

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CLINTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE (SWMP) HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015, AT THE CLINTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 100 EAST STATE STREET, ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Coss, Denise Donahue, Tim Fair, Anne Hill, John Lancour, Tonia Olson, Julie Powers, Kurt Ray, Christine Spitzley and Rodney Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Machowicz, Roger Simon, Lori Welch & Walt Sorg (Mr. Sorg present via telephone)*
***change made at May 14, 2015 meeting**

STAFF PRESENT: Kate Neese, Chris Hewitt and Therese Koenigsknecht

GUESTS: David Stewart, Gayle Miller, Jane Dehoog, Richard Rogers, John Bell, Becky Bell, Bettina Brander, Jane Dailey, Johanna Balzer, Keith Granger and Christina Miller

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

SWMP Chairman Rod Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Taylor asked for additions/deletions to the agenda. **Member Coss asked to move Other Business to #6 and prior to that add #5 Acceptance of the Public Comment Correspondence that was received and add an item to consider the next meeting date would be #7 and Adjournment would be #8. This motion was supported by Member Fair. Motion carried.**

3. APPROVAL OF PER DIEM & MILEAGE VOUCHER

A motion was made by Member Coss supported by Member Ray to approve payment of the Per Diem Vouchers. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Taylor explained to the audience that Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes and ask DWM Coordinator Neese to keep track of the time. He also explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to take comments from the public on the change that has been requested to the Solid Waste Plan. He noted that the SWMP Board is not in attendance to respond to questions or providing answers, however, he stated they may do so. He stated the primary purpose of tonight's hearing is to receive public comment and at a later date there will be a subsequent meeting where discussion of the Board will take place at that time and a recommendation will be made to the Clinton County Board of Commissioners. He asked the Board members

David Stewart, 12595 Wood Road, Dewitt, MI 48820:

- Mr. Stewart stated he sent a letter of protest and noted that this is not about Granger as a company. His concern is the large amount of traffic on that road by large compacted trucks and stated 5 trucking companies are on Wood Road. He is concerned about the health of safety of residents and suggested that a Class A road, such as Old US-27, be used instead of Wood Road, which is a Class B road. He also suggested that Granger use their own road, which goes directly to the landfill. He was also concerned that the environmental impact study conducted by a third party should have been handled by the state instead and also complained about the odor coming from the landfill.

Bettina Brander, 1537 Valley View, Lansing, MI 48906:

- Ms. Brander thanked Granger for the beautiful park, recycling center and their cleaning of Wood Road. She expressed concern with the stench coming from the landfill as well as the lack of notification advertising the Public Hearing as well as the letters of support from the Public Comment handout is from people who do not live in the area. She stated her concern is regarding the value of her home; the chemicals in the ground and drinking water, traffic on Wood Road and why Granger is taking other counties trash.

Jane Dailey, 17206 Autumn Lane, Lansing, MI 48906 (Groesbeck Area - Lansing Township):

- Ms. Dailey stated she appreciates the Granger company and what they give back to the community. She stated that last year was a bad year as far as the smell and recently spoke with Mr. Nuereberg from Granger as well as the DEQ. Mr. Nuereberg explained to her that last year was a bad year for odor because Granger had accepted a large amount of sludge but has discontinued this. She is also concerned with the increase in traffic not only on Wood Road but Lake Lansing Road as well.

Keith Granger, 19680 Wood Road, Lansing, MI 48909 (business address)

- Mr. Granger stated he is the President/CEO of Granger. Mr. Granger explained the strategy of Granger and what they are trying to accomplish by asking for 4 additional counties and stated that currently they can bring trash in from 20 counties and recently began doing business in Gratiot and Jackson counties. He stated they have a recycling and disposal center in both of those counties and stated the counties they are asking to expand into about the existing counties Granger is in currently. He stated he understands the concerns of adding 4 more counties, however, explained that the waste Granger receives trash from,

90% of it comes from 3 counties. He stated the whole purpose of this request is to remain competitive, stated Granger is a very small player in the solid waste and recycling business. He ended by stating that in order to remain competitive and provide sustainable long-term employment, Granger needs these types of options to provide flexibility. He also stated Granger is continuing to work on the odor problems and noted that the last 12-18 months the odor was high due to sludge that they took in and have since discontinued.

Jane Dehoog, 1285 Mayfield Drive, Lansing, MI 48906:

- Ms. Dehoog she stated she understands the need for a business to expand and grow, however, she stated the SMWP Commission represents the people who are in attendance and not the business. She explained that her main complaint is the odor coming from the landfill not only when she's outside but in her home as well. She also complained of the noise from the generators as well as the dust and dirt coming from Granger and seepage of chemicals into the ground. She asked the SWMP Commission to consider the citizens of that area when making a decision.

Rebecca Bell, 1424 Valley View Road, Lansing, MI 48906:

- Ms. Bell expressed the importance of health issues especially for people living in close proximity to Granger and stated she and 5 other people in her subdivision have been diagnosed with cancer. She is asking for some form of diversity within Granger's business other than to bring in more garbage and feels it is not in the best interest or health and well-being for a huge landfill to be in such proximity to a residential area.

