

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEELANAU COUNTY SOLID WASTE COUNCIL WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 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 Chair Marcia Harris. The meeting was held at the Leelanau County Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suttons Bay MI.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** L. Bahle (1:09), K. Cavanaugh, A. Gale (1:04), M. Harris  
T. MacDonald, T. Petersen, K. Ross, C. Sharp

**Members Absent:** J. Fletcher

**Ex-officio Members Present:** M. Bevelhymer

**Ex-officio Members Absent:** J. Palmer  
**(prior notice)**

**Staff:** G. Myer, Planning Director, J. Herman, Senior Planner

**Public:** M. Birkmeier, A. Campbell, M. Crocker, T. Dowd, T. Eftaxiadis  
C. Hartesvelt, R. Laport, M. Sieracke, plus one other attendee

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Myer gave an update on the Materials Management Plan (MMP) stating that the state initiated the process in January. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) approved the Interlocal Agreement between Leelanau County, Grand Traverse County and Benzie County, a Notice of Intent (NOI) was submitted to the state and was accepted, and the BOC accepted the County Approval Agency (CAA) responsibilities in July. Myer continued, saying that a copy of the NOI was submitted to the legislative body of each municipality within the planning area and a summary of the NOI was also published in the *Leelanau Enterprise*. They are in the process of approving the MMP Committee and appointing the Designated Planning Agency (DPA) which is on the Agenda for tomorrow's BOC meeting.

(Gale Present)

Ross stated that there is still a vacancy for the MMP Committee for a business that generates a managed material. She said that Lydia Gulow has reached out to Oryana Community Coop and Gogo SqueeZ. Myer said she had reached out to Cherry Republic and has not gotten a response back. MacDonald suggested they reach out to local wineries, breweries and distilleries.

## **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Gale, seconded by Ross, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.*

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST-** None.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APRIL 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES AND JUNE 3, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion by MacDonald, seconded by Ross, to accept the April 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes and the June 3, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.*

(Bahle present)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

PA 69 Recycling Fee

Harris said that the voters approved a recycling fee of up to \$35.00 and that they are currently paying \$30.00. She is proposing the SWC increase the fee to the voter approved \$35.00 with BOC approval. Hartesvelt said she reached out to Andrew Giguere, Equalization Director, and he confirmed there are 16,312 recycling units in the County and with the \$5.00 increase, that will generate an additional \$81,560.00 annually.

Harris is proposing to put the money towards their goal of composting. Both Leland Public School and Glen Lake Community School is interested in setting up composting in their schools. Harris provided a handout of a proposed 3-year composting plan from Cheri Richmond, Glen Lake School Science Instructor with approval from their administrator. Harris suggested they look at both schools as a possible pilot program. Ideally, she is proposing they have dollars to target composting in the schools or educational programs. She said based on the handout; Glen Lake Community Schools is requesting funds for their composting set up and to haul away to an appropriate facility. Sharp said that composting in the schools cannot be used in the gardens that grow food but can be used for flower beds.

Ross expressed concerns on how this would look to the public considering that they raised the fee \$1.00 a year ago and are now proposing to raise it \$5.00. Hartesvelt reminded members of the ballot language stating it is for collection of materials for recycling. She suggested that recycling curbside pick-up in villages would be more in line with the ballot language. Gale said that P.A. 69 covers all recycling sites, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Electronic Recycling, Scrap Tire and Mattress collections. Bevelhmer said curbside pick-up is not feasible.

Ross suggested the SWC apply for the 2% Allocation from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians so that the funding is outsourced. Hartesvelt said that would be a great way to start a pilot program and contract with SEEDS for composting since the County does not have the resources to develop the program.

Cavanaugh asked if there was an open line item they could use. Hartesvelt said they could expand the scope of Recycling Fund 230 with BOC approval. She suggested the school board expand their curriculum to include composting and then they could come to the SWC for funding for an additional

program. Bahle and Petersen both suggested having a line item for composting but not specifically towards the schools.

