

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEELANAU COUNTY SOLID WASTE COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022 AT THE LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER.

Proceedings of the meeting were recorded and are not the official record of the meeting. The formally approved written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Harris. The meeting was held at the Leelanau County Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suttons Bay MI.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: M. Harris, A. Gale, T. MacDonald, L. Bahle, T. Bolin
C. Sharp

Members Absent: J. Fletcher, M. Lautner, M. Bevelhymer (ad-hoc member)
(prior notice)

Members Absent: P. Deering, J. Palmer (ad-hoc member)

Staff: T. Galla, Director, G. Myer, Senior Planner

Public: B. Perkins

PUBLIC COMMENT

Perkins stated that the sign was up at Glen Lake School, but he doesn't like the location. The Solon Township recycling site has a barrel to collect returnable cans and he wants to know what the policy is on this. He would like one at the Road Commission recycling site for the Congregational Church.

STAFF COMMENTS

Galla mentioned that the 2022 HHW collections went well and the 2023 dates are set. Residents can sign up on the county website. Galla said the cameras and postcards worked well for discouraging people from leaving garbage at the sites. Work still needs to be done on some cameras. Galla said the cameras were used in two incidences to help the Sherriff's Office. She has also been pushing for the new green containers at all sites also.

Galla continued, saying recycling site contracts expire in 2023, as well as contracts with GFL, Hazardous Waste (ERG) and Electronics (CompRenew). Some of these services will need to be bid out, so this will need to be taken care of.

In conclusion, Galla said fencing at the Road Commission recycling site is up and she has been discussing with Brendan Mullane, the location of the cameras. This has not been a cheap location to get up and running, however, they are not charging any lease fee which is a savings of \$18,000.00 over a five-year period. This is county property and they are providing a service to county residents. If, in the future, this site goes away, the money has been invested into a county site and would be used for something else. The fencing and gates were needed because the Road Commission cannot have the public in the back by their equipment.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Harris added "Policy regarding containers to collect returnable cans" as Item "F" under "New Business."

Galla added "Cedar recycling site" as Item "A" under "New business."

Motion by Gale, seconded by Sharp, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

CONSIDERATION OF THE JULY 19, 2022 MINUTES

Motion by Bolin, seconded by Sharp, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recycling Ambassadors for Recycling sites

Galla reported that a sign was made recognizing the ambassadors for the Northport recycling site. The Leelanau School has requested a sign to recognize staff and students who are keeping the site clean. The Elmwood Township ambassadors want to remain anonymous and Perkins in cleaning the Cedar site and the Road Commission site. Empire and the Glen Lake School need ambassadors.

NEW BUSINESS

Solon Twp. Recycling site.

Galla reported that Solon Township wants the current recycling site removed because they are looking at improving that area. Ray Pleva has been looking for a new site, and he contacted Galla with a possible location. Galla reviewed this location on an aerial map handed out to members and said the location is good, but there are difficulties. It is a 60-acre parcel and they have talked with the owner about leasing or selling a small piece. The biggest problem is that this is wetlands, and will require permits from the state to bring in fill. There is a \$500 fee for the application to the state. Galla said county owned land is nice, because if the site goes away, the improvements stay with the land. She doesn't think the County Board would like to spend the money if it is leased land. MacDonald stated he is in favor of the county purchasing land and this is the direction they need to go in. Galla said she did ask Solon Township for an extension of their current agreement, which expires the end of this year. It would be nice to keep the site while working on getting another one, but the township has not made a decision yet.

Bahle said she talked to Garth Greenan, from the Road Commission, and he said they might be able to find a site in Maple City at the Road Commission since the one in Suttons Bay is working so well.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of this site in Maple City.

Gale questioned what the budget would be for fill and purchase of the land in Solon Township. Galla didn't know, but mentioned another issue was the minimum lot size requirement there was five acres. This is about four and a half acres more than what is needed for a site.

Discussion on the current Solon recycling site ensued.