Gayle Miller, 9395 Taft Road, Ovid, MI 48866:

- Ms. Miller introduced herself and explained that she worked for the Clinton County Department of Waste Management for 11 years. She is concerned that the Solid Waste Plan was first developed in 1990, has rarely been modified since and feels this may be the only opportunity for the next 20 years to modernize the Plan. She stated that currently the user fee is \$.25 per cubic yard and was established 25 years ago and the DWM's budget has been continually cut. Ms. Miller feels the SWMP Commission should ask for an increase to \$.75 per cubic yard in exchange for allowing Granger to expand. Ms. Miller also stated she feels the other 4 counties should do something to reduce their own waste or Granger must be required to offer a full range of waste reduction service to their customers. She also feels one public hearing with a 3 minute time limit for comments is not adequate.
- Chairperson Taylor asked for any other public comment; seeing no additional comments he closed the Public Hearing.
- Chairperson Taylor asked DWM Coordinator Neese for an overview on the process. DWMC Neese stated that all public comments heard tonight and received in writing will be transcribed into minutes, share with the SWMP Committee at the next meeting and review the public comments. It will be up to the SWMP Committee to decide if they want to incorporate any of these comments into the actual language of the proposed amendment. If and when the SWMP Committee comes to a consensus on the proposed language, it will be presented to the Board of Commissioner's Finance & Personnel Committee first and then to the Board the next week. The Commissioner's review it and put it to a vote and depending on how they vote, it will then go to all of the local municipalities within the county for their review and their vote. It cannot pass without a 2/3 majority. At that juncture, it comes back to the Department of Waste Management for the DWM office to put together per DEQ guidelines and then submit it to the Department of Environmental Quality for final review and State of Michigan has the final decision as to whether or not amend the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Chairman Taylor asked if any of the SWMP Board had any questions. Member Coss asked if any amendments from the SWMP Committee forwarded to the Board of Commissioners are only for item that has been proposed and nothing additional. Modifications can be made but nothing additional?
- DWMC Neese stated yes and if the SWMP decides to change the language in a substantial way, you begin the process over.
- Chairman Taylor asked for substantial to be defined.

Christina Miller, Solid Waste Planning Coordinator, Department of Environmental Quality, Lansing, MI:

- Ms. Miller explained that she is the only employee for the DEQ who does Planning at this time and she is currently working with 19 other counties in the process of amending their Solid Waste Plan. Currently Clinton County's proposal to the Solid Waste Plan update is regarding import/export authorization. She stated if Clinton County wanted to add another county to the SW Plan that would be considered minor. She stated that substantial means adding something not related to the particular section of the Plan itself. Ms. Miller stated she has looked at the public comment emails that DWMN Neese has forwarded to her and noted limitations concerns; volumes would not be considered substantial since it's still in the same section. She stated that going above and beyond that section you are currently looking at would be substantial. She stated that requiring recycling of those 4 counties, the import/export table, is not something that is it not in there.

- Chairman Taylor asked if the SMWP Committee could chose additional requirements without relying on the Board of Commissioners to make that recommendation to the SWMP Committee.
- Ms. Miller stated it is the SWMP's prerogative and time for the SWMP Commission to make decisions/changes with the Clinton County Solid Waste Management Plan. She stated this is the time if the County wants a facility to expand, allow for additional counties, this is the time to look at what you want to do for the implementation for your county's solid waste management including recycling and composting. She stated if the County wanted to add recycling initiatives, you could start a second amendment process and take care of those issues and still pass this amendment forward. She stated that getting a committee together and people understanding what's going on is the hardest part.
- Member Lancour asked if it would be easier to start a second amendment as opposed to putting language into the current amendment such as the fees going into the Solid Waste Plan.
- Ms. Miller stated since you have a committee together and there were some issues brought up today and previous emails and the SWMP Committee should really be looking at this. She also stated that the law says that a county should update their Plan every 5 years and the department has failed on that part and the DEQ hasn't required counties to amend their Plans. She stated that all of the Plans are old and have been functioning as is. She emphasized that if the SWMP Committee wants to pursue additional amendments, now is the time to do that.
- Member Fair asked Ms. Miller if it would be substantially different from the import/export amendment before the SWMP Committee to require the 4 other counties to go into recycling. If not, what would be substantial?
- Ms. Miller stated that you could not add recycling for only the 4 counties being requested; it would have to be added to the other 20 counties that garbage is being taken from. She was also unsure if that would be substantial or not as there are county plans who have that requirement and others who authorize other requirements and others that are closed counties.
- Ms. Miller gave an example of something substantial would be to authorize the siting of an expansion to the Granger facility and this is completely different from an import/export table. Changing different sections (ordinances) is another example of a substantial change. Ms. Miller stated if you could insert the 4 counties into your current approved Plan, then they would be inserted.
- Member Lancour asked for clarification on the amendment at hand.
- Member Coss stated this can be a 2-prong request. The SWMP Committee can move forward with this amendment and request from Granger and if the SWMP Committee and/or BOC request that the County look at tipping fees or other items, there can be a second process or amendment.
- Member Spitzley was concerned about that process of an additional amendment and dragging this update out for too long.
- Ms. Miller stated there are many counties out there who take a long time to update their Solid Waste Plans.
- Chairman Taylor asked DWMC Neese how this group differs from the Solid Waste Council.
- DWMC Neese stated the SWC is a group of five (5) members that meets quarterly and discusses everything that is going on with the Department of Waste Management (DWM) as a whole. She explained they are a sounding board for the DWM and a checks and balance system for the department.
- Member Coss asked when the last amendment to the Solid Waste Plan took place.
- Ms. Miller stated there have not been any amendments since the October 2000 update to the Solid Waste Plan.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC COMMENT CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED PRIOR TO APRIL 30, 2015 PUBLIC HEARING:

