

Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

10/16/2023; 11:00 AM

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

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Eggermont, Wright

Attorney: Davis

Members of the public present: Sean Adams (Recycle Ann Arbor), Bryan Ukena (Recycle Ann Arbor)

Best called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

Roll Call

Ann Arbor Township: Present/Colvin-Garcia

Pittsfield Township: Present/Best

Scio Township: Present/Auth

Ypsilanti Township: Present/Hines

City of Dexter: Present/Tanghe

City of Saline: Present/Sirls

City of Ypsilanti: Present/Wessler

City of Ann Arbor: Present/Mason

Approval of agenda for 10/16/2023 meeting

Motion to approve agenda with amendment to shift item 4 after item 9 and for 4(a) to be in a closed session under MCL 15.268(h) for the reason of contract legal strategy moved by Best, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes

9/18/2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

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

New Business

Draft Budget for Comment

Eggermont shared the draft budget for comment, which will be sent by the end of the month to municipal clerks and WRRMA board members requesting it be approved by their legislative body. The WRRMA board will vote to approve the budget for the following year at its December meeting. Auth asked if \$11,000 is the anticipated cost for the RFP and how much WRRMA has in reserves. Davis responded that the anticipated costs seem accurate and noted there will be further discussion about WRRMA revenue in the RFP discussion.

Motion to receive and file the draft budget moved by Sirls, seconded by Tanghe. All in favor. Motion carries.

Draft Summary of Activities for Comment

Eggermont shared the draft summary of activities for comment, highlighting WRRMA continued to finalize grants, audit results, survey takeaways, collaborative RFP, and educational initiatives. Auth requested clarification be added to the "collaborative contract" to differentiate the members who are participating from those who are not, including who is expected to pay for it.

Motion to receive and file the draft summary of activities moved by Mason, seconded by Tanghe. All in favor. Motion carries.

Reports and Updates

Member Reports

Replacement Drop-Off Station Update - Sarah Mason

Mason updated that the City is holding on submitting plans for approval to Pittsfield Township until they have more information on the long-term operation and maintenance of the facility. The city is meeting regularly with Recycle Ann Arbor to negotiate that agreement, however, nothing final has been decided at this time. The city has also brought in an engineering consultant to work on a long-term financial model.

Other

None.

Washtenaw County Updates- Theo Eggermont and Angela Porta

Eggermont updated that the state passed legislation last year that will require counties to pass a new Materials Management Plan, formerly the Solid Waste Plan. Currently waiting for the state to send notice to initiate that process. After the plan has been approved by the planning committee, it will be sent to the local municipalities for their approval. The plan needs to be approved by two-thirds of municipalities that consider it to be sent to the state for approval. Eggermont noted that there will be the opportunity to apply through the ~~BOC~~ ^{Board of Commissioners} to participate in the planning committee as there is one seat for a township and one for a city.

Eggermont shared that the past Saturday event at the Home Toxics Center was very busy. That site has been closed on weekdays because it needs additional safety equipment that a contractor can bring on Saturdays. Saturday events end in November. The new Household Hazardous Waste Center opened on October 3 and takes weekday appointments throughout the year.

Wright shared that she and Eggermont toured the new GFL materials recovery facility in Pontiac and noted that they process 300-400 tons of material daily with a 20-30 ton residual rate each day and send their sorted glass to Chicago for recycling.

Invoices

Motion to approve the Davis invoice for \$2,220.00 and the County invoice for \$3,007.56 motioned by Wessler, seconded by Mason.

Upon a vote to approve the Davis invoice and County invoice, the vote was:

YES: Best, Tanghe, Auth, Mason, Hines, Sirls, Wessler, Colvin-Garcia

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

The motion passes.

Next Steps

Board members will send updates for the draft budget and draft summary to Eggermont by next Monday, October 23. Eggermont will send the draft documents by the end of the month to the municipal clerks. Davis is following up about the WRRMA tax-exemption question with a tax attorney.

Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items

Bryan Ukena (Recycle Ann Arbor CEO) shared that RAA was part of the original discussions of the formation of the authority and continues to be a supporter of the authority. Ukena noted that he understands there was some offense taken by comments made at the past meeting by members of RAA and that was not the intent of the comments. He added that they continue to be supportive of the authority and the prior comments related to the RFP were strictly related to what RAA has seen in the industry and the best practices to be successful.

Unfinished Business

Davis updates and edits

Motion to enter a closed session to discuss contracted legal strategy under MCL 15.268(h) moved by Best, seconded by Colvin-Garcia.

Upon a vote to move into a closed session, the vote was:

YES: Best, Tanghe, Auth, Mason, Hines, Sirls, Wessler, Colvin-Garcia

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

The motion passes.

The WRRMA Board went into closed session.

Motion to move forward with the strategy developed in the closed session regarding the RFP process as discussed moved by Best, Seconded by Wessler. All in favor. Motion carries.

Structure of staff

Davis shared that part of the benefit of the collaborative contract is having WRRMA staff that administers the contract so that municipalities are not burdened with all the contract handlings. Davis added that the main job duties are a function of accounting and contract administration, which can be two or more people. Eggermont shared that the level of support the county can provide is assisting with the hiring process and the board should discuss ending the fiduciary agreement with the county.

Revenue structure to support WRRMA

Best noted that if WRRMA is staffed as its own entity, costs will go up for members because current staffing from the county is subsidized. Best suggested there would be a base rate for membership and additional fees for those participating in the contract based on their municipality's services. The board discussed various ways to generate revenue such as the proposed rebate on payments in the RFP and membership dues. Best asked the board to continue to think about funding options and staffing models for WRRMA.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Wessler, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Angela Wright

Minutes approved by:


Secretary

Minutes approved by:


Chair