

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLINTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE (SWMP) HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015, AT THE CLINTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 100 EAST STATE STREET, ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Denise Donahue, Tim Fair, Anne Hill, Tim Machowicz, Tonia Olson, Roger Simon, Walt Sorg, Rodney Taylor and Lori Welch  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dan Coss, John Lancour, Susan Palmer, Julie Powers and Christine Spitzley  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Kate Neese, Chris Hewitt and Therese Koenigsnecht  
**GUESTS:** Terry Link

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Department of Waste Management Coordinator (DWMC) Kate Neese called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

DWMC Neese stated according to the by-laws, a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary are to be elected each year. ***A motion was made by Member Olson to nominate Rod Taylor for the Chairperson position, supported by Member Machowicz. Motion carried.*** Time was offered for additional nominations or comments.

DWMC Neese asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson. ***A motion was made by Member Fair to nominate County Commissioner Hill for the Vice-Chairperson position, supported by Member Olson. Motion carried.*** Time was offered for additional nominations or comments.

DWMC Neese asked for nominations for Secretary. ***A motion was made by Member Olson, supported by Member Taylor to nominate Dan Coss as Secretary. Motion carried.*** Time was offered for additional nominations or comments.

**3. APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Chairman Taylor asked for additions/deletions to the agenda. He noted there were two additions, #5 Approval of the March 27, 2014 meeting minutes and #6 Approval of Per Diem Vouchers. ***A motion was made by Member Fair, supported by Member Donahue to approve the agenda with two additions as noted. Motion carried.***

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Taylor called for public comment.

- Terry Link, stated his main concern with this plan is that it moves waste further from its' generation point and there's an environmental impact to that.

Chairperson Taylor asked for any other public comment.

**5. APPROVAL OF MARCH 27, 2014 MEETING:**

***A motion was made by Member Welch, supported by Member Olson to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.***

**6. APPROVAL OF PER DIEM VOUCHERS**

***A motion was made by Member Sorg, supported by Member Fair to approve payment of the Per Diem Vouchers. Motion carried.***

**7. REVIEW DRAFT AMENDMENT**

DWMC Neese stated the Resolution is a draft resolution discussed, at length, in March with a few edits. Chairman Taylor stated there is a significant question and answer handout and asked Ms. Olson to go through the handout with the committee.

- Member Olson stated Granger is requesting to amend the Plan to allow the County to import waste from 4 additional counties to the 19 already allowed. Granger's request is that the County would consider import and export authorization. She stated waste is managed in this state through a solid waste plan, which means that each county does their own plan and it's approved

by the state. This also requires that each county authorizes whether they will accept waste from the other. Granger has increased their footprint and has recently acquired transfer stations in Jackson and Alma. Member Olson stated the waste would not be trucked in the type of truck that picks up at residents; it would go to the transfer station and be reloaded into large container-type trucks and transported back to the Wood Street facility for disposal. Member Olson also stated the four counties are Clare, Hillsdale, Lenawee and Mecosta. Clare is the only one that has an active landfill and they may be particular about the reciprocity being import/export.