A motion was made by Member Spitzley, supported by Member Lancour to approve the acceptance of Public Comment Correspondence Received Prior to Public Hearing and placed on file. Motion carried.

The following Public Comments were received prior to the Public Hearing via email or letter form:

Jane Dailey, 1726 Autumn Lane, Lansing, MI 48912:

- I live in the Grosebeck neighborhood. It is located at the intersection of 127 and Lake Lansing Road.
- This morning as I went out to get the morning paper, yet again, the air was foul with the methane released by Granger.
- Its typical with temperature changes, which are obviously very common in Michigan. It has become WORSE over the 5 years (Ive lived here 25)
- I like Granger as a rule. I don't have roadside pickup for recycle (Im in Lansing Township) so I take my items to their recycle bins on Wood street. Their work man are nice, the service is good and price seems reasonable.
- Ive called Granger and complained about the smell, they are nice but Im talking to some young person who is basically PR.
- Last year I SW the Clean air folks more than a couple times.
- Granger needs to get control of this smell before they expand their service.
- They already take trash from 21 other counties, why does a Lansing URBAN AREA have to be the storage point?
- If you lived here, which is about 1.5 miles from the site, and smelled this routinely, you'd understand
- Let them find somewhere away from HOMES to generate this stench.

Gerald H. De Voss, 9357 W. Grand River Highway, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

- This email is in regards to the proposed expansion of service area for Granger Landfills. I've been a neighbor of the Granger Grand River Landfill for close to 30 years. They are good neighbors and I believe they run a good landfill with the safety of the area in mind.
- Having said the above, I'm opposed to further expansion of their service area. I think Clinton County had borne more than it's share of being a landfill for Mid-Michigan area. I'm happy to hear that their business has declined given the recycling efforts. Perhaps, they need to consider moving their efforts more towards that area.
- Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments.

Tim Daman, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

- In the April 26 edition of the Lansing State Journal I noticed an article about the request Granger made to add four counties to their service area. I would like to encourage your support of this request.
- The greater Lansing region benefits from the landfill, recycling and renewable energy resources responsibly owned and operated by Granger. The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce supports businesses like Granger that are growing, investing and providing job opportunities in the Greater Lansing region.
- Granger should have the opportunity to create more family sustained jobs. They should have the opportunity to increase the amount of renewable energy available to businesses and residents served by the Lansing Board of Water and Light. Marketing and expanding their services to new areas creates these opportunities.
- A landfill, while not a popular land use, should be recognized as a regional resource. Thank you for your consideration.

Graham Filler, 12130 Airport Road, Dewitt, MI 48820:

- My name is Graham Filler, I am an attorney in Lansing with residence in Watertown Township. I am writing in support of Granger being allowed to provide service in multiple new counties and bring back waste to Clinton County. The new amendment will truly add no further burden on the citizens of Clinton County.
- No one enjoys landfills, but they are necessary for our state. Granger operates these landfills in a transparent manner and dealt effectively with an odor issue last year. Granger is a good community actor in the Clinton County area, sponsoring local events and giving back to the community. Their economic impact is a tremendous blessing: on top of Granger paying property taxes, they also employ numerous Granger employees living with their families in Clinton County.
- Thank you for your time. I know the devastating impact of businesses leaving Clinton County (see Lear Corp in Elsie) and I want to ensure our major employers feel welcome to do business in Clinton County.

Thomas Clay Hardenbergh, 4136 Hamlet Cove, Bath, MI 48808:

- Granger is a good company and a benefit to the community. Proper waste disposal is a must. However, I have two concerns about allowing the company to handle additional waste from four other counties.

