

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee of the County of Calhoun was held on Monday, **January 8, 2007** at 4:30 p.m. at the Calhoun County Road Commission, 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan 49068.

Committee Members Present:	Arnold Arquette	Lewis Cooper
	Steve Essling	John Bomba
	Mike Myszka	Gene Klisiak
	Ken Kohs	Walt Obrinske
	Marilyn Hennon	Terris Todd

Also Present: Bob Overley, Calhoun County Health Department  
Tim Eggleston, City of Marshall  
Barry McCormack, City of Marshall  
Tiffany Eichorst, Calhoun County Solid Waste Director  
Mary Jo Crumpton, Calhoun County Road Commission

Chairman John Bomba called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion made by Ken Kohs to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Supported by Terris Todd. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Motion made by Arnold Arquette to accept the regular meeting minutes of July 10, 2006 as presented. Supported by Marilyn Hennon. Voice vote: motion carried.**

#### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND**

**Calhoun County Environmental Health Department:** Bob Overley provided the committee with the 2006 Year End Household Hazardous Waste Report on collections. The report itemized the waste and pounds collected. The report also noted that the total pounds collected in 2005 were 15,657 vs. the 2006 total of 18,222. The total expenditure for four collections in 2005 was \$17,957.96 and \$20,955.30 in 2006.

Bob noted that he would get the dates for the 2007 collections to Tiffany as soon as they are scheduled. All collections are held at county sites in Battle Creek, Marshall and Albion.

Lewis Cooper asked if the County had a program for collecting expired medications. Bob replied that the County does not, but there may be a program at the state or federal level. Tiffany noted that she would research this.

**Challenge Grant Update – City of Battle Creek:** Tiffany provided the City of Battle Creek Recycling Education Program progress report. In September of 2005, the Environmental Services Department of the City of Battle Creek received a Challenge Grant. Ken Kohs stated that the grant monies and the City matching funds were used to begin a year-long program to help increase the rate of citizen participation in the City's curbside recycling program. The report detailed the program and the contest winners, as well as the total costs of the program to date. Ken noted that recycling participation is up from about 25% to about 33% of the City's customers since providing them with information and conducting the contest. The volume of recyclable materials collected has also increased by about 12% compared to a year ago, which is nearly 500 more tons of solid waste recycled in four months.

Ken stated that the City wants to keep improving upon the recycling participation increases that have already been seen. Several new programs, along with repeating some of the old ones are planned. The

City plans to hold another recycling contest with cash prizes in Spring 2007. Efforts to educate students on recycling will also continue into the future. A new program also being implemented is the "Waste Watch" program, which is a neighborhood watch program utilizing trained Waste Management drivers and the City's Public Safety Departments. Soon, the City will launch an ink jet printer cartridge and cell phone recycling program. Waste Management's "Cycler" robot may also be used for community events, such as the Children's Water Festival. Discussion took place on the sponsors for the program that included Waste Management, the City of Battle Creek and the Solid Waste Committee.

**Recycling Presentations:** Tiffany reminded committee members that she included information in the last agenda packet regarding Timothy Wenk and his "Magic of Recycling" show. She provided committee members with comments from the Solid Waste Coordinator from Berrien County who had seen his show. Tiffany noted that this is not budgeted for 2007 but could be considered for the 2008 budget. Discussion took place on how to reach the most students. It was suggested that we check with the school systems to ascertain interest. Tiffany commented that it would be a good fit with either Earth Day in April or America Recycles Day in November.

**Solid Waste Workshop 2007:** A memorandum from Greg Purcell, County Administrator, to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners was provided to committee members. Tiffany explained that at the last meeting, Mr. Purcell did a presentation to recommend undertaking a strategic planning process in 2007 for solid waste. While the SWMPC did not have a quorum, there was consensus to support this recommendation. A Solid Waste Planning Workshop would be scheduled to develop a strategic plan to address solid waste issues long term. He would like the workshop to be created in January with an anticipated due date for the strategic plan of August 31, 2007. The cost to hire a consultant to assist the workshop in preparing the strategic plan would not exceed \$15,000 and will come from the Solid Waste Fund Balance. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will solicit proposals from qualified consultants in the area.

Tiffany informed the committee that she has been directed to ask for two volunteers from the Solid Waste Committee to serve on the workshop. The Board will appoint those individuals, as well as one or two County Commissioners. Tiffany noted that she would find out the time commitment involved and get back to those interested in serving on the workshop. She will be working with Brad Wilcox, Calhoun County Finance Director, on the RFQ for the facilitator. Chairman Bomba suggested that the facilitator meet with the Solid Waste Committee throughout the process.