Motion by Bolin, seconded by Gale, to pursue a recycling site in Maple City at the Road Commission as first priority, and the Solon Township site second. Motion carried 6-0.

Recommendation to County Board RE: Appointments

Galla reviewed members with terms expiring and all of the other applicants. All current members are asking for reappointment. Galla pointed out that some applicants are currently sitting on other boards.

Motion by Sharp, seconded by Gale, to recommend to the County Board, to reappoint current board members. Motion carried 6-0.

Update on Emmet County tour

Bahle shared pictures she took during the tour of the Emmett County Recycling Center and mentioned an article in *Traverse the Magazine* about the recycling center. Bahle said they do a split stream, recycling is free in the county, but they have to pay to get rid of garbage. Harris mentioned Great Lakes Tissue and questioned if Leelanau County sent recycling there because Emmet County sends materials there. Materials that we can't collect for recycling.

Discussion ensued on Emmet County composting.

Harris said it is bagged and then sold. Gale said they do struggle with the same issues as others. Krull's composting does a good job at producing high quality top soil here in the county. Harris mentioned their system of funding which was implemented years ago and would be difficult to replicate.

Shrink wrap at HHW collection

Galla said this was mentioned a while ago and questioned if this should be pursued. It could be written into the next round of proposals, but keep in mind, this is not hazardous material.

Gale said the bag system is the best way to collect this stuff, so it would need to be bagged. It costs \$7.00 per bag, but it is kind of redundant because BARC (Bay Area Recycling For Charities) is already collecting the bulk of this from the marinas. Sharp said maybe they could mention it on the post card next year.

(Sharp left meeting 1:50)

Gale mentioned the process of getting rid of shrink wrap and how difficult it is.

Plastic Film Recycling Challenge for 2023

Harris stated that TREX Company, the world's largest manufacturer of composite decking and railing holds an annual plastic film recycling challenge every year.

(Sharp returned 1:52)

This is a challenge for students and schools to collect as much as possible and win prizes. Harris is looking for agreement in pursuing this for next year when school starts. Gale said he wanted to learn more about it because BARC also works with TREX. Harris will look into this and bring back more information.

Plexiglass encased bulletin boards

Gale explained that educational material could be posted inside these plexiglass encased bulletin boards at the recycling sites. Galla questioned if the public could also use them to post things and stated that approval would be needed from each site host to install these. Gale said he would look into this and Elmwood would be a good site to start with.

Policy of non-profits collecting returnable bottles at recycling sites.

Bahle asked about those individuals collecting them from the bins already. Gale said his family donates them to Solon Township to fund township projects. Gale spoke about people leaving bags of cans already and said this would be encouraging more of the same. Galla doesn't recommend a policy, let the nonprofits go and ask the site hosts themselves. MacDonald stated that this could become an eyesore. Gale said that if it does get messy, they would get the blame.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Article on plastics

Revenue & Expense Report, and Balance Sheet

Galla briefly reviewed the report and stated not everything is reported, tax bills are going out, but they still have a good fund balance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Perkins mentioned the zoning for a recycling site. He thinks this board should go to each township and make them put it into their zoning so that private property can be used for a site. Perkins continued, saying that if they are paying for sites like the Road Commission, does this put the Popp Rd. site back on the table? GFL also had bales of tide bottles and they said it was going to TREX. Perkins wants a sign over the hole on the recycling bins, more people will see it. In conclusion, Perkins said his broom and dust pan that he left at the recycling site were stolen. He wants a sign that says they are to be used to clean up the site.

Discussion ensued on glass recycling.

STAFF COMMENTS

Galla said the sign at the Glen Lake School was put where they wanted it because it's their property and they don't want people entering in the other driveway. As for the Popp Rd. recycling site, the township never got back to the SWC, they don't want it there. The county paid for the engineering plans and then when the bids came back, the township never approached the county for any money. Harris said they just don't want it there basically.

Galla said she would like to look into an "app" for people to download about how and what to recycle. They have received bids and the county website is going to be updated soon.

MEMBER/CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.