- Chairman Taylor asked if there have been conversations with those counties in terms of the likelihood for any adjustment. Member Olson stated their approach was to come to Clinton County first and since that process is not completed, Granger has not reinitiated any conversations with the other counties. There was discussion on the unusually high amounts of gas being produced and the system at Granger not being able to accommodate that.
- Member Sorg inquired about the projected lifespan of the Wood Street facility if these changes were to occur and the increase of traffic on Wood Road. Member Olson stated this is difficult to project as the amount of volume they will be receiving from these other counties will be minimal. She stated it is a matter of ease of transportation and making sure that Granger can cross a road that is in a different county. Member Olson stated Wood Street was designed and Granger helped to contribute money to help handle truck traffic. Traffic will be limited to the 120 yard transfer trailers so the repetition of traffic is less due to the size of the truck.
- Export concerns were brought up by the Committee members. Member Olson stated for every cubic yard that is received at the Granger facility, the County receives funding that supports their environmental programs; recycling; and waste reduction. Member Fair stated the draft speaks only to importing and asked if it's going to be an issue to redraft to address importing and exporting. Ms. Olson requests that the SWMP committee consider this since other counties would expect that they would have the same opportunity for their local haulers that also do business in this market.
- Chairman Taylor clarified that tonight's action is not to pass a resolution; it's to set a public hearing. This resolution is a draft and any changes would be directed to staff to be brought back to the committee. Chairman Taylor asked for any other comments or questions.
- Member Welch would like to see if there is a good example that would encourage recycling and waste reduction.
- Member Olson stated their ultimate goal is to be a successful business that is not solely based on trash coming into the landfill; it is on the environmental stewardship that they provide overall with the thinking of waste as a resource that can be used.
- Several board members remarked that Granger provides for recycling; has a handle on controlling the methane gas smell; is an excellent business neighbor who provided detailed information at public forum.
- Member Machowicz spoke about Michigan's 15% recycling rate; his frustrations to push politicians to raise that rate and also asked if there are other solid waste plans in Michigan that would do a better job of addressing the concerns brought up today. DWMC Neese stated waste reduction is addressed in the Master Plan.
- Member Simon spoke about landfill diversion and stated if it has value it will come out of the waste stream. He also feels the 15% recycling rate is due to the returnable law on carbonated beverages and believes education in the schools with kids on recycling is the key as well as recycling has to be funded.
- Member Olson stated the cap would not change with adding volume from the 4 counties; the amendment request has only to do with the addition of the 4 counties and does not change anything in the Solid Waste Plan.
- Member Welch agrees that education and outreach is critical and feels services has to be more convenient and available to more residents of this state.
- Member Donahue questioned if funds to the County would be decreased if the word "export" is placed in the Amendment that would allow the reciprocity. There was also discussion regarding the .25 cent tipping fee per cubic yard that Granger pays to

Clinton County. It was noted this amount has not changed since those fees were established in the 1990's. That amounts to approximately \$315,000 to run all of the programs through the Dept. of Waste Management.

- Chairperson Taylor asked for a recap. DWMC Neese stated the following:
  - a. The SWMP Committee will review the draft resolution; make comments and edits so the Committee can agree to a draft that can be forwarded for public comment and to establish a public hearing. Once the SWMP Committee agrees on a draft (tonight or the Committee can meet again to finalize a draft).
  - b. There will be a press release stating the draft resolution is available through email or paper mail, however, requests will have to come through the DWM.
  - c. There is a 90 day public comment period followed by a public hearing. The public hearing will be advertised heavily.
  - d. After the public hearing, the SWMP Committee will meet again to finalize a draft to recommend to the Commissioners for review and approval.
  - e. The Commissioners can either approve or deny it. If they deny it, it will come back to the SWMP Committee with their comments and the SWMP Committee will debate it and present it again.
  - f. Once it receives the Commissioner's approval, it goes out to all of the municipalities for their review and vote.
  - g. If it doesn't pass by a 2/3 majority of the municipalities, the SWMP Committee will meet again. If it passes by the 2/3 majority;
  - h. The DWM will then take over after that.
- Chairperson Taylor raised the question if this vote is 16 townships or if it includes cities and villages. DWMN Neese will check on the total but feels it includes cities and villages as well. Member Hill asked how the City of East Lansing falls into this since there is a section that is in Clinton County. DWMC Neese stated she included Lansing Township and the City of East Lansing on the emails.
- Chairperson Taylor asked for clarification if the SWMP Committee is not approving the resolution but recommending the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, why is a public hearing held prior to making that recommendation. DWMN Neese stated this is in the DEQ requirements in moving this request forward.

**A motion was made by Member Fair to concur with the Draft Resolution as modified (exporting and importing language) and to establish a Public Hearing. Member Donahue supported the motion.** Chairman Taylor asked for discussion and public comment.

Mr. Link spoke regarding more resistance from people if the exporting language is added. Member Olson stated that Granger would prefer that the trash not be exported, however, there are other counties involved in this proposal.

Chairman Taylor recapped what was discussed at tonight's meeting reference the expense of establishing landfills; transportation needs; the importance of recycling; increasing transportation uses and Granger providing a viable service to the community.

**The above motion carried.**

**\*DWMC Neese stated the tentative date for the Public Hearing is Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 5:30 in the Board of Commissioner's Room.**

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **it was moved by Member Fair, supported by Member Hill to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

  
Rod Taylor, Chairman

  
Kate Neese, Waste Management Coordinator

  
Therese Koenigsnecht, Recording Secretary