

**WAUPACA COUNTY
RECYCLING IMPLEMENTAION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

15 September, 2022
Manawa Municipal Building

Vice-Chair Gerald Roen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Vice-Chair Gerald Roen (T. Royalton), Marcella Wentworth (T. Union), Jim Biddison (T. Weyauwega), Terry Wilz (T. Weyauwega) Vance Knuth (T. Caledonia), Les Prochnow (Manawa Area Recycling Center), Alice Brown (C. Manawa), Scott Purchatzke (Waupaca County Solid Waste Board), David Harper (V. Iola), Evan Abrahamson (T. Waupaca), Patrick Huss (T. Bear Creek), John Miller (T. Dayton), Caroline Murphy (T. Farmington), Mark Zachow (C. Clintonville), Donald Laughlin (T. Lebanon), David Barnick (T. Dupont), and Steve Gall (T. Lind)

Present via Zoom: Maryann Snider (Waupaca County Solid Waste Board)

Also Present: Taylor Sorenson and John Francis with Waupaca County Solid Waste and Recycling Department.

Roen gave the open meeting statement. Quorum was declared.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Harper to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Motion by Prochnow, seconded by Knuth to approve the September 30, 2021 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Election of Chair:

- Motion was made by Barnick seconded by Knuth to nominate Douglas Behnke for Chair. Motion carried without a negative vote.
- Motion was made by Barnick, seconded by Knuth to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot electing Behnke as Chair. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Election of Vice-Chair:

- Motion was made by Harper, seconded by Wilz to nominate Evan Abrahamson for Vice-Chair. Motion carried without a negative vote.
- Motion was made by Harper, seconded by Wilz to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot electing Abrahamson as Vice-Chair. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Wisconsin Recycling Law Review:

- Sorenson handed out the DNR list of materials banned from landfills and explained that all these materials must be reused, recycled, or composted. She also handed out a sheet showing who is involved with the Recycling Program and what role each plays. She mentioned that there were some newer municipalities who have recently switched to curbside service in 2022.

2021/2022 Program Year Results:

- Sorenson handed out information on the amounts of materials recycled and the expenses for the program in 2021. She explained how this information is used in applying for grant funding for the program. There was some discussion on the differences in cost per capita for municipalities operating a curbside program versus a recycling center.
- She reported that in 2021 the committee voted the assessment to be \$54,669, using nothing out of the fund balance. The program ended up doing significantly better than expected in revenues and expenses were less than

budgeted for, therefore money went back into the fund balance. The current balance is \$124,854.98, this money can be used to offset this year's assessment as well as any in the future.

2023 Recycling Program Budget:

- Sorenson gave a brief overview of the budget for 2023. She discussed that personnel changes contributed to the reduction in expenses and that for revenue in 2023 we are expecting to see recyclable markets decline as they are beginning to do so already. At this time it is estimated the municipal assessment for 2023 will be \$31,442 but that number will most likely change after we see what happens in 2023.

2022 Estimated Municipal Assessment:

- Sorenson reported that the amount for the 2022 assessment is projected to be \$44,687.
- Sorenson explained that the assessment is almost \$28,000 less than what it was estimated to be at the 2021 meeting. Revenues continued to stay strong in 2022 and only just started to decline.
- Sorenson had handouts that showed the various per-capita rates with different fund balance use levels including zero, \$5,000.00, and \$10,000.00.
- There was discussion about the fund balance and if that was as high as it has ever been.
- Prochnow asked how much fund balance would need to be used to get to about \$0.75/capita. Sorenson did a quick calculation and stated that using \$15,000.00 would come out to about \$0.71/capita on the assessment.
- Motion by Knuth, seconded by Prochnow to use \$15,000 of the fund balance to lower the assessment to \$29,687. Motion passed without a negative vote.
- Sorenson will send a letter to all municipalities with this amount by October 3rd with an invoice going out in January of 2023.

Member Municipality Updates:

- Purchatzke reported that the City of Waupaca going curbside has negatively affected revenues at the Waupaca Regional Recycling & Compost Center (WRRCC). The WRRCC commission is having a meeting on Monday, September 19th to discuss these issues and how it might impact future operations at the site.
- Prochnow asked what the average hourly wage for site workers was. There was some discussion on this with the consensus that it was around \$13/hour.
- Abrahamson stated that the Town of Waupaca went curbside and that GFL is doing a much better job of sticking to pickup schedules – likely due to better equipment.
- Gall asked if the Waupaca site would be changing what was accepted there in the future. Purchatzke stated that these issues would be discussed at the meeting next week. Sorenson stated that if the site is to remain in the system it would have to accept all the mandated recyclable items. There was also discussion on what would have to take place if the Commission decided to shut down the site.
- Knuth asked if the carriers are reaching out to other towns and villages to get curbside started. Sorenson stated she was not aware of that happening but there are a few other municipalities looking into the service.
- Wentworth stated that her town is paying for pickup on the tax bill.
- There was some general discussion about curbside pickup companies requiring carts for all users – this is likely to become universal as it saves the hauler on labor – only having one employee in a truck. Sorenson said that most carriers do not want recyclables in bags as the processing facilities are not willing to cut open the bags anymore due to safety concerns and several non-recyclable things being brought to recycling processing facilities.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The next meeting was scheduled for 21 September 2023.

Motion by Knuth, seconded by Wentworth to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by,

John D. Francis
Solid Waste Director

DRAFT