- Clean air is uppermost. The stench from the landfill is awful. The wind carries it far from the landfill into residential neighborhoods, shopping centers, and parks. Doesn't the Clean Air Act have a provision about the responsibility of a company to control its odor emissions? In any case, it makes Granger a very bad neighbor at times. I think the expansion of Granger's operations should be made contingent on controlling its obnoxious odors.
- Second is concern about the waste-hauling trucks' impact on road surfaces and safety. The wear and tear on road surfaces caused by these heavy trucks is very evident. They arrive and leave in all directions using whatever road they want to. Fortunately, the roads adjacent to the landfill appear to have been built to withstand their weight. Wood Street and State Road are in good condition now. However, I am concerned that an increase in the number of trucks on them and connecting roads will decrease their life-span. I think the Clinton and Ingham County road commissions (or agency responsible) should be required to prepare an estimate of the increased cost to keep these roads in good condition to withstand the increased truck traffic. I think an entrance to the landfill from BR-127, either on Coleman Road or a new road south of Granger Meadows Lane should be considered. It should be a priority to minimize the increase in the number of trucks going to and from the landfill on Lake Lansing Rd, State Rd, and Wood Street.
- Granger landfill isn't far outside of the nearby communities anymore. The communities have grown out to meet it and are continuing to do so. Granger's desire to improve its bottom-line is commendable, but government must tell them there is a cost to do it. The quality of life in Lansing, East Lansing, Lansing Township, and DeWitt Township is very important to me. Business and government (i.e., we citizens) must pay the cost of maintaining it.

Leroy Harvey, 4440 DeCamp, Holt, MI 48842:

- Given the broad multi-partisan support for waste reduction and recycling in Michigan, I would suggest that any expansion of the landfill (usage, tonnage, area served, etc.) be contingent on expansion in recycling and related waste reduction efforts.
- To thoughtfully and creatively address this opportunity, I would strongly recommend a study of similar agreements in other parts of the U.S. that tie permits and landfill usage to sustainability goals set by the community. An example would be to require a minimum 20% recycling (by volume or weight) of any materials that would otherwise be landfilled (20% diversion rate). Thank you for considering these suggestions

Terry Link, 8767 Price Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848:

- Due to previous business commitments in Ann Arbor on Thursday afternoon, I will not be able to attend the hearing Thursday evening. Of course the committee has heard some of my concerns before some of which were reworked in the City Pulse column from two weeks ago. I believe that column gets at the essence of the decision points for the committee and commissioners. I would ask that the column be entered into the public record along with this note.
- Let me just synthesize a couple of points that underlie my concerns and that I would wish the decision makers – both the solid waste committee and the commissioners would consider.
- There are more options other than the one being offered by Granger. Not to explore them or search for additional ones is a disservice to the community they are representing.
- The object for the public good is to reduce waste. Granger or any landfill operator should not be punished because of it. Realigning policies that support waste reduction from cradle to grave is essential for government to fulfill its obligation to the public good.
- I would be glad to be part of group that attempts to find a solution that is in the public interest.

Terry Link, letter to the editor in City Pulse column:

- The long haul - Granger plan for transporting waste hurts the public good by Terry Link
- Recently Granger III & Associates, which run the Wood Street landfill, has requested Clinton County to amend the county's solid waste plan. The proposed amendment would allow Granger to collect and haul refuse from additional counties — Clare, Mecosta, Lenawee, and Hillsdale — even further away from their existing approved collection territory.
- This is certainly reasonable from the private interest perspective of the Granger business. It makes money from the hauling and the landfilling of the refuse. But I would remind the decision-makers in this process that county government should reflect the public good first and private gain only secondarily.
- In this case the request to move more trash a greater distance (the additional counties as measured from their county seats range from 70 to 120 miles from the landfill) is not in the public interest, clearly not environmentally. The discussion, especially given the growing concern from the scientific community of the threats from climate disruption and ecological unraveling, should follow the old Hippocratic maxim, "First, do no harm."
- This proposal harms the public good in several ways. By moving waste farther and farther from its point of origin, we unnecessarily add more greenhouse gases from the trucks to the already overburdened atmosphere. In addition, as we all know, the mantra of responsible solid waste is "reduce, reuse, recycle." There is nothing in this proposal that addresses or

attempts to improve any of those priorities of that well established practice. As such, it does not reduce waste but simply adds environmental burdens.

- But I like to go back to the responsibility of governmental bodies to protect, preserve and enhance the public good. The Granger company has been a reasonably good local steward of our landfill operation for more than 40 years. We need a landfill to safely dispose of unusable or unrecyclable materials while protecting our groundwater, atmosphere and land. The economic model on which many businesses and supportive policies are constructed is one of growth. In this case, the more refuse Granger can collect, haul, and bury, the better their economic bottom line. The now soon-to-be-retired old myth of MORE is BETTER, or unlimited economic growth (note the similarity to cancer cells), doesn't work anymore, and certainly not in terms of solid waste. By asking our community members to reduce, reuse and recycle, we're asking them to shrink waste hauling. Thus Granger wisely got involved in recycling and composting efforts and more recently with capturing the methane from the landfill for energy use.
- But it would seem from this proposal that Granger has hit the wall. Its only proposal is to simply ignore the solid waste trilogy as a way out. I believe it falls upon county officials to assist Granger, as a company with local roots and in good standing, by exploring other remedies to their "wall" that are more in line with the public good — i.e., reducing, reusing, and recycling. As a private citizen, I see no evidence that this tact has been explored with any sincere due diligence by either of the parties. The lack of imagination and collaboration to create something better is certainly disappointing to me, both as a former county commissioner and as someone with more than a little knowledge about solid waste and environmental issues.
- On a finite planet with a growing population, the simple math tells us we must reduce waste, including greenhouse gases. Doing so will require a different set of incentives if the work must bring some entities profit. Government officials are overdue in reviewing the rules of the game. There is plenty of room for creativity in finding solutions. Until some alternatives are offered, this proposal should be tabled and players should take this opportunity to explore — together with a committee of citizens, government officials, and Granger — possible alternatives which might benefit us all and the children and grandchildren we leave behind.

