

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee of the County of Calhoun was held on Monday, July 10, 2006 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
	Mike Myszka	Gene Klisiak
	Ken Kohs	John LaForge
	Walt Obrinske	Marilyn Hennon
	Terris Todd	

Also Present: Bob Overley, Calhoun County Health Department  
David Veramy, Commissioner, Calhoun County Road Commission/Public Works  
Dennis Randolph, Managing Director, Calhoun County Road Commission  
Tiffany Seymour, Calhoun County Solid Waste Director  
Mary Jo Crumpton, Calhoun County Road Commission

Vice Chairman Ken Kohs called the meeting to order at 4:33 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 Lewis Cooper. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Motion made by Arnold Arquette to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 8, 2006 as presented. Supported by Walt Obrinske. Voice vote: motion carried.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Veramay, Calhoun County Road Commissioner introduced Dennis Randolph, CCRC's Managing Director and stated that the Road Commission has a dilemma on their hands regarding trash and deer pick up. He informed the committee that the Road Commission is to the point of being unable to continue picking up trash and dead deer along our roadsides without some help to fund this. Mr. Veramay stated that he is before the Solid Waste Committee to seek their assistance. He believes that, if he has read the contract correctly that was put together with the County, funds that are paid to the County from the landfill are put into a recycling fund to cover the tipping fees back to the landfill. Mr. Veramay would like the committee to consider helping the Road Commission cover the tipping fees for disposal at the landfill, not the cost for trash/deer pick up.

Dennis Randolph added that there are two parts to this, pick up and disposal, at a cost of approximately \$100,000 per year. Again, Dennis noted that CCRC is not asking for funding to cover time, trucks or equipment, but for disposal costs.

Ken Kohs clarified that trash/deer removal is addressed as a discussion item on the agenda under the 2007 Solid Waste Budget, Item C. He noted that there is information on this in the packet along with the costs associated with trash and dead deer pick up and disposal. Tiffany Seymour verified this and stated that when things are taken to the landfill, dead deer are not separated out from the trash. Discussion continued. Committee members agreed that a cost breakdown on disposal is needed.

Dennis Randolph noted another item on the agenda is Watershed Planning and funding for this activity. He noted that the Road Commission is involved in this activity after getting their NPDES Phase II permit and approving the MS4 Agreement. The Phase II requirement does not cover the eastern part of Calhoun County. Only the western townships of the county are involved. This has been a good partnership with the City of Battle Creek, who is also involved in watershed planning activities, but Dennis emphasized that this is not solid waste and education for watershed planning is not solid waste.

He referenced an email that was included in the agenda packet from the County Drain Commission who is asking for the Solid Waste Committee to fund the public education portion of the watershed planning activity. The Road Commission is not asking for funding for this activity from the SWMPC, because they do not feel that it is an appropriate use of solid waste funds. Water is water, solid is solid. However, if the SWMPC believes that it is an appropriate use of funds, then to be equitable, all of the watershed planning committee members should be funded. This would include several townships and the City of Battle Creek, as well as, the Drain Commission and Road Commission. There are a lot of solid waste activities that could be done and Tiffany has a lot of ideas.

Committee members asked if there are any other funding sources for the public education portion of the watershed planning activity such as state or federal funds. Dennis replied that occasionally, the DEQ or the DNR have grants available. He does not know if other entities have applied for these funds. Discussion continued. Tiffany added that this has not been an issue for just the Drain Commission, but has been an issue for everyone to pay for public education. Vice Chairman Kohs asked that further comment be reserved until it comes up on the agenda.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND**

**Calhoun County Environmental Health Department:** Bob Overley provided the committee with a report on the 2006 Household Hazardous Waste collections. To date, three collections have been held as follows:

April 29, 2006	Albion	\$3,937.60
May 6, 2006	Battle Creek	5,884.55
June 3, 2006	Marshall	3,997.40

Bob noted that to date, total expenditures for the collections are \$13,819.55 and 12,017 pounds has been collected. Barring anything catastrophic, they will come in way under their budget of \$25,000. There is one collection left that is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2006 in Battle Creek. Committee members inquired if they are receiving much mercury. Bob replied that occasionally they do, usually from schools.

**Challenge Grant Application and Q & A** : Vice Chairman Kohs noted that the three Challenge Grant applications and answers to the questions posed by the SWMPC at their last meeting were included in the packet. Tiffany added that the applicants were invited to attend this meeting. The total of the requested grants does exceed the amount budgeted for the Challenge Grant Program; however, the SWMPC can award an amount less that what is being requested. Tiffany clarified that this is an action item on the agenda.

