

Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

1/27/2020; 1:00 PM

Pittsfield Charter Township Hall
6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Lyon (Pittsfield Charter Township), Auth (Scio Township), Fordice (City of Saline), Nicholls (City of Dexter), Akers (City of Ypsilanti), Perry (Scio Township), Billy Weirich (Pittsfield Charter Township), Mandy Grewal (Pittsfield Charter Township), DiPietro (Ann Arbor Township)

Members Absent: Simmons (excused), Stanfield (excused), Stumbo (unexcused)

Washtenaw County Staff Present: Eggermont, Garramone

Members of the public present: Cresson Slotten

Lyon called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM

Roll Call

Ann Arbor Township: DiPietro

Pittsfield Township: Lyon/Weirich

Scio Township: Auth

Ypsilanti Township: Absent

City of Dexter: Nicholls

City of Saline: Fordice

City of Ypsilanti: Absent/Akers present at 1:12 PM

Lyon is stepping down from his role at Pittsfield Charter Township and Billy Weirich is replacing him as WRRMA delegate

Public Comment

None

Approval of agenda for 1/27 meeting

- Motion to approve as written moved by Auth, seconded by Fordice. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

12/16/2019 Meeting Minutes Approval

- Motion to approve as written moved by Auth, seconded by Nicholls. All in favor.

Unfinished Business: Ann Arbor Membership Potential Discussion

- Auth and Perry have talked with Scio board supervisor and thinks it logically makes sense, will need to figure out how voting would work with Ann Arbor down the line, but that can be resolved later.
- Slotten updated the group that Administrator Lazarus brought a memo to City Council requesting that they approve joining WRRMA. Slotten is unsure of the result or if there was time for council to review the topic. The City of Ann Arbor is still in negotiations with Recycle Ann Arbor to create a contract on reopening the MRF.
- Motion to receive and file moved by DiPietro, seconded by Fordice. All in favor.

New Business

Board Elections

Lyon is leaving his position with Pittsfield Charter Township, and as such can no longer be chair.

- Nomination of Akers for Chair moved by Grewal, seconded by DiPietro. All in favor.
- Nomination of Fordice for Vice Chair moved by auth, seconded by Grewal. All in favor.
- Nomination of DiPietro for Secretary/Treasurer moved by Grewal, seconded by Auth. All in favor.

Approval of 2020 Calendar

- The Board reviewed the proposed 2020 calendar and concurred that the third Monday of the month is still a good date to hold regular meetings.
- Akers proposes moving the February meeting back a week to 2/24 to avoid holiday conflict.
- Eggermont suggests holding the December earlier by a week to 12/14 to avoid being close to holidays, in addition to complying with the articles that indicate delegate and alternate agreements are needed by 12/15.
- Motion to approve 2020 calendar as amended moved by Fordice, seconded by Auth. All in favor.

Website Review

- Garramone presented the draft website for WRRMA. The primary purpose of the website at this point is to tell people who we are and what we're trying to do, in addition to posting meeting information to comply with the Open Meetings Act.
- Eggermont explains that the site is deferring to local municipalities' sites to let people know what they should do with their recycling. Fordice mentions that somewhere down the road, the municipalities would link to WRRMA to let people know how to recycle.
- DiPietro suggests the group should refine its outward-facing focus to just include quality of recyclables.
- Motion to receive and file moved by DiPietro, seconded by Auth. All in favor.

EGLE Recycling Grant

- Eggermont presented on the Recycling Quality Improvement grant through EGLE and The Recycling Partnership (TRP). EGLE is the grant funder, while TRP is the program creator and manager.
- TRP's "Feet on the Street" Program reduces contamination by sending out recycling information, providing curbside feedback through a tagging system, and recording pre- and post-program metrics through a sorting process. Communities that reject recycling carts with contamination see a 20% larger reduction in contamination than those that cannot reject carts.
- Eggermont highly advises WRRMA to apply for the grant.
- WRRMA would have 18 months from June to complete the program, and could work through a few municipalities at a time over that period. Funding is provided for 50,000 households. WRRMA may be slightly more than 50,000. Eggermont suggests applying for the county's Waste Reduction Sponsorship for matching funds to be able to expand to all WRRMA households.
- Perry suggests a key talking point and information document would be helpful for municipalities who may field calls from residents.
- DiPietro asked if communities could offer a token amount of monetary support to the application. Eggermont and Grewal agree it would assist the application in gaining approval.
- Eggermont will request number of households from each municipality, create grant application, and will contact individually to see if willing to reject carts.
- Motion to have Washtenaw county move forwards in completing grand application by Grewal, seconded by Nicholls. All in favor.

Reports

- Perry and Auth recapped the tour of the SOCCRA MRF and found it very educational.
- Auth expressed surprised over the simplicity of the sorting technology, recalled high employee turnover due to the difficulty of the work, and explained that SOCCRRA's workforce is contracted out.
- Eggermont mentioned the SOCCRRA managers have seen recycling markets stabilize and are no longer declining.

- Perry suggests additional trips for the group would be educational and would like to see WWRA's MRF.
- Motion to receive and file moved by Fordice, second by Auth. All in favor.

Next Steps

None.

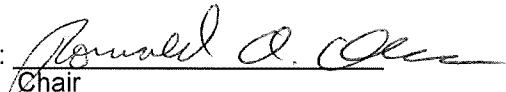
Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items*

None

Motion to adjourn the meeting: moved by DiPietro, seconded by Auth. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Isabella Garramone

Minutes approved by: 
Secretary

Minutes approved by: 
Chair

