

**WAUPACA COUNTY  
RECYCLING IMPLEMENTAION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

21 September 2023  
Manawa Municipal Building

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Chair Douglas Behnke (T. Bear Creek), Vice-Chair Evan Abrahamson (T. Waupaca), Mike Grassl (T. Helvetia), Vance Knuth (T. Caledonia), Sue Golding (Waupaca County Solid Waste Board), Fay Newmann (T. Lind), Kathy Nickel (T. Lind), David C. Harper (V. Iola), Mary Trice (T. Waupaca & WRRCC), Greg Rose (C. Clintonville, CAWS), John Bertelson (Iola Recycle Center), Dennis Desens (T. Dupont), Alice Brown (C. Manawa), Tom Lederer (C. Clintonville).

Present via Zoom: Jodi Zillmer (C. Marion)

Also Present: Allison Birr and John Francis with Waupaca County Solid Waste and Recycling Department.

Francis gave the open meeting statement. Quorum was declared.

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

Motion by Knuth, seconded by Trice to approve the 15 September 2022 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Election of Chair:

- Call was made for nominations for the Chair position, Evan Abrahamson was nominated. There were no other nominations.
- Motion was made by Behnke, seconded by Desens to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot electing Evan Abrahamson as Chair. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Election of Vice-Chair:

- Call was made for nominations for the Vice-Chair position, Douglas Behnke was nominated. There were no other nominations.
- Motion was made by Rose, seconded by Brown to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot electing Douglas Behnke as Vice-Chair. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Wisconsin Recycling Law Review:

- Birr handed out the DNR list of materials banned from landfills and noted that several items have recently been added to the list of electronic devices banned from landfills. She also handed out a sheet showing who is involved with the Recycling Program and what role each plays.

2022/2023 Program Year Results:

- Birr handed out information on the amounts of materials recycled and the expenses for the program in 2022. She explained how this information is used in applying for grant funding for the program. There was some discussion about the differences in cost per capita for municipalities to operate a curbside program verses a recycling center.
- She reported that 5,999 tons of material were diverted from landfills through our Recycling Program in 2022. She went through page by page describing the data collected and presented.

2024 Recycling Program Budget:

- Birr gave a brief overview of the budget for 2024. She spoke about the two main reasons for the increase in expenses- the new contract for the drop-off center material run and declining material markets. She acknowledged

that although the numbers might look daunting, the recyclable hauling contract came in lower than budgeted. So the assessment (currently \$99,610) will likely go down from what's estimated for next year.

- The fund balance is currently at \$154,192.45.

#### 2023 Estimated Municipal Assessment:

- Birr reported the amount for 2023 assessment is projected to be \$41,442.
- Birr explained this is \$10,000 more than estimated in 2022, due to declining revenues.
- Birr had a handout that showed the various per-capita rates with different fund balance use levels including \$0, \$5,000, and \$10,000. Last year, the quorum decided to use \$15,000 of the fund balance.
- There was discussion about how much fund balance and why it was almost \$30,000 higher than last year. There was also discussion about utilizing the funds this year since the assessment will likely go up considerably next year, and the years following.
- Motion by Behnke, seconded by Knuth to use \$10,000 of the fund balance to lower the assessment. Motion passed without a negative vote.
- Birr will send out the assessment letter to all municipalities by October 2nd with an invoice going out in January of 2024.

#### Member Municipality Updates:

- Bertelson reported that the Village of Iola has given it's 18-month notice that they are leaving the drop off site agreement. There was discussion about what that would mean for the drop-off site.
- Rose stated that the CAWS site in Clintonville was running in the red and only has about one year left of funding before they will be required to access a fee to the participating municipalities to keep it going. The Town of Larrabee has indicated that they may pull out of the agreement if a fee is charged. At this point the City of Clintonville would like to keep the site open. They will be reducing their hours soon and exploring other ways to run more efficiently.
- There was discussion about the increasing cost of hauling and pickup services and how it is impacting everyone.
- There was discussion about how the meeting was noticed, it was suggested that letters still go out, but to supplement them with emails as well. Some attendees did not get a letter this year that had in the past. Birr will work on generating an email list for the next meeting.
- Rose stated that the City of Clintonville got rid of the opt-out clause for their curb-side program, now everyone in the City will have a bin. They negotiated the hauling contract and it only went up about 11% because the opt-out was removed, it would have been a much higher increase if it was left in.
- Trice reported that the Waupaca site has cut back by one hour per day they are open to help save costs. They are only open on Saturdays and Mondays during the winter months. Brush drop-off fees have increased from \$5/pickup truck load to \$10 per truck load. She was estimating that they had enough balance on hand to run another year without charging extra fees.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The next meeting was scheduled for 19 September 2024.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Harper to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by,

John D. Francis  
Solid Waste Director