- **S.C.R.A.P.:** Funding being requested is \$5,000 to create Save Our Space (SOS), a project for artistic and environmental programming for preschoolers. The funding being requested is to assist with the cost of rent, office expenses, advertising, equipment and tools to support the project.

Discussion took place again on the history of S.C.R.A.P.'s programs and their numerous Challenge Grant applications. Arnold Arquette stated that he is opposed to this application as this program is only a babysitting outfit for City of Marshall preschoolers. They have nothing to sell and have never shown a profit. Marilyn Hennon stated that she is also opposed to S.C.R.A.P.'s application as they come to us time and time again for funding and have never been self-sustaining. This is not a good program and is not well organized. Lewis Cooper stated that he is opposed to paying rent to a school, especially when there are vacant classrooms and schools. Has S.C.R.A.P. looked at other locations or approached the County or the school system for assistance? The committee keeps asking these questions but does not get any answers from S.C.R.A.P. Mike Myszka referred to the application and the Challenge Grant Program criteria and stated that this program is not self sustainable. Committee members agreed.

Mike Myszka made a motion to deny the S.C.R.A.P. Challenge Grant Application because it does not meet the criteria established in the SWMPC Challenge Grant Program. Vice Chairman Kohs asked that the committee hold off on taking action until all three applications have been reviewed.

Vice Chairman Kohs informed the committee that Tiffany pulled out information on S.C.R.A.P.'s 2004 Challenge Grant, which showed expenses of \$17,000. Of that, rent was \$7,000, staff was nearly \$6,000 and equipment was +\$3,000. The Challenge Grant award they received that year was \$3,570. Discussion continued.

- **Village of Union City:** In cooperation with the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Union City, the Village of Union City is requesting \$3,000 for a proposed community-recycling monthly drop off station to better serve the residents of Union City, Burlington, Athens, Sherwood, etc.

Tiffany referred to information included in the packet on the recycling volume and success of the Athens recycling site. The provided information is regarding county sites that are funded by the Solid Waste Management Fund. Discussion continued on the close proximity of recycling centers within 8 miles of each other and if another site is necessary. An alternative might be to add this area to the monthly township rotation schedule for recycling.

Marilyn Hennon stated that she would like to see the committee award this Challenge Grant to give the Village of Union City the opportunity to see if they can manage this project with the understanding that they would become self sufficient.

Vice Chairman Kohs noted his concern is that \$3,000 of the \$4,000 budget is being requested to pay a contractor to pick up the recyclables. Are we really just expanding the county recycling program by paying a contractor? Also, how do they plan to fund the program in the future to be sustainable? While he believes it is good to have another recycling opportunity within the county, he is concerned that we are being asked to pay for a service through a contractor. It is questionable whether they will be able to continue this in the future to sustain this program. Discussion continued.

Bob Overlay asked if, under the Challenge Grant guidelines, there is anything that restricts funding to sites in Calhoun County? This site is in Branch County – only part of the village is in Calhoun County. He believes that the most usage will come from Branch County residents. Dennis Randolph noted that Union City is partly in Calhoun County. Committee members inquired if there are legalities involved with expending funds in another county. Tiffany stated that she would look into it.

- **City of Albion:** Funding being requested is \$4,500 to help purchase a 6' X 12' cargo trailer to house hand tools and recycling containers to aid in the promotion and maintenance of their recycling drop off center, as well as being stationed during civic events for the collection of recyclable material. The trailer would also serve as a marketing tool as it would be visibly labeled with signage to promote waste reduction. They are proposing to partner with the youth of Starr Commonwealth to conduct routine maintenance and collection at the recycling drop off site.

Arnold Arquette stated that he would like to see the Solid Waste Committee advertise the County's recycling efforts, rather than starting another recycling effort in Albion.

Lewis Cooper questioned the size of the trailer and its storage capacity. If they have access to other Department of Public Works vehicles, why don't they use those to begin with? Also, the question was raised at the last meeting about what would happen to the trailer, etc., if the program were unsuccessful. The City of Albion responded that they would continue to use the tools and the trailer. Discussion continued.

Dave Veramay noted that cities have the right to regulate services, such as the collection of trash. We are not dealing with the same situations. He referred to the Agreement between the landfill and the County that specifically states the things that can be funded by the Solid Waste Management Fund. There is a matter of interpretation in the agreement but he suggested that the Solid Waste Committee become more familiar with Page 9 of the Agreement that outlines the County's solid waste management system. He also suggested that the committee review Exhibit B, Capacity Fee that specifies how the landfill pays into the fund. The SWMPC should be operating as per the Agreement between the landfill and the County. Discussion continued.

