

Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

1/23/2023; 11:00 AM

Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center
4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Best, Auth, Sirls, Tanghe, Stumbo, Mason, Colvin-Garcia, Wessler

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Eggermont, Porta

Attorney:

Members of the public present: Chantell LaForest, Sean Adams, Mark Perry, Kevin Shipman

Best called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

Roll Call

Ann Arbor Township: Present/Colvin-Garcia

Pittsfield Township: Present/Best

Scio Township: Present/Auth

Ypsilanti Township: Present/Stumbo

City of Dexter: Present/Tanghe

City of Saline: Present/Sirls

City of Ypsilanti: Present/Wessler

City of Ann Arbor: Present/Mason

Introductions

Brenda Stumbo was introduced as the new delegate for Ypsilanti Township.

Organization

Elections

Chair

Motion to reelect Matt Best as chair moved by Stumbo. Seconded by Sirls. All in favor.

Motion carries.

Vice Chair

Auth expressed he thought a municipal employee should fill the Vice Chair role. Motion to elect Mason as Vice Chair moved by Mason. Seconded by Colvin-Garcia. All in favor.

Motion carries.

Wessler joined at 11:09 AM

Secretary

Motion to elect Colvin-Garcia as Secretary moved by Sirls. Seconded by Wessler. All in favor. Motion carries.

2023 Calendar meeting schedule

Eggermont proposed the board continue to meet on the third Monday of the month at 11 a.m., with the exception of moving December to the second Monday due to holidays. Motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates moved by Wessler, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. Motion carries.

Approval of agenda for 1/23 meeting

Motion to approve agenda without amendment moved by Stumbo, seconded by Wessler. All in favor. Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes

12/12/2022 Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve minutes without amendment moved by Stumbo, seconded by Tanghe. All in favor. Motion carries.

Unfinished Business

RFP

Best stated that the communities that still have questions about whether they are interested or not in participating in the collaborative contract need to get meeting dates to Davis so he can present to their board. Wessler noted that the City of Ypsilanti would like a presentation. Sirls shared that he discussed the collaborative contract with Saline's City Manager, and they seem very interested in committing. Sirls added that the Saline Environmental Commission and the Parks and Recreation members will be speaking in support of the collaborative contract at the February council meeting. Eggermont noted that Davis presented to the City of Dexter on January 9th and the recording is available to watch online.

Grant/Survey Follow Up

Review key outcomes

Porta reviewed the key outcomes from the recycling participation survey and noted that the next steps are to collect more information on what items are accepted in curbside recycling and what the materials get recycled into. Porta noted that communication and collaboration with the MRF will be important to improve the current tools that WRRMA has, such as the Waste Wizard search tool online, and to develop additional content and messaging.

Request WRRMA member input on outreach avenues to their residents

Porta asked the board for input on how to successfully reach residents in their communities and suggested thinking about past information campaigns their community has done that was successful. Tanghe shared that Dexter ran a successful community survey by creating as many contact points as possible with postcards sent to every household, social media posts, email newsletters, information at the front desks of city offices, and continuing to repeat the information. Stumbo suggested that stickers on the recycling bins showing the recycling guidelines would be helpful. Best shared that the stickers on the carts in Pittsfield Township are on the underside of the lid, which has worked very well. Mason shared that Ann Arbor recently added stickers to their recycling carts with a focus on the items that have strong recycling markets and are unlikely to change. Mason noted that getting the actual stickers on the carts was very laborious and they ended up mailing them out to residents. Perry pointed out that clarification is needed between the differences in the acceptable and unacceptable lists that local jurisdictions and haulers put out. Eggermont shared that the goal is to have the same messaging and we will be focusing on the most commonly accepted items and issues that are universal between MRFs.

Eggermont shared another grant-related update that The Recycling Partnership opened a new grant opportunity similar to the previous grant but targeted at multi-family units and asked if members have interest in looking further into this program. Board members discussed how multi-family units have higher contamination and present different challenges in terms of recycling infrastructure and education compared to single-family. Best asked the board if they would like county staff on behalf of WRRMA to apply for the grant, with the understanding that the group does not have to necessarily move forward with it even if they get approved for funding. Stumbo responded that she would like to see the application first and what it requires of communities to do. Sirls asked if there was an upcoming deadline to apply. Eggermont responded no and that the RFP just came out and he can share that. Best noted that if the board is interested, they can agree to move forward, and the first step would be to provide the RFP.

As more information is needed to decide on moving forward, the Board is interested in hearing more about the program. Eggermont will follow up with more information and the Board will revisit it at the next meeting.

New Business

Reports and Updates

Drop Off Station

Mason provided an update on the Drop Off Station project that the City of Ann Arbor received an EGLE grant for. RRS was hired to complete the site design and engineering. The project now has three design concepts and is preparing to begin engagement sessions, starting with stakeholders that have a vested interest because they have knowledge of the industry, or their residents may be using the facility. A public engagement session will be held following the stakeholder session. Board members will receive an email this week inviting them to provide feedback on the three site designs online and to attend a virtual engagement session in February. Ultimately, the plan will go to the Pittsfield Township Planning Commission, which is currently anticipated to be in the spring. The goal is to have construction beginning this summer and the facility opening next summer or fall. Perry asked what the proposed ownership and operational structure is. Mason responded that is still in conversation and needs to be finalized.

Part 115

Eggermont presented to the Board of Commissioners the Part 115 updates. Eggermont will send out the presentation link, noting there are still a lot of unknowns with the law. The County will now have to create a Materials Management Plan instead of a Solid Waste Management Plan starting next year, with the new focus being on recycling and recovery rather than the previous focus of having enough landfill disposal capacity.

Invoices

Motion to approve the Davis invoice for \$451.87 motioned by Wessler, seconded by Tanghe. All in favor. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the Washtenaw County invoice for \$2,935.10 motioned by Wessler, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. Motion carries.

Next Steps

Eggermont shared an activity idea for board members to bring five items they are unsure about being recyclable or not in curbside recycling and have their questions answered by the MRF. Eggermont noted that if RAA is not available in February, it could be at a later meeting.

Communities that have stickers on their recycling bins sticker are asked to bring an example to the next meeting. Eggermont will follow up with Davis for scheduling presentations. Eggermont will gather more information about the multi-family unit grant. Mason will send an email to the Board with an invitation to give feedback on the new regional Drop Off Station.

Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Wessler, seconded by Tanghe. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Minutes prepared by Angela Porta

Minutes approved by:


Secretary

Minutes approved by:


Chair