

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee of the County of Calhoun was held on **Monday, May 14, 2007** 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 Ken Kohs Mike Myszka	John Bomba Steve Essling Eugene Klisiak Walt Obrinske
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Committee Members Absent:	Lewis Cooper Terris Todd	John LaForge Cheryl Vosburg
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Also Present: Bob Overley, Calhoun County Health Department
Coy Scheetz, Waste Management
Dr. Patricia Kimball, Sharps Compliance
Dan Batts, Best Way Disposal
Tiffany Eichorst, Calhoun County Solid Waste Director
Mary Jo Crumpton, Calhoun County Road Commission

Chairman John Bomba called the meeting to order at 4:34 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 Mike Myszka. Voice vote: motion carried.

Motion made by Ken Kohs to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2007 as presented. Supported by Walt Obrinske. Voice vote: motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Bomba noted that the members of the public that were present are on the agenda.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND

Calhoun County Environmental Health Department: Bob Overley reported that, to date, there have been two Household Hazardous Waste Collections. The collection held in Albion was quite dismal with very low participation, approximately 11 vehicles. Bob remarked that this collection is getting expensive to fund, since participation has been very low for the last few years. He commented that he might recommend discontinuing the Albion site in the future. Marilyn Hennon noted that the current site in Albion is not very visible and participation might be increased if the collections were held at a different site. She noted that the information on the collections was put out to the general public. Marilyn offered to investigate alternative locations for the collections in Albion and will follow up with Bob.

Bob reported that the collection held in Battle Creek was very heavy with non-stop traffic. Ken Kohs noted that participation at the Battle Creek collection has gone up considerably for the last few collections. Bob agreed and added that we have held collections there for a long time and tend to see large batches of materials being dropped off. Donations have been quite good, as well.

Bob noted that historically, the Marshall site has been well attended and is in a highly visible area.

Arnold Arquette inquired about the cost for each unit of government. Bob replied that a detailed report is provided to the committee at the end of the year that shows the type and quantity of household hazardous waste collected at each collection site. Arnold asked who provides the set up for the event. Bob responded that through the competitive bidding process, Calhoun County has contracted with Drug & Laboratory Disposal out of Plainwell who charges on a per pound basis. It was noted that most vendors bid per pound. Discussion continued.

Solid Waste Workshop 2007: Tiffany reported that the County has sent out the RFPs with a deadline of May 15, 2007. One person has requested a copy of the Solid Waste Management Plan. The County has not yet notified her of the next workshop meeting.

Sharps Removal – Waste Management Program: Tiffany stated that the questions asked by committee members at the last meeting, as well as the answers provided by Patty Kimball from Sharps Compliance were included in the agenda packet.

Chairman Bomba introduced Coy Scheetz, Waste Management and Dr. Patricia Kimball, Sharps Compliance who were present to answer questions regarding the Sharps Compliance program. Dr. Kimball informed the committee that in 2004, the EPA changed the regulations regarding sharps disposal. Residents are prohibited from disposing of sharps through their general waste. Sharps Compliance offers a program for safe needle disposal by mail.

Tiffany noted that another item on the agenda is a sharps disposal program through Hospital Network Healthcare Services (HNHS). She explained that she and Marilyn Hennon met with representatives of HNHS to explore other options. This program is not by mail, but would require setting up a drop off center for sharps containers. HNHS would provide the initial training, transportation, treatment and disposal. Tiffany added that she has not done all the groundwork for this program, as there would be significant liability for the Road Commission. Discussion continued. Dr. Kimball added that a permit from the State is required for drop off centers and storage. A public drop off center does not allow for privacy or confidentiality.

Committee members asked if a set budget amount is allowed. Dr. Kimball responded yes, the committee could set a dollar amount for the program. So far, no communities that have set an amount have exceeded their budget. Tiffany stated that there is \$10,000 that was allocated for the Challenge Grant program this year. At the last meeting, the committee voted to discontinue the Challenge Grant program for this year. Dr. Kimball clarified that the cost of the program, as noted in the PowerPoint presentation is if all three containers are used. She added that there is very little administrative work, since Sharps Compliance would set up the program with participating pharmacies – the committee would pay the bills as they came in. Ken Kohs commented that the program offers many benefits such as privacy, ease of service to the customer and eliminating sharps from our waste stream. Mike Myszka agreed. Discussion continued.

