

**St. Clair County
Solid Waste Management Planning Committee**

3:00 P.M., Monday, August 28, 2006

Conference Room A, St. Clair County Administrative Building, 2nd Floor
200 Grand River Avenue, Port Huron, Michigan

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll

Chair Frantz called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Present: Pat Iseler, Ted Frantz, Bill Parkus, Mark Soule, Howard Heidemann, Matt Lewandowski, Janice Littlefield

Excused: Charles Dally, Mark Goodacre

Absent: Robert Lixey, Christine Loeffler and Chris Wilson

Staff: Donaldson and Fulton

Guests: Marty Seaman and Anna Collinson from RETRAC; and Larry O'Keefe, SCC Landfill.

2. Citizens Wishing to Address the Committee

Larry O'Keefe, stated he did not have anything to comment on other than what is on the schedule.

3. Communications

Motion by Littlefield, supported by Soule to receive and file the communications. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Minutes – July 24, 2006

Addition by Donaldson on paragraph 4, page 4, under Enforcement Mechanism, there are additional methods available. Chair Frantz suggested adding "those plus others." Motion by Littlefield, supported by Parkus to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Old Business

A. Plan Amendment Process

Chair Frantz stated that the first page is a timetable that outlines the process for a plan amendment. Chair Frantz asked Larry O'Keefe if the timetable was sufficient for his project and Larry O'Keefe said he would be able to work with the timetable as presented. He stated that the permitting process is taking longer than anticipated.

With regard to the second portion of the Staff Report on the Draft Amendments to Solid Waste Plan, Chair Frantz stated it was an informational item and we are not locked in until we call the public hearings.

Donaldson stated that in the past, under Act 641, the Solid Waste Plan had an amendment process which required a retainer of \$10,000 for an amendment request. This went back to the Board of Commissioners in the 1990's and was approved by them.

Donaldson advised the Committee that one of the reasons we do not having siting criteria in the current Solid Waste Plan Update is due to the fact that if any sort of criteria is included in the Plan, and an applicant comes forth and meets all the criteria, then the County nor the Board of Commissioners have the ability of denying the request and it goes to the State for approval. In the 2000 Plan Update, the Committee felt we had plenty of capacity so did not put the siting criteria in the plan update.

Tim Lozen and Donaldson stated that if the Committee wants to establish a fee internally that is okay. As stated earlier, in the past there was a retainer fee of \$10,000. If the process costs more than the applicant had initially put down, then they were required to pay the additional costs. If the entire retainer were not used, then the remainder would be refunded to the applicant.

Chair Frantz stated it sounded like a sound policy, but that it is up to this Committee to make a recommendation to the County Board on what the policy should be.

Marty Seaman stated that if someone wants to do a plan amendment, it is up to the Board to decide if they want to start the process. They can say no. You are allowed under statute to charge for all costs, but should provide a good-faith estimate.

After discussion, Chair Frantz requested staff return to the Committee with the 1990 wording. Any suggested changes could be reviewed by Tim Lozen and then we can come up with a recommendation to forward to the County Board.

Question was raised about funding for the next round of plan updates. Donaldson stated that the last meeting he attended, the unit chief for Solid Waste Planning did not expect the State to be calling for updates prior to next spring. They are not talking about funding, it would be a call to start directive.

B. Macomb County Fees

Donaldson stated that in the review of the Macomb County Plan nothing was listed for fees for an amendment. He has been trying to contact their designated planning agency to see if they have an internal policy, but has not been successful. Donaldson will pursue getting information from Macomb County.

Donaldson then referenced the letter from the Macomb County Water Quality Board asking that Macomb County amend their Solid Waste Plan to allow the export of septage to St. Clair County.

Chair Frantz ask if it can be done in other counties. Donaldson stated that Macomb and St. Clair counties are the only ones that have a Water Quality Board. It was then

suggested that contact could be made with other counties through their Environmental Health sections as they are charged with stormwater issues and that is what initiated this project.

Commissioner Heidemann stated he had talked to Dave Taylor of Lapeer County and they are interested in exporting septage to St. Clair County. Chair Frantz asked to have them contact us.

Littlefield stated that Kristen O. Jurs from Environmental Health would have the contact people for other counties.

C. Solid Waste Management Enforcement Strategy Development

Donaldson gave a brief update on the enforcement and development strategy. He spoke of the need for the development of a uniform tip complaint form. He will be working with Administration and legal counsel to develop a form so that when a tip is received and it leads to legal action, we have compiled all the necessary information up front.

Donaldson stated he received a phone call today where a hauler in the western communities used to do residential, but apparently is now expanding, however, the company's containers are not being seen at the landfill. We need to investigate to substantiate and take the necessary action.

D. Recycling – Resource Recycling Systems -Re-TRAC Presentation

Presentation by Marty Seaman and Anna Cunningham.

Donaldson introduced Marty Seaman and Anna Cunningham of Resource Recycling Systems. He stated he had seen their presentation before. He had particular interest with the discussion of increasing recycling inasmuch as compiling the information in the market place is difficult to do. What is being recycled? How much solid waste is being diverted from the waste stream? The company appears to have an innovative approach to compiling the information.

Marty Seaman and Anna Collinson stated that their program is a Web-based, on-line management system. It is used by 16 states across the country. The company that came up with the Re-TRAC Program is based in Manitoba, Canada and Resource Recycling Systems has worked with them to development an on-line appointment-based system for companies to use in scheduling the drop off of items to be recycled, including household hazardous waste.

Resource Recycling Systems has been in the market for about 25 years with their mission being to integrate resource recovery and solid waste management. They work on creating solutions for effective recycling. They have engineering staff as well as project managers.

One of the things that works well with the Re-TRAC system is haulers or companies can input their information and all others will be able to see is the aggregate of the data input. This is good in that companies did not want to divulge information that might tell them how many contracts they had and how much waste they were handling.

In addition to doing the tracking of solid waste, the company also does surveys. They show returns between 20 and 40 percent, which is higher than the average survey returns.

The cost for the program is one cent per capita. The first year costs more because there are additional costs in getting the system set up the way the customer wants. For example, for 160,000 people, the cost would be approximately \$3,500 the first year and about \$1,700 - \$1,800 the following years. If the population increases to one-half of a million, then the price per capita goes down.

It takes approximately 60-90 days for start up of a new program.

Chair Frantz thanked Marty Seaman and Anna Collinson for their presentation.

E. Solid Waste Committee Vacancies

Chair Frantz pointed out the list in the agenda packet showing how some individuals can be moved to different categories, which leaves three vacancies in the Solid Waste Industry area. In addition, there were resumes from some of the current members as well as new individuals interested in sitting on the Committee.

Matt Lewandowski's position was discussed as he is retiring. Matt stated he had given the "interested" form to the person taking his place. Nothing has been received to date. It is the City's decision if they want to submit a name for consideration.

Question was raised on whether Mark Goodacre's position is linked to the person or the industry as he was appointed when he was with Waste Management. Tim Lozen stated it is with the person.

Donaldson stated that Mr. Goodacre called and could not be here today. He is currently running his own company and contracting with a hauler/transfer station in the county.

The Chair then requested that Donaldson put together a memo or letter from the Committee to Environmental Public Works indicating where the vacancies exist and forward the "interested" forms to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

After discussion, **motion** by Heidemann, supported by Iseler to table this until next month to see if the City of Port Huron submits an application. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **New Business**

Nothing was presented for the Committee.

7. Next Meeting – September 25, 2006, 3 p.m.

8. Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

9. Adjournment

Motion by Heidemann, supported by Littlefield to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Iseler, Secretary

Prepared by Dale Fulton, Office Manager