Lewis Cooper agreed that the Agreement is vague, especially as stated on Page 9 where it states that "The Fund shall be used for purposes **reasonably** related to....." - what is reasonably related to? Maybe the committee needs guidance from the higher County management to interpret this.

Marilyn Hennon stated that she believes that the Agreement is allowing for some leeway. We don't need to go to the higher ups in the County because this committee has been selected to make these decisions.

Dennis Randolph added that when the Solid Waste budget is approved by the County Board, that is their endorsement of the SWMPC.

Ken Kohs added that any of these applications could "reasonably" relate to the items set forth in the Agreement. Discussion continued.

**Motion made by Arnold Arquette to disapprove the three Challenge Grant applications submitted by S.C.R.A.P./United Arts Council, the Village of Union City and the City of Albion. Supported by Lewis Cooper.**

While the committee emphasized their support of environmental and recycling efforts, some committee members felt that there are still too many questions that were not answered by the applicants and the applicants were not present at this meeting to provide more information and follow up.

Vice Chairman Kohs noted that it is troubling that this committee is given the charge to promote solid waste management in Calhoun County and we do have efforts that are ongoing through the Solid Waste Department and the County Environmental Health, but by denying the Challenge Grant applications, we are taking away an opportunity to promote our cause and our responsibility as a committee. The applicants have put forth the effort to apply and he believes that each of the applications are related to our mission, but there are some issues with each of them regarding appropriate/worthwhile use of funds.

John LaForge responded that he does not believe enough information was provided, nor were the pertinent questions answered.

Lewis Cooper responded that he agrees that we should do whatever we can to promote the environment and recycling, but not at the cost of subsidizing anything that comes our way.

Mike Myszka inquired if it would be an option to request more information before denying the applicants? Tiffany responded that we would need to schedule another SWMPC meeting to take action and then the recommendation would need to go to the County Board of Commissioners for approval. Lewis reminded everyone that this was why we asked for clarification after receiving the original applications. The applicants did respond to the questions posed by the committee, but were not present tonight for further clarification. Discussion continued.

**Arnold Arquette called for a roll call vote on the motion that was on the floor:  
Marilyn Hennon – NO; Lewis Cooper – YES; Mike Myszka – YES; Gene Klisiak – YES; John LaForge – YES; Arnold Arquette – YES; Ken Kohs – NO; Walt Obrinske – YES; Terris Todd – NO. Motion carried: 6-YES, 3-NO**

**Agreement between BFI and Calhoun County:** Vice Chairman Kohs noted that the Agreement was provided as information and as a reference for questions that may arise during discussion on applicable programs, expenditures, budget, etc. Tiffany added that she included the Agreement in the packet since she had not provided it to the committee in the past.

**Memorandum of Understanding between Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Board of Public Works for Solid Waste Services for 2006:** The Memorandum of Understanding document was included in the packet. This document outlines the agreement whereby the County's solid waste functions were contracted to the Calhoun County Board of Public Works. Tiffany added that this document establishes that the Solid Waste Department is located at the CCRC/Board of Public Works office and duties of the department. Dennis Randolph added that this was provided to the committee because it expires at the end of this year (2006) and the Road Commission is looking for the SWMPC's support to renew this Memorandum of Understanding with the County. He clarified that Tiffany is an employee of the Road Commission.

The committee inquired about the ramifications if the Memorandum is not renewed. Dennis replied that last year the County took the Planning Department back and contracted it out. If the County were to do the same with the Solid Waste Department, the Board of Public Works/Road Commission would not be able to subsidize the recycling centers, so they would have to be moved elsewhere. Dennis explained that the current arrangement with the County is that, with the SWMPC support, he and the County Administrator would negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding for Solid Waste Services at budget time, which is coming up soon. This would then go before the Board of Public Works/Road Commission and the County Board of Commissioners for approval. He emphasized that SWMPC input is being requested so that he and the County Administrator can make the appropriate recommendation to their respective Boards. Discussion continued.

Dave Veramay commented that while reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding, calculations were made regarding solid waste. CCRC employees currently pick up debris (e.g., couches, stoves, trash) and dead deer along our roadways. This is solid waste. We are at a point right now with our budget where we need to decide if we can continue to pick up debris and dead deer along the roadsides. There are very few counties in Michigan that will pick up dead deer. The animals that live off the dead deer will get rid of them eventually, but it becomes very uncomfortable for the surrounding residents who have to live with the odor.