The following committee members volunteered to serve on the workshop: Arnold Arquette, Marilyn Hennon, Lewis Cooper, John Bomba, Ken Kohs and Mike Myszka.

**Sharps Removal:** Included in the agenda packet was information on the Sharps Disposal program for safe needle disposal by mail. Ken Kohs informed the committee that the City of Battle Creek is interested in participating and he would like to know if the SWMPC would participate to expand the program countywide. The goal of the program is to keep needles out of the general waste system, thereby reducing the risk of injury and life-threatening infection from needle sticks. Currently, there is no law against residents disposing of needles in the trash. The Sharps Disposal-by-Mail System is a partnership of Waste Management, Sharps Compliance and Becton Dickinson. Containers would be available to residents at selected pharmacies. Residents would fill the container with used sharps and mail it to Sharps Compliance, Inc. in a prepaid postage mailing box. The proposed plan would limit each resident to a maximum of 3 containers per year. The first container would be dispensed by the pharmacist at no cost. Second and third containers would be dispensed for a \$5 co-pay. Ken noted that the estimated cost for the City of Battle Creek to participate for one year is \$9,500. At this time, Rite Aid Pharmacy is the only one participating, but they are working to get other pharmacies on board.

Discussion took place on how to encourage the use of the Sharps program. Ken noted that information is available at pharmacies. It was noted that there might be a problem with countywide participation if only one pharmacy is participating in the program. While committee members agreed that this is a good program, they requested additional information. It was suggested that this program could replace the Challenge Grant program. It was also suggested that the committee send a letter to our State Representatives encouraging legislation for a deposit program where old syringes must be returned in order to get new syringes.

Steve Essling offered to share Waste Management's statistics on exposure incidents. Ken noted that he would contact the County Health Department regarding exposure incidents. Also, Ken will provide the SWMPC with cost estimates at the March meeting.

### **CALHOUN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

**Tire & Appliance Collection:** Included in the agenda packet was the flyer for the Spring Tire and Appliance Collection that is scheduled for April 23-27, 2007.

**Dead Deer Removal:** Tiffany provided a draft memorandum that she will be sending to all townships, cities and villages to inform them that the SWMPC is allocating \$6,000 for deer carcass and debris disposal in Calhoun County. Funding will be distributed to all governmental entities in Calhoun County that choose to participate. Governmental entities interested in participating will be required to send in information regarding their deer carcass and debris disposal costs for a specified period of time, so that we can properly distribute the funding.

**Community Compost Center:** Tiffany noted that originally, the SWMPC had discussed a gradual phase out of funding for the Community Compost Center, but has since decided to cut funding entirely. Tim Eggleston and Barry McCormack from the City of Marshall were present at the meeting and informed the committee that at this time with the current funds available, the Compost Center can run through June 30, 2007. They are trying to figure out how to keep the Compost Center open beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>. Committee members discussed the practice of charging non-City of Marshall residents but not charging City residents. Tim clarified that there is no charge to bring yard waste, only to pick up compost. City of Marshall residents pay property taxes to support the Compost Center. It provides a service to the community and does not expect to show a profit; however, there are still costs associated with providing this service. Chairman Bomba informed Mr. Eggleston and Mr. McCormack that the Solid Waste Committee will soon be undertaking a strategic planning session to assess the SWMPC's vision and the future of solid waste services and more information will be available at a later date. Discussion continued.

### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**2007 SWMPC Meeting Schedule:** The 2007 meeting schedule was included in the agenda packet.

**Motion made by Ken Kohs to accept the 2007 Solid Waste Management Planning Committee meeting schedule as presented. Supported by Steve Essling. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Reappointments:** Tiffany noted that Ken Kohs and Walt Obrinske have expressed interest in being reappointed to the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee for another two-year term. Mary Thurston did not respond to inquiries regarding her interest in reappointment. The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners reappointed Terris Todd as the County Governmental Representative to the committee.

**Motion made by Mike Myszka to recommend to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners the reappointment of Ken Kohs and Walt Obrinske to the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee for a two-year term. Supported by Marilyn Hennon. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Vacancy: Environmental Interest Representative** – Tiffany informed the committee that Catherine Woodliff, Homer Township Treasurer and Planning Commission Member, is no longer interested in filling this vacancy. Please contact Tiffany if you know of anyone who may be interested.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

---

Chairman John Bomba

---

Mary Jo Crumpton