> round Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items

None

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Auth, seconded by DiPietro. Roll call vote: Yes (5). All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.

Minutes prepared by Alexis Krupp and Isabella Garramone

Minutes approved by: *Della DiPietro*  
[Della DiPietro \(Oct 20, 2020 16:44 EDT\)](#)  
Secretary

Minutes approved by: *Ronald A. Akers*  
[Ronald A. Akers \(Oct 19, 2020 15:25 EDT\)](#)  
Chair









# 9.21.20 minutes.forsigning

Final Audit Report

2020-10-20

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