Gayle Miller, 9395 Taft Road, Ovid, MI 48866:

- My name is Gayle Miller. For eleven years, from 1990 to 2001, I worked for the Clinton County Department of Waste Management as Assistant and then Acting Solid Waste Management Coordinator. I have over 25 years of experience in solid waste and environmental policy making. I live in Ovid Township and now run my own small business. I'm writing because of my serious concern over Granger's request to expand their service territory.
- You will soon be deliberating Granger's request to modify the Clinton County Solid Waste Plan to add four more counties to the 20 counties that can already send trash to Clinton County for disposal. I urge you to read this letter and attached document and seriously consider the points I raise as you make this decision.
- Granger is a good company, and I believe that Granger is well suited to operate the two landfills that exist in Clinton County. Granger will surely profit from expanding their service territory. However, I believe that certain changes must be made to the Solid Waste Plan to protect Clinton County citizens before Granger's request is approved.
- In the following pages I lay out an argument for increasing the Solid Waste User Fee that Granger collects from its customers, and for modifications to the Solid Waste Plan that should be made before the County grants an expansion.
- Granger will, no doubt, oppose these recommendations. Their executives will claim that raising the User Fee will force them to raise their prices and that we, as customers, will pay more. But this is not necessarily the case. There are numerous scenarios possible that would benefit and protect Clinton County's interests, improve recycling and waste reduction in other areas of the state, and allow Granger to profit - without increasing costs to Clinton County residents.
- I put these issues to you as a former employee of the County, and as a Clinton County resident, business owner and taxpayer. Thank you for your consideration and thoughtful deliberation of this matter. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have, and am available by phone or email. I am also available to attend meetings if required.

Gayle Miller - Testimony handed out at Public Hearing:

- Local landfill owner Granger is requesting approval from Clinton County to add Clare, Hillsdale, Lenawee and Mecosta counties to the 20 counties already allowed to send trash to Granger's two Clinton County landfills for disposal. If approved, Granger could import an unlimited amount of waste from these additional four counties. Granger claims they need to increase their service territory to remain competitive.
- While it is in the interest of Clinton County government to do what they can to help specific local companies remain profitable, it is even more essential for County government to protect the interests of Clinton County residents, and the thousands of other businesses located here. It should be Clinton County's primary obligation to ensure that landfill space remains available for Clinton County's waste as economically as possible, for as long as possible. Allowing more counties to use Granger's landfill space will inevitably mean that space for our own waste will run out sooner.

