

WAUPACA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Meeting Minutes – 9 January 2023
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, Supervisors Sue Golding and Scott Purchatzke, Citizen Members Lois Bressette and Jeff Dyer were present while Vice-Chair Joe McClone, Citizen Members Maryann Snider and Ken Van Dyke attended remotely. Staff members Taylor Sorenson, Joe Barden, and John Francis were also present. Supervisor John Miller was excused.

Review and Approve Agenda: Motion by Van Dyke, seconded by McClone to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by Golding, seconded by Bressette to approve the 14 November 2022 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

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

2022 Project updates and capital roll-over requests: Francis handed out a spreadsheet with the 2022 capital projects listed with an explanation of the project status and if any funds were required to be rolled into 2023. He went through each one and there was discussion.

Discuss possibility of conducting a future needs study for our recycling program: Sorenson talked about what the future of the recycling program may look like as more Towns and Municipalities go to curbside pickup with single-stream recycling. Would the source-separated drop off sites eventually close? With declining material volumes from the collection sites does it make sense to continue running our MRF the way we do? She stated that discussion of these issues within the department has led to the conclusion that it may be wise to contract with a consulting firm that specializes in this field to get recommendations on what changes should be made in the future. She stated that we would like to reach out and find out about what a study like this would cost so this could be budgeted for in the near future.

There was discussion about what other counties are doing and if similar programs are having the same issues. We are one of very few source separated operations still going. There was discussion about how other places have gone to single-stream and that it is difficult to get enough material volume to justify the equipment cost of a single-stream MRF in a more rural area such as ours. The discussion segued into the Portage County request in the next agenda item. Consensus was that staff should look into the scope and cost of a study and report back to the Board with findings.

Discuss Portage County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) request: Sorenson reported that Portage County approached our Department about sending curbside recycling pickup materials to their facility if they opened up a new MRF. They are applying for a grant to upgrade the sorting equipment at their facility but they need to increase the volume of materials to sort for it to make financial sense for them. They would like a letter of interest from Waupaca County saying that we would consider sending our materials their way if they opened the new line.

There was discussion on this topic. There are many questions that would need to be answered. Can we require haulers in our County to bring recyclable to the Portage County MRF? Would we need to operate a single-stream materials transfer station at the PTF to feed this operation? How much would we charge/pay for materials if we were to run this transfer station? There are many more questions that may be partially answered in the future if we go forward with the needs study discussed in the previous agenda item. Sorenson explained

that if a letter of interest was sent, it would explain that we are weighing various options and that it would not lock us into any sort of contract with Portage County. There was more discussion. Van Dyke stated that we have always had a very good relationship with Portage County and would like to support their efforts if possible.

Motion by Bressette, seconded by Van Dyke to send a letter of interest to Portage County regarding their new MRF equipment. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC) – discussion/action: Sorenson gave the dates for the conference (Feb 22-24) and described the schedule and activities planned. She stated that attendees must be registered by February 1st. There was discussion about who should attend and why. There was discussion about how much money was available to pay for registrations. Sorenson will send further information to those that expressed interest in attending.

Board member and staff report(s): conference, seminar, convention, and/or webinar reports: Zaug opened the floor to any reports, there was none.

Recycling Coordinator’s Report:

- a. **Education Outreach:** Sorenson stated that she presented at Weyauwega High School last month. She reported that several Facebook posts over the holiday season had gone “viral” reaching upwards of 2,700 people. She has also been updating the website and prepping everything for 2023.
- b. **Program Updates:** Sorenson reported that the Town of Farmington’s curbside service started this month and that she worked with the County’s GIS department to help create a map for residents to show when their pickup is. Sorenson submitted the final reports for the Unwanted Prescription Drug and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) grants. Waupaca County collected and disposed of 5,812 lbs. of HHW and 1,230 lbs. of medication. There was some discussion on if these numbers have changed over the years. Sorenson stated that this year the numbers were down a bit but overall they have held relatively steady. Lastly, she reported that the Village of Fremont Police Department also has put out their medication take back box and are now accepting medications.

PTF Supervisor Update: Barden reported that the winter slow-down appears to have started – it has not been very busy. The new loader was delivered 30 December 2022. The new bucket was fitted and the FABIC CAT personnel came out and trained PTF staff on proper operation of the loader and how to adjust the many features. The dealer still needs to retrofit all the other attachments for the loader like the plow and forks, etc.

Director Report: Francis reported that they will be putting the hauling contract out to bid soon and that he talked with a trucking company about concerns they had about how the bid would be done. Should the County contact various landfills to see if we could get a volume discount? How do we bid the trucking to compare costs using different landfills? Do we specify the type of trailer like last time or do we specify a certain volume of trailer? These questions and more will need to be addressed before we can put the contract out for bids. He

also talked briefly about the Courthouse space-needs study being conducted to help guide any future renovation plans for the Courthouse.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be 13 February 2023 at 3:30 pm at the Waupaca County Courthouse – room 1068.

Adjourn: Motion by Bressette, seconded by Van Dyke to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm

Submitted by,

John D Francis
Solid Waste Director