

Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

4/17/2023; 11:00 AM

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

Members Present: Best, Auth, Stumbo, Tanghe, Sirls, Mason, Wessler

Members Absent: Colvin-Garcia

Staff Present: Eggermont, Porta

Attorney:

Members of the public present: Sean Adams

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

Roll Call

Ann Arbor Township: Not Present

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

Approval of agenda for 4/17 meeting

Motion to approve agenda without amendment moved by Stumbo, seconded by Tanghe. All in favor. The motion passes.

Approval of Minutes

2/27/2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve without amendment moved by Sirls, seconded by Mason. All in favor. The motion passes.

Unfinished Business

Audit Results

Eggermont shared the results from the recycling materials audit, noting there were fewer samples in this audit compared to previous audits. Eggermont indicated that the methodology for the audit was different as it was at a different MRF than the previous audits, which may have led to a less representative sample. Mason shared how the city of Ann Arbor does their compositional audit and their method for gathering a more robust sample. The board discussed potential future educational actions to take, including targeting specific materials, working with haulers to tag contaminated carts, and adding more information about common contaminants to municipality websites.

New Business

Prairie Robotics - Sam Dietrich

Eggermont introduced Sam Dietrich, with Prairie Robotics, to provide a presentation to the group on their artificial intelligence camera system that detects contaminants in curbside recycling carts and automatically sends a postcard to residents with an image of their contamination.

Wessler joined at 11:30 a.m.

The board asked Dietrich about the cost, the length of the program, and data security. Dietrich shared that a 5-month pilot program can cost anywhere from \$20,000-\$80,000 depending on the scope and scale. Dietrich noted that an outreach campaign is done before the program starts to inform residents about what is coming. Dietrich also explained that the municipalities or authority own the data and that Prairie Robotics uses the data to train the AI system but does not sell to third parties.

Reports and Updates

Member Reports

Eggermont provided an update that Davis went to a Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees meeting to present about the collaborative contract. The next meeting will be with the City of Ypsilanti.

Mason provided an update that the new regional Drop-Off Station project held one public meeting last Thursday night and will hold another meeting this Wednesday night at Pittsfield Township Town Hall. The site concepts have been narrowed down to one concept. The next step is to create an actual site plan.

Washtenaw County Updates

Eggermont shared that Washtenaw County was named in a consent agreement from the Attorney General to staff a new Home Toxics Center at the Arbor Hills Landfill. Eggermont indicated that the anticipated opening date for the facility is June 1, and the county will be staffing the facility for 10 years.

Invoices

Motion to approve the County invoice for \$3,056.78 moved by Tanghe, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. The motion passes.

Motion to approve the Routeware invoice, without the events services package, for \$3,728.76 moved by Wessler, seconded by Mason. All in favor. The motion passes.

Next Steps

Eggermont and Porta will continue looking at the results of the audit and provide education recommendations. The Waste Wizard tool will have the events calendar removed. Davis will attend a City of Ypsilanti meeting to discuss the collaborative contract before the next WRRMA meeting.

Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Wessler, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. The motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 12:19 PM.

Minutes prepared by Angela Porta

Minutes approved by:


Secretary

Minutes approved by:


Chair