- The addition of these counties requires an amendment of the County's Solid Waste Plan. Modifications to the Plan are time consuming and expensive and any changes should be considered permanent. The County Solid Waste Plan was first developed prior to 1990 – and has been modified very rarely since then. In conjunction with Granger's request, the County Solid Waste Plan should be updated now. It is possible that this is the only opportunity Clinton County will have to modernize its Solid Waste Plan for the next 20 years.
- Granger's request is not as simple as deciding whether or not they should be allowed to expand their service territory. It is a much more complex question of the improvements the County should adopt in its Plan in exchange for allowing Granger to expand. By striking the right balance, Granger can expand while meeting the needs and protecting the interests of Clinton County residents and businesses for the long term.
- Below are changes to the Solid Waste Plan that I believe are essential and should be made before Granger is allowed to expand.
- Increase the Landfill User Fee
- In 1989, Clinton County adopted its first Solid Waste Management Plan which requires all haulers to collect a \$0.25/cubic yard User Fee from customers, to be paid to the County for trash disposed of in Clinton County. The User Fee helps compensate the County for the unpleasant impacts of being "host" to two landfills. For more than 25 years this fee has helped implement local recycling programs, paid for special disposal programs, and financed critical waste reduction and environmental education programs in Clinton County.
- But inflation has eaten away at the User Fee so that it is now worth about \$.11 (less than half) compared to when it was first established. Because of this reduced funding, the Department of Waste Management has cut staffing by a third; scaled back education programs to help reduce waste; and popular waste reduction programs themselves (such as the Clean Community Events) are at risk - all to the detriment of Clinton County residents and businesses.
- The Department of Waste Management's fund balance is also shrinking. Due to an inadequate operating budget, the department will likely have to dip into the Fund Balance to cover programming costs in 2015. The fund balance was also reduced when approximately \$200,000 was taken to buy parkland a few years ago – a use I believe is inconsistent with the original intent of the User Fee's creation.
- With an adequate User Fee in place, the Clinton County Department of Waste Management can ramp back up to a fully funded department and an effective service provider.
- Recommendation: Modify the Solid Waste Plan to increase the User Fee to \$0.75/cubic yard, with annual inflationary adjustment. The Plan should also explicitly specify that User Fee funds are to be used only for activities associated with reducing and managing waste. The Planning Committee could also consider reducing the User Fee charged to Clinton County residents while increasing the User Fee charged to customers of other counties. In any case, the shrinking budget of the Department of Waste Management should not be allowed to continue.
- Establish Adequate Fund Balance & Emergency Fund
- Having a local landfill is both a blessing and a curse. Clinton County clearly benefits from the jobs and economic activity of the landfill business. We benefit by having a local place to dispose of our waste. And, as a community-minded company, Granger gives charitably and is involved in many aspects of Clinton County community life. But unlike most other businesses, landfills impose unique impacts on the communities where they exist.
- As a "host county" of two landfills, Clinton County faces real risks, tangible and intangible costs, and unpleasant side-effects of these operations. Granger's landfills are both well run and "state-of-the-art." But this does not mean that they don't have impacts and costs – which exist now (such as odors) and in the future (such as leaks).
- Odor complaints are common with any landfill operation. While Granger usually does a fairly good job with odor management, trash smells bad – that's a fact. Granger has been working for months to try and improve operations in order to control the odors. This will be a battle they will continue to fight for as long as the landfills are in operation. Simply put, two entire regions of Clinton County are likely to smell bad (sometimes it's worse and sometimes better) for decades to come.
- The aquifer that provides the water that all of us in Clinton County drink is in close proximity to millions of tons of buried waste in Granger's two landfills. Should Granger's landfill liners leak, their water filtration system malfunction, or some other natural disaster occurs that compromises the landfills' integrity and their protection systems, our water is at risk.
- Traffic, dust and blowing trash are also concerns to nearby residents of the landfills. Property values near the landfill are likely lower. No-one spends top dollar for a house within the odor footprint of a landfill.
- Finally, while hopefully rare, major disasters do occur. Granger surely has prevention and mitigation plans in place. But whether it's a tornado, a rare earthquake, or a landfill fire, Clinton County residents face issues and dangers that communities without landfills do not have to worry about.
- The Department of Waste Management's Fund Balance is vastly inadequate to help county residents deal with any of the above scenarios if Granger can't. If, for example, Granger had a catastrophic failure in their wastewater treatment system and then went bankrupt, how much money would Clinton County need to purchase bottled water for DeWitt and Watertown Township residents indefinitely? If Granger had a bad landfill fire like the ones in Hamilton or Stark Counties in Ohio, would enough

money be available to help nearby residents relocate? What would be the cost in air pollution to nearby neighbors? Landfill fires are common – according to Waste Management World there are about 8,300 landfill fires in the US per year. They can burn for a very long time.

- Recommendation: Modify the Solid Waste Plan to create a comfortable fund balance that would be available to assist County residents in case of a landfill disaster. A fund of this sort would be raised by the increased User Fee. The fund balance should be used only for projects directly related to waste reduction and recycling in Clinton County. The emergency fund should be reserved for use only in the case of an emergency.
- Require Meaningful Reciprocal Agreements
- The space available in a landfill development is finite. Vertical and horizontal expansions are possible, but the two Clinton County landfills are ultimately restricted by developed property surrounding the landfills. Significant expansions to these landfills will be expensive, lengthy and controversial.
- According to the current Solid Waste Plan, counties sending their trash to Clinton County have agreed to reciprocate in the future -- to take our trash if and when they ever site a landfill in their counties. Yet, according to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, none of the four counties under consideration are planning to build landfills. It is extremely unlikely that they will ever build landfills.
- If Granger's request is granted, Clinton County will give up irreplaceable landfill space to counties that have no real obligation to reciprocate when the time comes. Only counties that have existing landfills or those that are in the process of building or expanding a landfill should be allowed to send waste to Clinton County.
- Recommendation: Modify the Solid Waste Plan to ensure that real landfill space is available for Clinton County residents when that need arises. Counties that do not have a landfill now should not be allowed to send waste to Clinton County. The County should take a very long-term view of this issue – 50-75 years at least.
- Require Exporting Counties to Reduce Their Waste
- Clinton County has very good waste reduction and recycling programs available to residents. Yet some of the counties that send their waste to Clinton County do nothing to reduce waste. Clinton County works hard to reduce waste and recycle specifically to extend the life of our existing landfill space and reduce the amount of harmful chemicals buried there. Why would we allow other counties to send their waste here if they've done NOTHING to reduce their own waste?
- As documented on Governor Snyder's Environmental Dashboard, of the four counties Granger wants to add to their service territory, only Clare County has even the most basic waste reduction and recycling services available. Hillsdale, Lenawee and Mecosta Counties have little available to help their residents reduce waste.
- Available landfill space is at a premium. The DEQ recently reported that Michigan landfills have approximately 26 years of capacity available before they have to start expanding existing landfills or building new ones, which will be extraordinarily expensive.
- Recommendation: Modify the Solid Waste Plan to allow only those counties that have comprehensive and convenient waste reduction and recycling programs in place to send their waste to Clinton County landfills.
- Require Granger to help Customers Reduce Waste
- There are many ways to encourage people to participate in recycling, but "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) programs are one of the most effective. Ideally, PAYT programs should be the norm, rather than the exception – the more you throw away, the more you pay. However, most of today's Cart/Container programs fail to reward waste reduction, composting and recycling. One or two cart sizes are generally available and customers can squeeze as much as they want into each container without paying any more.
- Granger currently offers an optional PAYT service by allowing residents to pay "by the bag" for their trash disposal. This is a very good deal for those of us who aggressively reduce our waste. But there is limited participation, primarily because it isn't promoted. The County should require Granger to offer and aggressively promote a PAYT trash collection option to customers in Clinton County and all counties that send their waste to Clinton County.
- In addition, Granger should offer convenient recycling services to their out-of-county customers. For example, if Lenawee County doesn't have convenient recycling programs for their residents, Granger could only service their trash customers if they also provide free or low-cost drop-off or curbside recycling services. Granger should not be allowed to cherry pick profitable trash contracts without also offering recycling services.
- Recommendation: Modify the Solid Waste Plan to require Granger to offer and aggressively promote PAYT programs to all customers, coupled with free or low-cost recycling services to customers that don't otherwise have access to effective waste reduction programs.
- Conclusion
- Environmentally, it makes little sense to transport waste here from distant counties when closer landfills are available. The transport of waste should be avoided completely if at all possible. However, given the fact that the County is likely to approve Granger's request anyway, it is in the County's best interests to update the Solid Waste Plan as recommended above.

