



Recycling Committee

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.
225 W. Main Street, Room 100
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beachnau called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Members Present: Paul Beachnau, John Burt, Jack Thompson, Janice Lampert, Dave Smethurst, Judge Patricia Morse, Dave Matelski

Others Present: Jessica Kane, Patricia Osburn, Erica Wescoat-Large, Rachel Koleda, Mark Bevelhymer, Jim Aikens

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Smethurst to “accept the Recycling Committee minutes of August 25, 2010 as presented”. Motion carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Arrow Sanitation/American Waste Recycling Update

Dave Matelski from Arrow Sanitation and Mark Bevelhymer from American Waste updated the Committee on recycling activities.

American Waste purchased Arrow Sanitation on October 1, 2010. Arrow Sanitation continues to go by the same name here in Otsego County. Dave Matelski is currently planning on staying with Arrow through October 1 of this year.

They are working on expanding recycling at Arrow Sanitation as well as looking at creating a new transfer station.

Arrow Sanitation is planning on taking all paper within the next 30 days. They are planning on compensating Otsego Christian School, who currently keep a trailer to collect newspapers at Arrow. They plan to eventually have recycle bins outside the building for most of the materials they recycle.

The question was asked on why glass and plastic is brought in the same bag, but then separated out later. The reply was so that the bag space could be better utilized since it is hard to fill one up with only glass. Work Camp participants are sorting the glass and plastic on-site.

The question was asked on whether there are plans to open on Saturdays, which would be more convenient for many people. The reply was that it wouldn't pay for the extra cost at this time. As the use of the recycling center increases, there may be enough usage to provide Saturday service.

American Waste began providing the recycling drop-off sites six years ago in Grand Traverse County, and are doing several other counties now. These are paid for in a variety of ways.

American Waste is creating a new single-stream recycling system in a 200,000 sq ft facility that was the former Tower Automotive plant. Single-stream means that the materials can come in combined loads and be separated at the plant. The new facility should be up and running by August. It will be one of the most modern facilities in the country. The effect this plant will have on the recycling efforts in Otsego County is unknown at this time, other than more plastics will be accepted here.

The trash collected by Arrow Sanitation currently is filtered to recover about 50% of the recyclable materials.

The Committee discussed ways to expand recycling in Otsego including curbside pickup as well as drop-off locations. The consensus was the drop-off locations were probably the most economical way to go in Otsego County. Mr. Bevelhymmer indicated that if we proposed a plan, he could put costs to it. He also volunteered to have one of his employees, Kelly Ignace, who does recycling marketing and education come help us put that plan together at no cost.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having at least three drop-off locations. Some possible locations discussed included the City of Gaylord Public Works Department, the Chester-Charlton-Dover transfer station center, and the transfer station in Corwith Township by Vanderbilt. There would eventually have to be buy-in from most if not all of the local municipalities to do an assessment to get the recycling program going in Otsego County. The Conservation District will send out invites to the local municipalities to invite their participation in the Recycling efforts.

Chairman Beachnau issued a homework assignment for all those present to list in order the 10-12 goals for your ideal recycling program. Mr. Aikens will solicit input through the Weekly Choice, and Ms. Wescoat-Large will solicit input in the Conservation District's weekly radio spot.

The recycling signage at Arrow Sanitation was also discussed. Mr. Matelski indicated that it is a difficult process due to County and State regulations on signage. He and Mr. Bevelhymmer indicated that they will look further into it. The Committee suggested that they work with Joe Ferrigan in the County'

B. Goodwill Recycling Update

Patricia Osburn indicated that Goodwill Industries here in Gaylord are accepting electronics such as TVs and computers. They currently receive 2¢ per pound, but there is now a State grant that may provide 5¢ per pound. They also take fabric, clothing, as well as shoes for the leather. Ms. Osburn indicated that Goodwill may have plans to expand recycling opportunities, but will wait for Jessica McDowell from Goodwill to update us on their plans.

III. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Beachnau at 11:35 AM.