



Recycling Committee

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 – 5:30 p.m.
225 W. Main Street, Room 100
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beachnau called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll call – Present: Paul Beachnau, Ken Glasser, John Burt, Janice Lampert, Phil Alexander, Susan Smethurst, David Smethurst, Mike McCarthy, Diane Rekowski, Jack Thompson, Joe Wambold, Judge Pat Morse, Kam Ensing, Dave Matelski, Diane Franckowiak, Diane Pompei, Bill Marshall, Diane House, Janice Lampert, Jeri-Lynn Bailey

Others present: Robert Randall, John Tithof, Mary Tithof

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and discussed why they were interested in participating in the process.

B. Overview of Committee Purpose

Beachnau discussed the purpose of the Committee being to address the immediate need to establish a recycling program, and to grow the program in the long-range. He also mentioned that any plan has to come from the citizens as a grassroots effort. It cannot come from the County.

C. Updates from Committee Members

Bill Marshall discussed the shredding program that Crossroads Industries is running.

Robert Randall, the C.O.O. of Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, discussed the recycling program that Goodwill Industries has for textiles, shoes, metals and computer equipment.

Diane Rekowski informed the Committee that the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) is the designated solid waste planning agency for Otsego County, and that she has been involved with recycling for over 30 years. She also discussed the landfill gasification program that she is working on with Alpena County.

Beachnau said that there are two questions that he has been consistently asked. The first is what it would take to reinstate the recycling program and the second is what can be done to increase the program.

Kam Ensing discussed the deterioration of the recycling market. He used 100% volunteer labor for 6 to 6 ½ years to run his recycling center. He also discussed other obstacles including snow removal and the lack of storage capacity. He also mentioned that approximately 300 people recycled at the center each week.

Dave Matelski has been recycling corrugated cardboard at Arrow Sanitation for over 9 years. He has been stockpiling it lately due to a drop in the price for cardboard. He does not charge the public to drop off corrugated cardboard as long as it is flattened and is clean. He also waives the charge if people put clean tin cans in the right container. He does not recycle plastics. It takes 60 to 90 yards to make a bail, and he doesn't have the storage room for the material. He recycles because it saves him money by not having to landfill the materials. He is also working on being able to recycle asphalt shingles.

Diane Rekowski mentioned that Cheboygan County established a citizen's committee to look at recycling options and gave the Committee 4 months to make a report to the Board of Commissioners. Cheboygan County decided to use Act 138 to charge a household fee for recycling. Act 138 requires the County to pass a resolution allowing the collection of up to \$25.00 per year for each household, and the townships have to agree to collect the money. Diane also mentioned that you can lower the total household cost if you are paying per volume (pay as you go) for garbage.

Paul Beachnau asked how much Cheboygan County's program costs to run. John Burt responded that Cheboygan's expenditures for 2008 were approximately \$209,000.

Janice Lampert asked whether Cheboygan tried to win over non-recyclers. Rekowski replied that they did not do much education to win over non-recyclers. She also mentioned that as children learn in school about recycling, they come home and teach their parents.

Dave Matelski stated that many people don't realize that Emmet County's transfer station is subsidizing their recycling program. He is looking at having a Type 1 Transfer Station. He currently runs a Type II Transfer Station.

Judge Morse said that she can provide workers, via court sentencing, to help with a recycling program.

Dave Smethurst would like to see a comprehensive plan that shows all of the current avenues to recycle locally and to look at ways to create jobs, especially for places like Crossroads Industries.

Auto part stores will also accept used car batteries, and people thought that Radio Shack accepts used alkaline batteries.

Habitat for Humanity takes a wide variety of goods to sell at their re-store.

The Committee also discussed the need to emphasize reducing and reusing, prior to recycling.

The Committee discussed the possibility of changing the name of the Committee to the Resource Recovery Committee, but no vote was taken.

D. How to Proceed

Commissioner Beachnau asked the Committee how they can get to where they want to be.

The Committee arrived at the following list of tasks:

- 1) Gather information and look at all options and to put a cost to those options. Once the basic information has been gathered, meetings would be held in each township to educate the public and to gather more information on citizen needs for recycling.
- 2) Set up tours of Emmet County's recycling facility.
- 3) Invite guest speakers to the next Committee meeting. Jack Thompson discussed the importance of informing the guest speakers on who we are and about our goals.

- 4) Create a primer that can be shared via the County website on local recycling options.
- 5) Get each township to send a representative to the meetings.
- 6) Educate people on changing their habits.
- 7) Email a list of contacts to the Committee.
- 8) Decide on a timeframe to produce a report.

III. ADJOURN

A. Next Meeting Date

Burt will contact the Committee with the next meeting date, once the guest speakers have been arranged.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Beachnau at 6:45 PM.