- Granger is a good company and we are lucky to have them operating the landfills in Clinton County. It is also a very profitable company. Granger executives will not like these recommendations. However, Clinton County officials must look beyond what Granger wants for the short term and consider what is best for Clinton County citizens in the long term.
- In summary, the Solid Waste Planning Committee, the Solid Waste Council and the County Board of Commissioners should amend the Solid Waste Plan to:
 - Increase the User Fee established in 1989 from \$0.25/CY to \$0.75/CY.
 - Create an adequate fund balance and emergency fund using the User Fee.
 - Require meaningful reciprocal agreements with counties sending their waste to Clinton County.
 - Require counties that send their waste to Clinton County landfills to have adequate waste reduction programs of their own.
 - Require Granger to offer waste reduction programs such as Pay-As-You-Throw and curbside recycling services to customers in counties whose waste they want to dispose of in Clinton County.
 - Finally, Granger's request should open the door to further and more deliberate discussions about how our county -- and counties Granger wishes to operate in -- can move forward toward zero waste. Endless scenarios are possible that would allow Granger to get what it wants while protecting the interests of Clinton County -- and ultimately benefiting the environment in every county where Granger operates

Paul Opsommer, 315 East Main Street, Dewitt, MI 48820:

- Thank you for your service to our county and your consideration of the request from Granger to add four counties to the solid waste plan. I am writing to encourage your support of the proposed amendment.
- We are fortunate to have this responsible, family-owned company operating in our county. Granger provides jobs for residents of the greater region, environmental stewardship with their recycling and renewable energy programs and corporate philanthropy that benefits numerous charitable organizations. I would like to continue to see Granger prosper as their success benefits our county and the entire region.
- I have had the opportunity to visit and tour the Granger facilities on a number of occasions. They operate in a manner that exceeds regulatory requirements. They have high safety standards. They have demonstrated, numerous times, their commitment to serving the interests of the community and minimizing nuisance from a type of operation that can often be a concern.

Dave Pfaff, 12167 Airport Road, Dewitt, MI 48820:

- Each county or specific area should be responsible for the waste created there. This could be an incentive for waste reduction. Recycling is an inefficient, and in the whole, uneconomical, 'feel good' system. The entire waste stream has increased greatly over the years. There is currently no incentive to reduce waste. Perhaps with a 'if you make it, you handle it' system, changes would be made.
- My opinion, don't approve the changes Granger is requesting.

Stephen Serkaian, Executive Director, Lansing Board of Water & Light:

- In 2008, the Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) partnered with Granger to bring renewable energy to residents in the greater Lansing area. As trash deposited in the Granger Clinton County landfills decomposes it produces landfill gas. Engine generators at the Granger Wood Road Generating Station in Lansing produce renewable energy from landfill gas for the BWL. The station has seven engines with the capacity to generate enough power for about 10,000 homes in the BWL service territory. BWL also receives landfill-generated renewable energy from the Granger Grand River Generating Station in Grand Ledge. Combined, the stations can produce enough power for nearly 14,000 homes.
- Through this partnership, both the BWL and Granger have helped to reduce emissions of methane and decrease the need to generate energy from fossil fuels. In addition, the partnership has helped to create jobs associated with the design, construction and operation of energy recovery systems.
- As you consider the request by Granger to add to their service territory we hope you will keep these valuable renewable energy benefits in mind. Support for this request means more renewable energy and more jobs in the mid-Michigan region.

