

Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

2/27/2023; 11:00 AM

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

Members Present: Best, Mason, Wessler, Auth, Colvin-Garcia, Stumbo
Members Absent:
Staff Present: Eggermont, Porta, Pratt
Attorney:
Members of the public present: Sean Adams

Best called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.

Roll Call

Ann Arbor Township: Present/Colvin-Garcia
Pittsfield Township: Present/Best
Scio Township: Present/Auth
Ypsilanti Township: Present/Stumbo
City of Dexter: Not Present/Tanghe
City of Saline: Not Present/Sirls
City of Ypsilanti: Present/Wessler
City of Ann Arbor: Present/Mason

Approval of agenda for the 2/27 meeting

Motion to approve agenda without amendment moved by Auth, seconded by Wessler. All in favor. *The motion passes.*

Approval of Minutes

1/23/2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve without amendment moved by Auth, seconded by Wessler. All in favor. *The motion passes.*

Unfinished Business

What is recyclable presentation and activity with Recycle Ann Arbor

As a follow-up to the recycling survey results that indicated residents want more information on what is recyclable, board members brought items to the meeting for a discussion on whether the items are acceptable in curbside recycling or not. Eggermont welcomed Sean Adams from Recycle Ann Arbor to go through the items and answer questions. Adams explained how the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) machinery and staff work to sort materials by type. The facility has an overall contamination rate under 15%, meaning of all the material that is brought to the facility for sorting, less than 15% of the total weight comes out as residual waste at the end. When it comes to what items are acceptable, a key point to keep in mind is that MRFs are designed to recover common household papers and product containers. Highlights from the discussion included understanding that the MRF machinery separates 2-dimensional items from 3-dimensional items, size plays in factor in whether items can be properly recovered and sorted, and the biggest issues that the MRF faces are plastic bags and food waste. Auth suggested that the Waste Wizard be checked for accurate information and images. While many items were clarified during the activity, the board was reminded that when in doubt, throw the item out.

Audit update

Eggermont provided an update that the recycling audit to identify the contamination rate and material composition for WFRMA communities, except for the City of Ann Arbor, is beginning today. The overall cost of the audit is \$25,000 and WFRMA has a little over \$20,000 remaining

in grant funds. Eggermont requested authorization from the board to spend up to \$5,500 of WRRMA funds toward the audit.

Motion to authorize spending up to \$5,500 for the audit moved by Auth, seconded by Wessler. Upon a vote for the authorization of up to \$5,500 for the audit, the vote was:

YES: Colvin-Garcia, Best, Auth, Stumbo, Wessler, Mason

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passes.

Multifamily grant discussion

Eggermont shared that he spoke with The Recycling Partnership grant coordinator about the multi-family recycling education grant and learned that grantees typically need 50-60% of the program budget for staff time. Eggermont is not recommending WRRMA apply for this grant because the staff time required isn't feasible with the current arrangement.

New Business

Contract with Washtenaw County (Proposed Contract Attached)

Best shared the proposed contract and noted that it is very similar to the current one but has a couple of changes. Eggermont noted the two changes in the proposed contract from the current contract are the term and an addition stating that if the county needs additional direction between meetings they can communicate with the Chair for authorization. Auth pointed out that "their attorney" should be "its attorney" in Attachment A, Background section, paragraph two.

Motion to approve the Washtenaw County contract moved by Colvin-Garcia, seconded by Stumbo.

Mason asked for clarification that administrative support includes grant support. Eggermont responded yes.

Upon a vote to approve the contract with Washtenaw County, the vote was:

YES: Colvin-Garcia, Best, Auth, Stumbo, Mason

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passes.

Reports and Updates

Financial Update

Eggermont shared the year-end financial totals and explained the reasoning for the differences between the budget and actual year-end numbers related to the grant.

Member Updates

Best shared that the City of Ann Arbor will be presenting the Drop-Off Station site concepts to the Pittsfield Township Planning Commission on Thursday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. and the commission will be providing feedback. Interested board members are welcome to attend.

Invoices

Motion to approve the Davis invoice for \$337.50 invoice motioned by Auth, seconded by Colvin-Garcia. All in favor. *The motion passes.*

Next Steps

The county will continue to work on the next steps for education to get more recycling information to residents. Best will check on whether the board needs to do a roll call vote for

every action. Eggermont will work with Davis to schedule presentations to the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township on the collaborative RFP.

Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Auth, seconded by Mason. All in favor. *The motion passes.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:36 PM.

Minutes prepared by Angela Porta

Minutes approved by: *Angela Porta* (Vice chair)
Secretary

Minutes approved by: *M. Mason*
Chair