

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee of the County of Calhoun was held on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. at the Calhoun County Road Commission, 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan 49068.

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

Also Present:                    Bob Overley, Calhoun County Health Department  
  Tiffany Eichorst, Calhoun County Solid Waste Director  
  Mary Jo Crumpton, Calhoun County Road Commission  
  General Public

Chairman John Bomba called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ELECTIONS: Chairman and Vice Chairman**

**Motion made by Arnold Arquette to nominate Marilyn Hennon for SWMPC Chairman for 2008. Supported by Steve Essling. Mr. Arquette moved to close the nominations for SWMPC Chairman for 2008. Supported by Steve Essling. Voice vote: motion carried to elect Marilyn Hennon as the 2008 SWMPC Chairman.**

**Motion made by Arnold Arquette to nominate Lewis Cooper for SWMPC Vice Chairman for 2008. Supported by Steve Essling. Voice vote: motion carried to elect Lewis Cooper as the 2008 SWMPC Vice Chairman.**

**MINUTES**

**Motion made by Arnold Arquette to accept the special meeting minutes of July 30, 2007 as presented. Supported by John Bomba. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Motion made by Mike Myszka to accept the special meeting minutes of September 17, 2007 as presented. Supported by Arnold Arquette. Voice vote: motion carried.**

Chairman Hennon noted that the meeting notes of November 12, 2007 were provided as information.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Comments from the public included the following:

- City of Marshall resident stated that it is a blessing to have the Community Compost Center in Calhoun County and the sale of wood chips and compost should be advertised. If it doesn't remain open, yard debris will be dumped on the roadsides. He would be willing to pay to use the Compost Center.
- Emmett Township resident stated that he and his neighbors use the Compost Center and would be willing to pay a fee to keep it open, as nothing else is available.

- Leroy Township resident is thrilled with the Compost Center and makes 6-7 trips each Fall, even though it is a long distance. Closing the Compost Center would be a loss to residents.
- City of Marshall resident stated that he averages two trips per week to the Compost Center to dump grass clippings. The Compost Center is a service he gets back from the taxes he pays.
- City of Marshall resident stated that the Compost Center should be available to all County residents and the hours of operation should be expanded.
- Marengo Township resident asked about funds available for the Compost Center. It was also clarified that the Calhoun County Road Commission owns the Compost Center property.
- Marshall Township resident uses the Compost Center and commented that it is well used by many County residents. He does not believe in charging a fee.
- City of Marshall resident doesn't want to see the yard debris end up on the roadsides. He does not believe in charging a fee.
- Marshall Township resident commented that the SWMPC has the opportunity to help move this world toward a cleaner environment by supporting the Compost Center.
- More advertising could have increased the revenues.
- County residents need a place to take yard debris.

Committee members clarified that the Solid Waste Management Fund is used for many programs including recycling, household hazardous waste, tire and appliance collections, etc. Revenues include tipping fees received from C & C Landfill, owned by Allied Waste, to fund these programs. As revenues increase and decrease, maintaining funding for these programs becomes a balancing act.

Tiffany Eichorst, Solid Waste Director, read a letter received from Gail Budrow-Bradstreet in support of collaborative efforts to fund the Community Compost Center and the creation of an ad-hoc committee of stakeholders to work on viable funding solutions. Tiffany also provided copies of correspondence between a Marshall Township resident and Commissioner Jase Bolger who are advocating their support of the Community Compost Center. Committee member John Bomba added his support of the aforementioned correspondence.

### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND**

**Calhoun County Environmental Health Department:** Bob Overley provided the 2007 Year End Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Report on collections. The report itemized the pounds of materials collected, as well as the cost for each collection. The total pounds of material collected in 2007 were 23,243 vs. the 2006 total of 18,222. The total cost for the four collections in 2007 was \$27,189.63 vs. \$20,955.30 in 2006. Bob also provided the 2008 HHW Collection locations, dates and times, which included the list of acceptable and unacceptable materials. Committee members asked Tiffany and/or Bob to provide a running total of material collected and associated costs throughout the years. It was noted that there has been a continual increase of 10-15% in costs and the amount of waste collected.

**Community Compost Center:** Included in the agenda packet were statistics on the Community Compost Center. Tiffany reiterated that the Compost Center was opened in 1999 through a cooperative agreement between the City of Marshall, the Calhoun County Road Commission and the Solid Waste Management Fund. She noted the hours of operation from March through November and stated that the busiest days have been Saturday, Monday and Thursday. Approximately 19-28% of the users who drop off yard waste material are from outside the City of Marshall. Tiffany supports the Compost Center and stated that composting opportunities are part of the Solid Waste Plan. She provided the following recommendations/options to support the Compost Center:

- **Consolidate Services:** Eliminate the Albion Recycling Center at a savings of approximately \$20,000 per year. Residents have recycling available to them at no cost just a few miles away in the City of Albion. This savings could be used for continued support of the Community Compost Center.