David Stewart, 12595 Wood Road, Dewitt, MI 48820:

- (see Attachment)

Tony Webster, 13063 Hide Away Lane, Dewitt, MI 48820:

- I am not in favor of granting Granger the right to haul trash into our area from four additional counties. Please do not approve the request. Thank you.

Chairman Taylor stated the Public Hearing has closed, however, he will allow the public a quick opportunity to make any last comments or if anyone has questions at this time limit them to 1 ½ minutes.

Bettina Brander, 1537 Valley View, Lansing, MI 48906:

- Ms. Brander asked if this information and minutes will be on the Clinton County's website and DWMC Neese gave her the following information www.Clinton-County.org and it will be placed under the Department of Waste Management. Ms. Brander felt if this Public Hearing was advertised better, there would have been a larger crowd in attendance this evening.
- DWMC Neese advised her that this was posted on the Clinton County website and Facebook page, Lansing State Journal, Dewitt/Bath Review, and Clinton County News.

Chairman Taylor stated that the SWMP Commission has met all of the requirements as far as public notices in the newspaper as well as an article.

Gayle Miller, 9395 Taft Road, Ovid, MI 48866:

- Ms. Miller recommended that the SWMP Committee should use the Plan Amendment process as a negotiating process. She stated the only way that the SWMP Committee will be able to accomplish any major update to the Solid Waste Management Plan, and Ms. Miller stated that Granger does not like the idea of an increase in their user fee, is to withhold the 4 county expansion until the SWMP gets to a point where you can use it as a bargaining chip. Ms. Miller's recommendation is not to do it as a 2 part amendment but as one package as this 2 part amendment will also drive the local municipalities crazy.

Jane Dailey, 17206 Autumn Lane, Lansing, MI (Lansing Township):

- Ms. Dailey asked if there will be another public avenue for people to comment on this process and asked what other avenues she can go to regarding the air quality.
- DWMC Neese informed Ms. Dailey that Lansing Township has been included in all correspondence regarding this Plan Update and she can contact them with any questions or concerns. The Department of Environmental Quality can also be contacted regarding the air quality.

Chairman Taylor stated the next agenda item is to decide the next meeting. He stated, in addition, there are multiple opportunities for the public to speak. Individuals are encouraged to speak at the County Finance & Personnel meeting and Board of Commissioner's meeting.

Christina Miller also stated that citizens can go to the local municipality meetings where this will be voted on by local boards.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

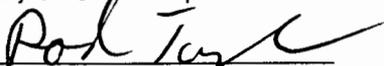
7. NEXT MEETING DATE

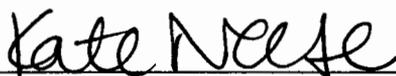
Chairman Taylor stated that the next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, May 7th, however there are several board members unable to attend that Board meeting. That being the case, he asked if the week of May 11th – 15th would be available for all SWMP Commission members. He also stated there were a couple of comments regarding the time of the today's meeting being difficult to attend. DWMC stated that the next meeting may need to be held in the First Floor conference room due to the Board of Commissioner's Room being booked that night. She will post all of this information on the County Website as well as the County Facebook page. It will also be advertised in the Lansing State Journal, Clinton County News & Dewitt/Bath Review.

A motion was made by Member Lancour, supported by Member Fair to set the next meeting for Thursday, May 15th @ 6:00 pm. Motion carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, ***it was moved by Member Fair, supported by Member Coss adjourn. Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.


Rod Taylor, Chairman


Kate Neese, Waste Management Coordinator


Therese Koenigskecht, Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT

Clinton County Dept of waste

Re Granger Expansion

The question here is NOT if Granger has room for more waste, But the environment impact. The trucks that are very heavy compacted will only cause excessive congestion with traffic

The traffic on Wood Rd is a ~~big~~ Big Problem. Unless restricted they will take the closest Route Wood Rd.

The Impact Study should be Done By the State.

Any decision should be done with the input by ^{Clarys} Wood Rd home owners. Check out the stopping distance. The State web ~~stat~~ site says with large trucks the Reaction time is 75 feet and stopping distance is over 200 ft at 55 mph.

Was it intentional that the only notice to the public was 4-days?

David Stewart
12595 Wood Rd
Dewitt, MI 517-505-0266

Further More. Granger should not
of expanded the Capacity for fill
if there slow down is real.

Four Days Notice and holding
the Meeting when Most people are leaving
work and can't attend is another factor
of Not informing the Public.

This is not in the Best interest of the Public

copies to Dewitt townships Hand Deliver

Police Chief Russel Hand Deliver

Supervisor Rucker Galardi Hand Deliver

Township Mgr Rod Taylor Hand Deliver

Rep Leonard E-Mail & Tom Leonard@
house.mi.gov