



Recycling Committee

Wednesday, August 19, 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.

Members Present: Paul Beachnau, Ken Glasser, John Burt, Beth Dipzinski, Carol Rabineau, Dave Matelski, Lou Ann Olsen, Diane Franckowiak, Mischelle Stone, Mike McCarthy, Erma Backenstose

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Glasser, supported by Dipzinski to “approve the Recycling Committee minutes of June 3, 2009”.
Motion Carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recycling Survey Results

Burt presented some of the results from the Recycling Survey. There were 879 responses to the survey, with 767 (87.3%) indicating they would support a \$25.00 per household fee for recycling.

The respondents indicated that the most important item to be able to recycle is plastic, followed by paper, glass, metal, and cardboard.

B. Discussion of Arrow Sanitation Recycling Program

Dave Matelski discussed his recycling efforts through Arrow Sanitation. Since the June Recycling meeting he has expanded his recycling program. Arrow is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. He now recycles the following:

- Newspapers including inserts, and telephone books via the Otsego County Christian School keeping their recycling trailer at his site. There is no charge for newspaper.
- Cardboard including corrugated and fiberboard. The cardboard must be flattened and clean. There is no charge for cardboard.
- Plastics #1 (clear only) and Plastics #2 including beverage, detergent, and milk jugs. They must be clean, and have both caps and rings removed. People must buy a large bag from Arrow for the plastics at a cost of \$3.50 per bag. The plastics are taken to Emmet counties facility, where Arrow must pay to recycle them.
- Tin cans and aluminum. They must be clean and have labels removed. They should be flattened if possible. The metal goes to A&L Iron.
- Shingles for a charge. They cannot contain paper or glue. These can be recycled and used as the bottom layer of asphalt for roads.
- Wood for a small charge. The wood goes to a co-generation plant.

Matelksi indicated that education has been a problem. Although he hands out instruction sheets with illustration on how to recycle, and tries to monitor what is coming in, people continue to bring in contaminated materials. He indicated that 9 out of 10 people bring the materials in contaminated or improperly prepared, which often results in materials having to be sent to the landfill.

The Committee discussed the need to have Saturday hours in order for the recycling to be convenient for people. He can't afford to stay open solely for recycling.

Burt indicated that he has heard some feedback from people that they would still like to try to establish a countywide program. Looking at the funding involved, a countywide program would likely cost more than the \$25.00 per household annual fee if there was interest in multiple drop-off sites.

The Committee discussed ideas to help with education and recycling staffing. Burt put together estimates for a part-time Recycling Educator/Volunteer Coordinator position, which could be housed at the County. The cost would be spread among the municipalities.

The initial estimated costs include the following:

- Part-Time (20 hrs/wk) Recycling Educator/Volunteer Coordinator Position

Duties: Coordinate volunteers to educate people dropping off recyclables at Arrow Sanitation; Conduct educational program on recycling (schools and the general public); Coordinate House Hold Hazardous Waste Collections; Other related duties.

The cost per year would initially be between \$14,500 and \$15,700 per year.

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection – This position could coordinate Household Hazardous Waste Collections whenever needed. Municipalities would still have to help fund the collections, but there would not be a charge for staff time in running the collections. There could also be other collections such as pesticide collections.
- Educational Materials - \$10,000 for each of the first two years, then dropping to \$5,000.
- Advertising - \$3,000
- Equipment - \$2,000 year one to outfit an office (computers, etc.)
- Mileage - \$2,000
- Training - \$500
- Total Year 1 cost: \$32,000 - \$33,200.

Olsen informed the Committee that Chester, Dover and Charlton Townships have a shared trash drop-off. They own a compactor and Charlton provides an employee. They charge residents \$1 per bag but they do not do any recycling.

Beachnau asked what the townships would think of funding a Recycling Educator/Volunteer Coordinator position. He also asked whether the Townships felt it was better to fund the program using a small household fee of around \$5.00 per year or to have municipalities pay for it out of General Fund dollars. Olsen responded that it is better to give the municipalities a choice.

Motion by Franckowiak, seconded by Olsen to “recommend that the County pursue the option of establishing a Recycling Educator/Volunteer Coordinator position and to request funding assistance from local municipalities”. Motion Carried.

III. ADJOURN

A. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Beachnau at 6:30 PM.