***Motion by Ross, seconded by Bahle, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners a composting pilot program for 2 county schools with the intent to apply for a 2% Allocation from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians. Motion carried 8-0.***

#### Update- Electronic Recycling

Gale reminded members that the Electronic Recycling Collections were separate from the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections this year. He explained that the Electronic Recycling Collections were held on various days of the week to give participants flexibility. There was a total of 12 Electronic Recycling Collections held at the same locations as the HHW Collections. Gale stated that the collections were busy in the spring and in the early fall and not so much in the summer months. Bay Area Recycling for Communities collected a total of 75,436 lbs. of electronics and they took it to their facility in Kaleva for proper disposal. Gale concluded that next year he will propose to have less collections and to target the busier months.

#### Tire & Mattress Collections for 2025

Gale stated that there was a Scrap Tire & Mattress Collection in June at Glen Lake School and there is one more collection this Friday at the Peshawbestown Recycling Site parking lot. They anticipate to have the same collections for 2025 and possibly narrowing it to one collection the following year.

#### Security/Maintenance at Recycling Sites

Myer expressed that there have been issues with security and maintenance at multiple recycling sites. She also said that they have been given permission to move forward with solar lights for the Leelanau County Road Commission site. Myer met with Tracy Purrenhage, State of Michigan Recycling Specialist, where she stated that education is the best way to keep the sites clean and that cameras are not going to solve the problems.

Myer said she received an email from Joan Gauthier, Solon Township Treasurer, in regards to the alley way behind Bunting's Cedar Market. In the email, Gauthier felt that the SWC should pay for the repairs or else the community will lose the site. Bailey is waiting for a formal green recycling sign and he is having difficulties getting an estimate for a fence. Myer also stated that the Leelanau County Road Commission has done striping work and Bailey would like additional striping and signage to indicate two lanes of traffic. Myer concluded, saying that pavement was not included in the contract and as far as she knew, the Road Commission and Solon Township were responsible for the repaving.

Cavanaugh felt it was not up to the SWC to pay for the pavement and said the damages are a matter of speculation related to the recycling site usage. Gale offered to meet with Bailey to get more information and a better vision of their needs to maintain the recycling site. Sharp stated she took her recycling to that location prior to the meeting and there was a semi-truck parked in that alley which is also shared by multiple businesses. Cavanaugh pointed out that the email did not indicate that Bunting's Cedar Market has a problem with how things are currently being handled but rather more of a threat email. Ross suggested they have a review after a year of operation to have communication feedback from the contract signer about any situation they should be looking at.

(Macdonald left the meeting)

## MI Small Community Recycling Education

Myer provided information on free education mailers that the SWC could utilize. The first options they could fill out online and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Recycling Partnership would mail out. The other two options would be sent in and it would be the responsibility of the SWC to mail out. Myer said they paid \$4,141.00 for the June mailer. Ross was interested in finding out more information about this program.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hartesvelt went over the Revenue & Expense Report and stated that the collection of revenue happens once a year from the winter tax bill. The revenue is estimated based on the number of recycling units in the County. She confirmed that they are currently below budget.

## COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Members looked over the collection reports. Myer pointed out that the data was up to date as of August and staff will continue to update the reports as they get more information in for the remainder of the year. Ross suggested putting the charts on the future website for the public to view.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

T. Dowd, Solon Township Resident, acknowledge Gale's presence at festivals diverting organic waste from the landfill. He is a participant of CROWD workshop and is happy to see the work being done as well as the MMP process so far.

R. Laport thanked the SWC for their work and gave information on recycling rates in the state of Michigan. He expressed that there needs to be more recycling efforts done as well as composting. He suggested the SWC look into Munson Hospital as a possible candidate to fill the vacancy on the MMP committee.

(Carrie left the meeting)

A. Campbell thanked the SWC for their service and stated that people believe in recycling in Leelanau County. He addressed their discussion on funding and suggested that instead of raising the recycling fee, they should use the allocated funds for the expanded projects from the taxes the county already received.

(A full copy of Campbell's Public Comment is available in the Planning & Community Development Office)

**STAFF COMMENTS-** None.

## MEMBER/CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Harris would like the SWC to further investigate opportunities to facilitate community composting.

## ADJOIURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:39 p.m.