



## Recycling Committee

Wednesday, June 3, 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, Janice Lampert, Susan Smethurst, David Smethurst, Jack Thompson, Judge Pat Morse, Susie Marshall (Representing Crossroads Industries), Beth Dipzinski, Carol Rabineau

Others present: Mary Tithof, Mike Jones, Ken Mackellar, Elisa Seltzer

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Thompson to “approve the Recycling Committee minutes of April 22, 2009”. Motion Carried.

#### III. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Elisa Seltzer, Emmet County DPW Director

Elisa Seltzer discussed Emmet County’s recycling program.

Emmet County began being involved with garbage in the late 1970s. The County opened up a solid waste transfer station, and then eventually began recycling in the mid 1980s. They now recycle 36 different materials.

Ms. Seltzer discussed the funding options that have been used successfully by the counties that partner with Emmet County to do recycling. Benzie County and Cheboygan County utilize an Act 138 surcharge. Act 138 allows counties to pass a resolution authorizing up to a \$25.00 annual surcharge to households for recycling. The county would then have to enter into cooperative agreements with each local municipality to collect the surcharge. Emmet County passed a Pay-as-You-Throw ordinance which requires trash haulers to provide an option for customers to pay by the bag or weight of trash, which usually results in residents saving money by using the recycling program. The Committee expressed interested in a similar ordinance in Otsego County.

A second funding option discussed was a voter approved millage, which was used by Charlevoix in 2004. Emmet County also did a two-year millage to pay for their capital costs. The final option discussed was a landfill surcharge fee, which cannot work in Otsego County since there are not any landfills.

Ms. Seltzer also discussed the need for education. She believes that programs should reserve about 10% of their budgets for education. Providing education to residents on how to recycle is important to reduce the amount of contaminated materials and mess at recycling bin sites. Emmet County produces a recycling guide that goes in the newspaper and on their website. The phone book puts a one page guide

in the book for free. They have a brochure rack on each recycle bin which was paid for by the local Rotary Club. It is also important to have good bin labels.

Chairman Beachnau asked whether we could have volunteers help to show people the proper way to use bins. Ms. Seltzer believed that was a good idea.

Ms. Seltzer informed the group that they often locate recycling bins at grocery stores due to high traffic which keeps people from making a mess and is convenient. The stores also like to host the bins, since it brings more traffic to their store. If a bin is at an unsupervised location such as a remote township hall, there will be a lot more trouble with trash and inappropriate usage of the bins. She emphasized that you would want the bins on the main travel routes, in well monitored locations.

A recycling program will have costs for the bins, which may be leased. There will also be costs for hauling the bins, and possibly for staff time to help run the program. It may be possible to have a part time person supplemented with volunteers. Hopefully, snow removal would be provided by the host site.

Chairman Beachnau asked how you could make sure the bins are full when they are hauled to Emmet. Ms. Seltzer responded that you can insert language into the RFP and contract. You could also tweak the schedule over time for things such as the season.

## **B. Discussion of Options**

Mr. Smethurst made a motion to “have the Recycling Committee support the idea of starting a recycling program in Otsego County by partnering with Emmet County, and to direct the County to craft a recycling plan to be presented back to the Recycling Committee at their next meeting”. Thompson seconded the motion. The Committee had further discussion of the motion before voting.

Glasser stressed the importance that any recommendations for recycling must come from the public. If the public wants recycling they must express their interest to their local municipalities.

Rabineau stated that the plan must show the location of the recycling bins. Ms. Seltzer again stressed the need to look at visibility, accessibility, and the likelihood of problems, when deciding on a bin location.

Thompson asked whether there was any way for Crossroads Industries, A&L Iron, or Arrow Sanitation to profit from this model. Ms. Seltzer responded that all of Emmet County’s metal goes to A&L Iron already. She also thought that Arrow Sanitation may want to provide the hauling service for the bins. Beachnau thought that Arrow may be ideally positioned to pick up a bin, replace it with an empty bin, and then haul the filled bin to Emmet County.

The Committee voted on the above motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee will meet again as soon as a draft plan is ready.

## **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.