Dave stated that what we are asking of the Solid Waste Committee is to recognize that the debris and dead deer that is picked up by the Road Commission is solid waste. We are not asking the SWMPC to pay for the employees' wages, but for reimbursement for the drop off fees that we pay to the landfill. State law mandates that gas tax money be used for the surface of the road. Discussion took place on pick up and disposal of debris and dead deer within the city limits of Calhoun County.

Vice Chairman Kohs noted that the current Memorandum of Understanding for Solid Waste Services for 2006 is included in the agenda packet as information. He clarified that the committee is being asked to support the continuance of the Memorandum of Understanding in a similar form for another two-year period.

**Motion made by John LaForge to support the continuance of the Memorandum of Understanding between Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Board of Public Works for Solid Waste Services for another two-year period. Supported by Gene Klisiak. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**2007 Solid Waste Budget:** Included in the agenda packet was the 2007 Solid Waste Budget. Vice Chairman Kohs noted that there are a number of sub issues with this agenda item. Arnold Arquette asked for the dollar amount of income that we receive from the landfill. Tiffany responded that it is approximately \$180,000. He noted that the proposed budget for 2007 is \$226,207. Tiffany clarified that she does not expect the committee to spend the entire budget and historically, we have always come in under budget at the end of the year. Arnold asked why the budget amount is set at this amount when there is not enough income from the landfill to support it. It appears that we intend to spend more money than we actually have. Vice Chairman Kohs responded that the Solid Waste Management Fund has a tremendous surplus of funds that need to be addressed. These funds need to be put toward solid waste efforts, as there is the potential that the County Board of Commissioners, at their discretion, could put these funds toward other uses. Dave Veramay added that the worst thing that you can do is take public money and put it in the bank to collect interest. If money is collected for a specific purpose, it should be spent in the most economical way to serve that purpose. Discussion continued. Marilyn Hennon noted that the 2007 budget has been reduced from last year's budget due to a reduction in personnel salaries and the elimination of funding for the Community Compost Center.

**Motion made by Mike Myszka to accept the 2007 Solid Waste Budget as written and to address the separate items as amendments to the budget. Supported by Gene Klisiak. Roll call vote: Lewis Cooper - YES; Gene Klisiak – YES; John LaForge – YES; Mike Myszka – YES; Arnold Arquette – NO; Marilyn Hennon – YES; Ken Kohs – YES; Walt Obrinske – YES; Terris Todd – YES. Motion carried: 8-YES, 1-NO**

- A. Watershed Planning Funding:** Vice Chairman Kohs noted that this is the request from the Drain Commissioner to obtain funding from the SWMPC to pay their portion of the public education for the MS4 Group Agreement. He explained that the NPDES Phase II permit is to discharge waters into a water body in the State of Michigan. Discussion took place on how other

organizations pay their portion under the Group Agreement. Dennis stated that he does not believe that this is an appropriate use of SWMPC funds to pay for watershed planning and emphasized that the Road Commission is not requesting any funds for this purpose. Mike Myszka added that this is not consistent with the goals and objectives of the SWMPC, as our focus is solid waste, not water. Discussion continued on storm water activities and rain gardens. Terris Todd noted that county solid waste refers to any waste being generated in the county. Is dead deer removal a waste generated in the county? Vice Chairman Kohs noted that this request is related to storm water permitting, not solid waste, and to pay fees for public education that is required under the agreement.

**Motion made by Lewis Cooper to disapprove the request from the Drain Commissioner for SWMPC funds to pay the Drain Commission's portion of the public education for the MS4 Group Agreement. Supported by Mike Myszka. Roll call vote: Mike Myszka – YES; Gene Klisiak – YES; John LaForge – YES; Arnold Arquette – YES; Marilyn Hennon – YES; Lewis Cooper – YES; Ken Kohs – YES; Walt Obrinske – YES; Terris Todd – NO. Motion carried: 8-YES, 1-NO**

- B. Compost Center Funding:** Tiffany explained that the Compost Center Agreement was included in the packet as information and also to ensure that the committee's decision still stands to phase out funding for the Compost Center. The minutes had reflected a gradual phase out; however, funding for the Compost Center is not included in the 2007 Solid Waste Budget. It was noted that the two-year Community Compost Center Agreement expires at the end of this year. Tiffany noted that a new agreement could be limited to one year with a reduction in funding.

Marilyn Hennon referred to the Memorandum of Understanding document that states that we will "continue to support the Community Compost Center and other composting opportunities within Calhoun County". If we do not fund the Compost Center again next year, we need to look at supporting other composting activities in the County on an equitable basis. The committee has been concerned that not everyone in the county is treated the same with regards to fees. Discussion continued.