- Reduce the Compost Center availability to three days per week: Saturday, 8 am-noon; Monday, 9 am-noon and 2-5 pm; Thursday, 1:30-5:30 pm.
- Implement a fee: County residents could purchase a Compost Center Card for \$45 per year, which they would show at the Compost Center gates with valid ID before entering OR County residents could pay a \$3 fee each time they drop off at the Center.

Committee members agreed that eliminating the Albion recycling location would be a savings, but noted that the bins at the alternative recycling center in the City of Albion would need to be emptied more frequently. Tiffany responded that she is working with the City of Albion to provide more bins and the SWMPC may be able to contribute by paving the recycling area, but since the service is free, there are no guarantees that the current recycling company will continue.

**Motion made by Mike Myszka to provide \$10,000 per year for three years to support the Community Compost Center, contingent upon funding made available from eliminating the Albion recycling center, and implementing an annual drop off fee of \$10 per resident and \$50 per commercial business.**

Discussion on the Community Compost Center continued. Committee members commented on the following:

- Should the Solid Waste Management Fund support the Compost Center when the location is not convenient for all County residents? It was noted that the City of Albion and the City of Battle Creek have been asked to open their Compost Centers to non-city residents, but they are not interested in doing so.
- It is the charge of the SWMPC, as outlined in the agreement between C & C Landfill and the County, to provide composting opportunities and the Community Compost Center is the only option available at this time.
- It is not realistic to believe that the Compost Center will be self-sustainable as many of the other recycling programs (i.e., household hazardous waste, recycle bins) that we fund are not self-sustainable.
- We cannot have yard debris dumped on our roadsides.
- A work group should be formed to investigate options available to support the Community Compost Center, but in the meantime the Solid Waste Management Fund should continue supporting the Center so that it can reopen in March.
- Would like the City of Marshall to submit a business plan on the funding and operation of the Compost Center including hours of operation, fee schedule, equipment and labor costs, etc.

**Motion withdrawn.**

**Motion made by Cheryl Vosburg to provide funding in the amount of \$14,200 for Calendar Year 2008 for the Community Compost Center, as an additional budgetary item. Staff is directed to work with the City of Marshall to establish a business plan for the next budget year for evaluation by the SWMPC. Supported by Ken Kohs.**

Tiffany noted that a budget amendment would be necessary. Committee members agreed that a work group should be formed to discuss funding options and operations and they also requested that a business plan be submitted. A progress report was requested for the next meeting of the SWMPC on March 10, 2008.

**Roll call vote: Cooper-NO; Essling-NO; Myszka-YES; Bomba-YES; Klisiak-YES; LaForge-YES; Arquette-NO; Hennon-YES; Kohs-YES; Obrinske-YES; Vosburg-YES. Motion carried 8-3.**

**Solid Waste Workshop-Strategic Plan Final Draft:** Tiffany reminded committee members that the revised draft Solid Waste Strategic Plan was sent to them a few weeks ago with comments due back by January 11, 2008. She received a few comments and is asking for the SWMPC recommendation to put the plan out for public comment.

Committee member comments regarding the Strategic Plan included the following:

- More focus and prioritization is needed on activities/programs with regard to long-term sustainability of funding. Budgetary management needs to be addressed.
- Committee members would like to have long-term directives and program prioritization from the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners.
- Committee members should help increase awareness and provide information to the public on solid waste programs and services.
- The public should be aware that committee members are volunteers.

Tiffany stated that she would forward these comments to the Workgroup and noted that the plan would be going out for public review and comment and a public hearing would be scheduled. After the public hearing, the plan will go before the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners.

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

**2008 SWMPC Meeting Schedule:** The 2008 meeting schedule was included in the agenda packet.

**Motion made by John Bomba to accept the 2008 Solid Waste Management Planning Committee meeting schedule as presented. Supported by Mike Myszka. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Reappointments:** Tiffany noted that at their December 20, 2007 meeting, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners confirmed the reappointment of John Bomba, Lewis Cooper, Steve Essling, Marilyn Hennon, Gene Klisiak, John LaForge, Mike Myszka and Arnold Arquette to the SWMPC. Their appointment terms expire on December 31, 2009. It was noted that there is a solid waste industry vacancy, since the County Board did not approve the last recommendation by the SWMPC because he was not a county resident. Discussion continued.

#### **MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Ken Kohs thanked John Bomba for his good service as Chairman.  
Marilyn Hennon thanked Ken Kohs for his service as Vice Chairman.  
John Bomba thanked all committee members who have served as officers.  
Arnold Arquette thanked Marilyn Hennon for accepting the Chairman position.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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Chairman Marilyn Hennon

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Mary Jo Crumpton