Motion made by Ken Kohs to move forward with the Sharps Compliance program and to allocate no more than \$10,000 for the remainder of this calendar year. Supported by Mike Myszka. Roll call vote: Steve Essling – Yes; Mike Myszka – Yes; John Bomba – Yes; Gene Klisiak – Yes; Arnold Arquette – No; Marilyn Hennon – Yes; Ken Kohs – Yes; Walt Obrinske – Yes. Motion carried.

Dr. Kimball stated that Sharps Compliance would set up a group number for the county, talk to the pharmacies and work with Tiffany to implement the program. The program may be up and running within the next month.

Mike Myszka suggested that the committee do the following: 1) Review the program on an annual basis, and 2) Discuss how to communicate the program to the general public.

Solid Waste Management Fund Budget: Included in the agenda packet were the 2006 budget and expenses and a comparison of annual budgets from 1999-2006. Tiffany noted that these numbers are approximate, as she is not an accountant. Our Finance Department could generate a report with more accurate numbers. The interest from the Certificates of Deposit is factored into revenues.

CALHOUN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Spring Tire and Appliance Collection: Included in the agenda packet were the Spring 2007 Tire and Appliance Collection Summary and the Tire and Appliance Collection Comparison from Spring 1998 to Spring 2007. Tiffany noted that it was very successful and we had lots of tires come in. Walt Obrinske noted that he picks up tires for a few townships and the number of tires was less than in the past. Tiffany noted that we do charge for tire and appliance drop off, but the cost to dispose is still greater than what we take in. The next collection is scheduled for October.

Dead Deer Removal Contribution: The memorandum included in the agenda packet from Joanna Johnson, CCRC Assistant Managing Director, clarified that while CCRC is not charged tipping fees to dispose of dead deer, they do pay disposal costs for roadside debris.

Compost Center Schedule: Tiffany noted that the flyer included in the agenda packet was for information on the new hours for the Community Compost Center. Arnold Arquette asked if the Solid Waste Management Fund was still funding the Community Compost Center. Tiffany responded that the current agreement ends as of June 30, 2007.

Living Sculpture: Included in the agenda packet was correspondence from Shelley Preston regarding living sculptures that are made out of alternative materials. Tiffany informed the committee that we donated the compost and she provided pictures of the sculpture titled "Reality TV" that can be found on the east side of the Green Street Arts building. Discussion continued.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Vacancy: Solid Waste Industry Representative: A letter of interest from Daniel J. Batts, General Manager, Best Way Disposal, was included in the agenda packet for committee consideration. Mr. Batts was also in attendance.

Chairman Bomba introduced Mr. Batts, who is interested in membership on the Calhoun County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee. Mr. Batts stated that he has been employed by Best Way Disposal for the past 29 years. He has been involved in the solid waste planning process for Berrien, Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties. Mr. Batts noted that he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Waste Industries Association since 1988 and has served the last five years as its president.

Motion made by Steve Essling to recommend to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners the appointment of Daniel Batts to fill the SWMPC Solid Waste Industry Representative vacancy. Supported by Walt Obrinske.

Committee members asked where Best Way Disposal disposes of trash. Mr. Batts responded that the company has its own landfill in Berrien County and provides a hauling arm through Best Way Disposal. They use the transfer station in Kalamazoo with final disposal in Watervliet.

Arnold Arquette expressed his concern with the loss of revenue by hauling out of Calhoun County. Gene Klisiak noted that Allied takes in less than in the past, so an increase in fees has been necessary. Steve Essling noted that Allied has the option of taking waste from other counties to increase revenue. Mike Myszka added that we do not provide control over trash flow and Chairman Bomba stated that this discussion is about a full control ordinance vs. a free market place and should be taken up by the County or through the Solid Waste Workshop group, but not at this meeting. Mr. Batts added that host fees are paid and Allied takes in a good share of waste from other counties.

Ken Kohs stated that he appreciated Mr. Batt's experience and interest in serving on the SWMPC.

Voice vote: 7 – Yes; 1- No. Motion carried.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Steve Essling updated the committee on proposed surcharges noting that the bill has moved through the House of Representatives, but the State Senate has taken no action yet. Ken Kohs commented that he is surprised by the significant support for the fee. Discussion continued.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 9, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Chairman John Bomba

Mary Jo Crumpton