



Greg Purcell added that input is important in the development of the strategic plan and Christina was present tonight to begin dialogue with committee members. She will also be seeking input from the County Board, interested stakeholders and county residents through public meetings, surveys and individual conversations. It was noted that a recommendation would be sought by the SWMPC on the final product. Christina added that while she reports directly to the Strategic Planning Workgroup, once the draft strategic plan is complete, she plans to attend a SWMPC meeting to address concerns and comments. The timeline for the strategic plan is to have adoption by the end of the calendar year, with a draft completed 6-8 weeks prior. As a member of the Strategic Planning Workgroup, Marilyn Hennon explained that they are trying to be fair and are passing on comments from the workgroup meetings. Christina provided her contact information to committee members.

Discussion took place on the formation of the Strategic Planning Workgroup. Greg Purcell reminded committee members that last fall, he attended a SWMPC meeting to inform committee members that the County Board agreed with the SWMPC that the County needed to be more involved and the Board was requesting additional input on long term planning for solid waste. It was determined that an independent consultant would be hired to facilitate the development of a strategic plan. County Commissioner Terris Todd was asked to sit on the committee, since he also serves on the SWMPC. Commissioner Mike Rae represents Convis Township, where the landfill is located. Discussion continued.

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

**2008 Solid Waste Management Fund Budget:** Tiffany noted that the same information and worksheets, as provided at the July 9<sup>th</sup> SWMPC meeting, on the 2008 Solid Waste Management Budget was being provided. No changes have been made, but the County Board has requested that department budgets be submitted by August 6<sup>th</sup>. At the last meeting, committee members expressed concern with the high cost of the recycling bins that are provided for resident use in Albion, Battle Creek and Marshall. Since the last meeting, Tiffany has been researching other options for recycling services including receiving payment for our recyclables and provided information on recyclable tonnage over the past few years. She added that she met with Cereal City Recycling and they toured our Marshall facility. A handout on what they accept that we currently do not accept, what they do not accept that we do and current prices paid for cardboard was provided. Currently, we pay transportation costs and are not receiving any payment for our recyclables. In addition, Tiffany has requested information from several vendors on the cost to purchase compactors, bailers, bins, etc. Discussion continued on what solid waste services we want to provide, as staff would be needed to manage a recycling center if that is one of our goals.

Chairman Bomba stated that the committee needs to come to an agreement on the budget in order to meet the County's deadline of August 6<sup>th</sup> and reminded everyone that line item budget numbers are maximums and can be adjusted throughout the year, if necessary. It was noted that the SWMPC has consistently come in under budget each year. Discussion continued on the certificates of deposit and the current interest rate. Tiffany was directed to provide the most recent information to the committee.

**Motion made by Walt Obrinske to approve the 2008 Solid Waste Management Fund Budget as presented. Supported by Mike Myszka.**

Chairman Bomba noted that from a procedural standpoint, we need to move forward with the budget, with the understanding that issues, questions and/or concerns will be addressed.

**Roll call vote: Cooper-YES; Essling-NO; Myszka-YES; Bomba-YES; Klisiak-YES; Arquette-NO; Hennon-YES; Obrinske-YES; Vosburg-YES. Motion carried 7 YES, 2 NO.**

## **MEMBERS COMMENTS**

### **Input on the Solid Waste Strategic Plan from SWMPC members:**

- Gene Klisiak stated that there is a need for recycling opportunities in our area and we are currently providing this service through our collection points. If we are looking at providing more than collection points (e.g., MERF or central collection point), more investigation is needed. Our goal is to provide recycling opportunities.
- Cheryl Vosburg commented that she is new to the committee and is learning the process.
- Marilyn Hennon stated that recycling opportunities are important to the community, including household hazardous waste and electronic collections. She would like to see more participation in the household hazardous waste collections in Albion and believes that more advertising and education is needed.
- Lewis Cooper would like to see a business plan developed, not just goals and objectives. We need step-by-step instruction on how to obtain grants, matching funds and partnerships. While the City of Battle Creek has their own recycling program, he believes that they should be more cooperative with the rest of the county, especially since the SWMPC has awarded challenge grants to them for programs and services. We need to look at pollution prevention initiatives for waste reduction.
- John Bomba commented that Calhoun County is lucky to have a Solid Waste Management Fund balance, as most counties do not. He believes that the SWMPC needs a clear understanding of what they are supposed to be doing.
- Mike Myszka believes there should be a balance between serving the residents of the county and being fiscally responsible. Our responsibility is not to increase the fund balance. We cannot be so financially frugal that we cut the solid waste and recycling programs and services that we have been charged with providing. We need to decide the time frame we are planning for – 10 years? 20 years? 100 years?
- Steve Essling reminded everyone of the good that has been done by this committee. We need to continue to stimulate activities that are of benefit to the county. We need short and long term goals and annual or semi-annual meetings to review the budget and goals. We need to establish reasonable opportunities for recycling.
- Arnold Arquette commented that he does not support the Challenge Grant program because some were not successful and he does not support the Compost Center because these dollars are needed for the landfill. Our revenue continues to go down and we are not balancing our budget. We should not use the interest from the Certificates of Deposit to balance or supplement the budget. He emphasized that we do not receive any revenue from the City of Battle Creek, since their waste is hauled out of the county.
- Walt Obrinske commented that we need guidance for the long term.

**Reappointments:** Tiffany reminded committee members whose terms expire at the end of this year to submit their applications to the County and send her a letter expressing their wish to continue their membership on the SWMPC. They are: Arnold Arquette, John Bomba, Lewis Cooper, Steve Essling, Marilyn Hennon, Gene Klisiak, John LaForge and Mike Myszka.

**Community Compost Center:** Tiffany informed the committee that at this time, the Road Commission Board would not be funding the Compost Center. Hours of operation may be reduced to 8 per week. She noted that the City of Marshall stated that they would be sending a letter to Solid Waste Committee members.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.