



Recycling Committee

September 16, 2013 – 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, Richard Sumerix, John Burt, Judge Pat Morse, Janice Lampert, Erma Backenstose, Don Sklarczyk, Dave Smethurst, Diane Franckowiak,

Others Present: Jessica Kane, Patricia Osburn, Julie Marlette, Judy Wagley, Erica Wescoat-Large, Justin Burchett, Arnie Morse

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Smethurst, seconded by Lampert, to “approve the minutes of February 26, 2013.” Motion carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recycling Update

The Committee members discussed the issues and feedback with the recycling program to date.

Over 140 tons of materials have been recycled through the program so far. The materials at the Gaylord site is picked up at least three times per week, with the others being serviced at least weekly. The usage has gone up each month, though that may decrease after the tourist season.

The paper/cardboard at the Gaylord site fills up too quickly. Something needs to be done to expand the capacity.

There is a need for bins to hold tools and brochures at these sites. It is also desirable to get message boards.

There have been a few large items left outside of the recycling bins. They are also seeing some items like plant containers being put in the bins. More education is needed.

The Conservation District receives a lot of calls on electronics and Styrofoam. Pakmail will take Styrofoam peanuts and flat Styrofoam.

The Committee members discussed the millage, which may need to go back out for a vote to renew in 2014 due to it being a 3-year millage. Smethurst discussed the need to continuously update people, and to help relate what the tonnage recycled means in understandable terms. Paul Beachnau discussed the need to have good stories to tell. It's qualitative information that is needed more than quantitative.

Burchett updated the Committee on his efforts. He is working on a Household Hazardous Waste guide; a new commercial at least every two months; would like to post educational information on message centers; a new recycling coloring contest for the schools; and a recent grant from Snapple for recycling bins in the parks. The Committee members discussed the need for more recycling in the schools.

B. Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event

The Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event on Father's Day went well, though another weekend may get more participants. The company handling the materials was much more organized this time, which may make it seem like less people participated. Over 48,000 pounds of materials were recycled, which is more material than the last event. The cost for the event was approximately \$35,000. Only five businesses participated, despite Osburn calling businesses that participated in the last event. It may be that businesses are savvier and there are more requirements to have a recycling plan in place. The company recycles what they can through a contract with Habitat for Humanity. The remainder of the collected materials are incinerated and used in cement. There were also over 500 tires collected. The Committee is interested in holding another event in 2014.

C. Recycling Next Steps

Burt is working with Emmet County to get another paper/cardboard bin for the Gaylord site. The cost would be approximately \$6,940 for the remainder of year 1, \$15,180 for year 2, and \$16,580 for year 3.

Burt is working with PowerEycling on electronics recycling.

Burt has approached Mark Bevelhymmer at American Waste on options for Styrofoam recycling. Patricia Osburn is working with someone in the Crawford/Roscommon county area who handles Styrofoam. Burt and Osburn will continue to research options.

Burt will look into storage bins, and message boards for each site.

Burt is working on snow removal options for the sites.

Beachnau asked Burt to prepare a budget spreadsheet for the next meeting.

V. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Beachnau at 6:18 PM. The next meeting will be called as needed.