Dennis Randolph informed the committee that CCRC owns the property at the Compost Center and CCRC will continue operations there for crushed concrete and screening topsoil to make material. Tiffany added that the City of Marshall informed her that they would be moving back to their City of Marshall site. Dennis added that he and Tiffany would need to regroup on the Compost Center operation and the equipment. Discussion continued.

**Motion made by Arnold Arquette to not renew the Community Compost Center Agreement and to discontinue funding for the Compost Center at the end of this year. Supported by Gene Klisiak. Roll call vote: Arnold Arquette – YES; Lewis Cooper – YES; Mike Myszka – YES; Gene Klisiak – YES; John LaForge – NO; Marilyn Hennon – YES; Ken Kohs – YES; Walt Obrinske – YES; Terris Todd – YES. Motion carried: 8-YES, 1-NO**

- C. Dead Deer Removal:** Included in the packet was a request from the Calhoun County Road Commission (CCRC) for reimbursement of roadside clean up activities including tires, appliances, dead deer, etc., found along our roadsides.

Dennis noted that our State large animal carcass removal contractor picks up on M-60, M-66 and M-78. Included in the packet was information on the total cost to CCRC for roadside clean up/dead deer removal. It was noted that CCRC does not separate out the cost for dead deer removal/disposal. Terris Todd asked how CCRC separates solid waste if all roadside clean up is considered solid waste. Dennis noted that we try to separate tires and appliances as we can have them picked up by recyclers but we do not separate dead deer from other trash. Terris stated that his concern is what is the difference between a load of dead deer being dumped at the landfill and a load of paper being dumped at the landfill. It is all solid waste, yet CCRC is requesting reimbursement for dead deer disposal. Dennis responded that under Act 51, we do not have an obligation to pick up debris along the roadside, nor do we have an obligation to pick up dead deer, but we still do it anyway. There is a difference, however, in leaving paper or plastic bags vs. leaving dead deer that create quite a stench. Lewis Cooper noted that it might be more of a safety and health concern than a solid waste problem. Discussion continued.

As previously discussed earlier in the meeting, the Road Commission is requesting assistance with the tipping fees paid to the landfill for roadside clean up which includes dead deer, trash, appliances, etc. An average of 5-6 dead deer are picked up and disposed of daily. Discussion continued on how this could be tracked separately.

Committee members emphasized the importance of serving the entire county, which would include the cities. It was suggested that based on the cost of disposal (\$7.50 per load), the SWMPC could set aside funding for one year to assist with dead deer/debris disposal.

**Motion made by Mike Myszka to appropriate \$6,000 for this budget year for the disposal of deer carcasses/debris for all governmental entities within Calhoun County. Supported by John LaForge. Roll call vote: Lewis Cooper – YES; Mike Myszka – YES; Gene Klisiak – YES; John LaForge – YES; Arnold Arquette – NO; Marilyn Hennon – YES; Ken Kohs – YES; Walt Obrinske – YES; Terris Todd – NO. Motion carried 7-YES, 2-NO**

Dennis noted that he would review the county crash data so that funds are appropriated/expended proportionately to each municipality based on car/deer crashes throughout the county, including the cities. This could be done on a reimbursement basis where the municipalities send their load slips to us for reimbursement.

- D. 2007 Challenge Grant Funding:** Tiffany noted that \$10,000 is included in the 2007 Solid Waste Budget for Challenge Grants. Vice Chairman Kohs noted that the budget has been approved. It was the consensus of the committee to leave that line item in the 2007 Solid Waste Budget.
- E. Tire Grinder & Baler – Cost:** At the request of the committee at a previous meeting, Tiffany included information in the packet on the cost of a tire grinder and baler. Discussion took place on companies in the county that provide this service. Also, information was provided on the cost of a baler that could be used to bale the cardboard we collect to turn around and sell it to help offset our recycling costs. It was suggested that we table this item for a future meeting.

#### **CALHOUN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

**Tire & Appliance Collection:** The flyer for the Fall Tire and Appliance Collection was included in the packet as information. It is scheduled for October 2-6, 2006.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Vacancy: Environmental Interest Representative** – Tiffany informed the committee that she received a letter of interest from Catherine Woodliff, Homer Township Treasurer and Planning Commission Member, and included it in the agenda packet. She noted that there has also been interest expressed by Cheryl Vosberg, City of Marshall Environmental Program Coordinator.

Committee members suggested tabling this agenda item until the next meeting. Tiffany will invite both of them to attend the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Vice Chairman Ken Kohs

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Mary Jo Crumpton