

WAUPACA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Meeting Minutes – July 8th, 2019

Waupaca County Courthouse – Room 1068

Chair Zaug called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm and gave the open meeting statement.

Roll Call: Chair Fred Zaug, Vice-Chair Joe McClone, Supervisors Joyce Boyer, Janet Lehrer, and Peter Bosquez; Citizen Members Jeff Dyer, Maryann Snider, Nancy Koeppen, and Ken Van Dyke. Others present: Staff Members Taylor Sorenson, Tom Claussen, and John Francis.

Review and Approve Agenda: Motion by Lehrer, seconded by Koeppen to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by Lehrer, seconded by Bosquez to approve the May 13th, 2019 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Public Comment / Correspondence: Zaug opened the meeting for public comment, there was none.

Plastic Recycling Concerns – Discussion and Future Action: Van Dyke started the discussion by giving a summary of what he has been working on. Below are some of the issues touched on:

- Other counties are not going to fund the Ag plastic recycling program as requested by Revolution Plastics. Counties are willing to provide education, but not funds.
- Waupaca County will be sending a letter soon that states we are not going to fund the program.
- Ag plastics are just a small part of the whole problem.
- China's ban on importing waste plastic has shed a light on the whole plastics problem.
- There was discussion on the various articles that Van Dyke had e-mailed out to everyone.
- Canada is attempting to limit plastics to the two most used and recyclable plastic resins to make recovering plastics an easier process.
- Many states are looking at bottle fees as possible ways to increase the percentage recycled.
- Vermont is banning plastic bags, stir sticks, and foam take-out containers. They formed a working group to study single-use products. This gets the stakeholders involved and makes a better program.
- Wisconsin has a law that prohibits local governments from banning single-use plastics.
- Van Dyke suggested we follow Vermont's lead and write a resolution to the State promoting laws that we feel would work the best. He also stated that we should work with other counties to get a larger voice at the state level. He suggested several people that could help get this moving. There was discussion on what should be targeted. It was decided that focusing on getting rid of the law that prevents local governments from banning single use products would be a good place to start. This would allow changes to happen at a grass-roots level and success could lead to state-level changes. Van Dyke and County Staff will pursue getting this started.

Capital Improvement Projects and Other Budget Considerations: Francis handed out the Capital Improvement Plan listing for 2020-2030 and explained the projects on there. He and Clausen explained the four non-capital projects on the list for 2020 as those would be included under the Solid Waste budget for 2020. There was discussion on the various issues and direction for future planning.

Motion by Lehrer, seconded by Bosquez to send the presented Capital and Non-Capital projects to the Finance Committee for consideration by the whole County Board in the 2020 budget. Motion passed without a negative vote.

Francis then handed out a listing of PTF contracted employees for discussion on future changes to the structure of Department. There was discussion on if some or all of the contracted positions should become County positions. There was discussion about the benefits of them becoming County employees, the negative being the cost. Francis and Clausen suggested that the Scale Operator position should be considered for conversion to a County position for 2020 as it takes a long time to get a person trained to do that job and future recruiting would be easier. They stated they would really like to keep the people they have around as they have been good employees.

Motion by Bosquez, seconded by Lehrer to change the Scale Attendant position from a contracted position to a County position subject to review and approval by the HR sub-committee and the Finance Committee for the 2020 budget year. Motion passed without a negative vote.

PTF Supervisor Update: Claussen reported that things are going well. He stated that metal prices are going down right now but that is a normal seasonal trend. He stated that from May to June of 2019 vs the same timeframe in 2018 there has been 84,000lbs more solid waste brought in. There was also discussion about how the PTF handles when houses are brought in and what kind of warning we get from contractors.

Meetings/Conferences Attended: Sorenson stated that the web-conference on Ag plastics was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Recycling Coordinators Report:

- a. **Education Outreach:** Sorenson reported that she was on the news. Channel 9 out of Wausau came to the PTF and did a feature on “wishcycling” and how it costs tax payers money. She reported that a medication disposal brochure mailing was done. There was also a concerning illegal burn of some hazardous materials in the Town of Caledonia that Sorenson is working with the DNR on.
- b. **Program Updates:** Sorenson reported that she will send out a letter to Revolution Plastics in response to their letter stating that the County will not be providing funding for their program. She stated that there are only two compost bins left for sale and that we will be budgeting to reorder more for 2020. Sorenson also mentioned that fair preparation has begun and asked if anyone else was interested in filling the last volunteer slot. Both Lehrer and Snider were interested in volunteering.

Director Report: Francis stated that he will bring to the Board soon numbers showing how the switch from DEN to Manpower has impacted the 2019 budget and if there will need to be a request to the County Board to amend the 2019 budget to cover those costs.

Upcoming Meetings: The next meeting was scheduled for August 12th, 2019 at 3:30 pm at the Courthouse.

Adjourn: Motion by Lehrer, seconded by Koeppen to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm

Submitted by,

John D Francis
Parks and Solid Waste Director

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