

Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

6/17/2024; 11:00 AM

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

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

Members Absent: Best, Hines

Staff Present: Eggermont, Wright

Attorney:

Members of the public present:

Mason called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

Roll Call

Ann Arbor Township: Present/Colvin-Garcia

Pittsfield Township: Absent/Best

Scio Township: Present/Auth

Ypsilanti Township: Absent/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 6/17/2024 meeting

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

Approval of Minutes

5/20/2024 Meeting Minutes Approval

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

Unfinished Business

Recruiting New Member Updates

Eggermont shared that he spoke with the City of Milan's City Manager and described what WRRMA could offer through the collaborative contract. Eggermont also reached out to Superior Township about joining. Auth suggested we have a list of all the County municipalities and their current hauler and contract end date. Eggermont said he will put this together for the next meeting packet. The board discussed the recent news of Priority Waste taking over GFL's residential routes in Southeast Michigan.

Colvin-Garcia arrived at 11:10 a.m.

Discussion: 2024 Options

Eggermont reviewed the document of proposed 2024 work activities and that staff is looking for direction on what to work on and the deliverables. Eggermont clarified that commercial recycling and a collaborative drop-off station contract are options to consider as well, however they are not listed in the document because those would be discussions at board meetings so did not require cost breakdowns. The board discussed the work activity options and various modes of delivering messages to the community such as mailers, videos, and billboards. The board directed staff to start with a recyclables audit for 2024, with the goal of doing educational messaging on contamination in 2025 and educational messaging on the recycling process in 2026, to all be repeated on a 3-year cycle. Eggermont noted that more samples will be taken from the communities that didn't have much last time to get a more representative sample.

Auth asked for an update on the Home Toxics Center. Eggermont responded that the County is looking to convert an existing pole barn that is next to the current Home Toxics Center into a new space for the Home Toxics Center to operate weekday appointments in the future.

Mason said she will give a presentation on the Drop-Off Station when they are further along.

New Business

Mason inquired about plastic bag ban laws. Eggermont shared he tracks those bills. If the ability for counties to have bans emerges, he said the County will need an ordinance and would likely do a tax rather than a ban.

Reports and Updates

Member Reports

Tanghe shared that Dexter's bicentennial festivities are happening Thursday through Sunday.

Mason shared updates from the City of Ann Arbor: They launched a 2-year campaign on Earth Day called More Life, Less Stuff, which has included wraps on buses, ads on MLive, and more content on a2morelife.com. A2Zero Week was last week, and it hosted waste reduction activities and a food waste challenge for residents. The Move-Out Ann Arbor effort to recover materials from college students during move-out convened various groups to recover more reusable material, resulting in two tons of clothing recovered, among many other items.

Auth shared that Scio Township will be transitioning from GFL to Priority Waste for hauling. He noted that the same representative for GFL for Scio will be moving to Priority.

Washtenaw County Updates

Eggermont shared that the first County Clean-Up Day of 2024 was held on Saturday in Augusta Township and shared the upcoming event dates. Eggermont noted if anyone is interested in volunteering, they can reach out to staff. He added that the County hopes to add an event back to Chelsea next year and shared that the County was unable to get a host agreement this year. Eggermont added the County is considering hosting an electronics collection event this Fall.

Eggermont shared the HHW Center has increased the number of weekday appointments.

Wright gave an update on the County's Zero Waste Event's program, noting that the program has transitioned from County staff attending the events and handling the waste collection to events handling the waste and logistics themselves with the County providing infrastructure, pre-event planning support, and financial assistance with getting compostables to a compost site. Wright added she recently worked with the Greek Festival, which is a 3-day event that sees around 10,000 attendees and that it went very well.

Invoices

Motion to approve the Michigan Insurance Company invoice for \$408.00 motioned by Wessler, seconded by Colvin-Garcia. All in favor. Motion carries.

Auth suggested looking into insurance changes now for when collective hauling services begin.

Next Steps

Eggermont will work on next steps to conduct a recycling audit with the same contractor that did the prior audit.

Public Comment: General/Unrelated to current Agenda Items

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Wessler, seconded by Sirls. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Angela Wright

Minutes approved by: _____

Secretary

Minutes approved by: _____

Chair