

Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

5/20/2024; 11:00 AM

City of Dexter, Council Chambers
3515 Broad Street, Dexter, MI 48130

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Eggermont, Wright

Attorney:

Members of the public present:

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/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 5/20/2024 meeting

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

Approval of Minutes

4/15/2024 Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve without amendment moved by Colvin-Garcia, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. Motion carries.

Unfinished Business

Collaborative Contracting Updates

Best recalled that the RFP process has been cancelled and that the current plan is to create a stronger RFP by recruiting more members for the collaborative contract and getting all communities on the same contract timeline for starting services. Efforts have been made to connect with Superior Township and the City of Milan. There has been communication with Priority Waste to inform them of the current situation.

Eggermont added that he went to a City of Milan public meeting where he shared about WRRMA and welcomed the opportunity to discuss their potential involvement. Eggermont is currently working on setting up a meeting with the Mayor and City Manager.

Hines arrived at 11:08 a.m.

Sirls shared that the City of Saline is entering negotiations with their current hauler, Waste Management, to extend their contract for 15 months.

Mason arrived at 11:09 a.m.

Best said the target is to have a new RFP with lessons learned posted in January 2025. The information on the new RFP will be available to take back to communities in December and then WRRMA will identify if there is the critical mass to move forward.

Wessler arrived at 11:10 a.m.

Auth asked for clarification on what the lessons learned were and what is going to be different with the next RFP. Best responded that some of the contract language has been negotiated in this process, so the contract is more specific to what WRRMA wants. Additionally, there will likely be agreements signed by communities to participate in the RFP that are considered more of a pledge than a commitment. Auth requested to see the pledge language for communities when it is ready. Hines asked for clarification on why communities are being asked for a pledge rather than commitment. Eggermont responded that WRRMA can't hold a community accountable to a process and bind them to it.

Hines suggested if there is a way for the bidders to show in their proposals what the cost savings is for a group of municipalities versus a single municipality that it would be helpful for the municipalities to clearly see the cost saving benefit of the collaborative contract. Eggermont added he has seen RFPs that ask for pricing based on tiers of increasing numbers of units.

Wessler shared that Ypsilanti is doing a one-year contract extension with their current trash hauler, Stevens Disposal, with the option to extend again for one-year or go a different direction.

Auth pointed out that having one hauler for a larger geographical area presents a larger risk if there is ever a situation where that hauler can no longer perform the services. Sirls asked if WRRMA has had Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC) come in and talk about their collective hauling and their combined community services. Eggermont responded no but it could be arranged.

Eggermont posed the idea of recruiting Northfield Township where they currently do not have a single hauler. He noted that they have a spread-out population of around 7,000 and wondered if from the hauler standpoint it is more attractive to add more units even if they are spread out.

New Business

Discussion: Direction for remainder of 2024

Eggermont noted that WRRMA has surplus funds available and asked what members want to focus on for the remainder of 2024. The board discussed ideas such as doing another recycling audit to measure contamination rates, sending mailers with recycling education, commercial recycling education, food waste and compost education, involvement with the Ann Arbor Drop-Off Station, and WRRMA's staffing and funding. Eggermont said staff will review the list of ideas and prepare an activity for next month's meeting to develop a plan.

Reports and Updates

Member Reports – Auth shared that Scio has had an increase in GFL complaints.

Washtenaw County Reports

Eggermont shared that Washtenaw County has agreed to do a single county Materials Management Plan (MMP) instead of a multi-county plan. The plan committee application is open through June 12 and Eggermont explained the required composition of the committee. Eggermont will share the MMP committee's calendar and meeting topics with WRRMA when it is established. Colvin-Garcia asked what the typical timeline for the MMP process is. Eggermont responded that the planning process will take three years.

Waste Wizard Report

Wright reviewed the Waste Wizard Report with user metrics from February 2023 through February 2024. The report included the number of items searched, user sessions, new user sessions, and the top ten items searched. The report also broke down what percentage of use on the Waste Wizard tool is coming from each municipality and if that municipality has the Waste Wizard embedded in their website or not. Colvin-Garcia indicated interest in adding the tool to Ann Arbor Township's website.

Invoices

Motion to approve the Davis invoice for \$712.50 motioned by Wessler, seconded by Tanghe. All in favor. Motion carries.

Next Steps

WRRMA staff will consolidate discussion items on WRRMA's focus for the rest of 2024. Wright will send the information to Colvin-Garcia for the Waste Wizard tool. There is an opportunity to apply to the MMP committee until June 12.

Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Colvin-Garcia, seconded by Wessler. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Angela Wright

Minutes approved by:  6/17/2024
Secretary

Minutes approved by: 
Vice Chair