



## Recycling Committee

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 – 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, John Burt, Judge Pat Morse, Beth Dipzinski, Diane Franckowiak, Diane House, Joe Wambold, Dave Smethurst, Janice Lampert, Don Sklarczyk

Others Present: Erma Backenstose, Jim Akans, Jessica Kane, Patricia Osburn, Lee Olsen, Lou Ann Olsen, Marilyn Cole, Andrew Francis, Jim Reinhardt, Tom Wagar

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dipzinski, seconded by Morse, to “accept the Recycling Committee minutes of February 2, 2012 as presented”. Motion carried unanimously.

#### III. OLD BUSINESS

##### A. Saturday Recycling Pilot

The Committee discussed their observations and comments they have heard on the Saturday recycling. The negative comments included lack of appropriate signage for instructions on where to put recycled materials, and a request to locate recycling materials closer together.

##### B. Recycling Plan

The Committee discussed comments received on the Recycling Plan recommended at the last Recycling Committee meeting. Comments have been overwhelmingly negative on the complexity and potential issues of the \$25.00 fee per PA 69. The concerns include the burden to local Treasurers to collect the fee; problems with enforcement for non-payment; no concern over municipalities not putting the request on the ballot; difficult to explain to people; confusion over who will pay into the program.

Burt and Beachnau explained the overall recycling plan which includes five drop-off locations, with locations in the following areas: Gaylord, Elmira, Johannesburg, Vanderbilt, and Waters. The plan would include a semi-annual household hazardous waste drop-off event.

The comments received by Committee members was to move towards a county-wide ballot request rather than PA69. Committee members expressed support due to the relief of burden on local officials for collection and enforcement.

The millage would have to be .25 mills which would bring in approximately \$288,306 in 2013, with the average homeowner paying \$15.29 which is considerably lower than the \$25.00 fee.

Curbside recycling was discussed by the Committee. Countywide curbside recycling is not feasible from a cost perspective at this point. The City would likely be the only area this would work currently.

The Committee discussed the need for a lot of public education on economics and the environment.

Burt recommended a 3-year millage so that people could get a feel for the program without having to pay for five years. Three years would also give the committee time to educate people and look at options to expand recycling.

Motion by Smethurst, seconded by Burt, to “recommend a .25 mill property tax for recycling programs to the County Board to be put on the November ballot with a duration of 3-years”. Motion Carried unanimously. This would replace the earlier request for the \$25.00 fee.

The Committee will distribute information now, but will not pursue a private campaign until after the August election which will contain three millage renewals.

The Committee discussed sending one Committee member as a representative to the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Recycling Coalition Conference. Burt will ask the Board on whether the County could sponsor a representative to the conference. Ideally, the representative would be from the Conservation District.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**None**

#### **V. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned by Beachnau at 6:20 PM.