

WAUPACA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Meeting Minutes – 12 February 2024
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 Sue Golding, Scott Purchatzke and John Miller, Citizen Members Lois Bressette and Jeff Dyer were present while Citizen Members Maryann Snider and Ken Van Dyke attended remotely. Staff members Allison Birr, Joe Barden and John Francis were also present.

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

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by Miller, seconded by Bressette to approve the 8 January 2024 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

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

Embarrass Recycling Drop-off Site and responsible unit update: Birr handed out a letter from the Village of Embarrass and stated that the new letter has the required elements as described in the Municipal agreement. There was discussion about the issue. The Village is aware of what their responsibilities will be beginning in 2025 when they become their own responsible unit for recycling.



Village of Embarrass

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Allison Birr
Recycling Coordinator
Waupaca County Solid Waste and Recycling
Waupaca, WI. 54981
01/26/2024

Allison,

The decision by the Village to leave the Waupaca County Recycling program was based on multiple factors. For some time, we have had concerns regarding the number of residents that do not bring their recyclables to the drop off site. We are a small Village of 348 residents. Over one third of our residents are of retirement age. The burden of this demographic of having to store, load and unload their recyclables at the drop site is our primary concern and we believe has prevented many from participating. We are also looking at the cost associated with having the site open and properly manned for the few residents that do participate. We, much like all municipalities, have been hit with inflationary and statutory demands that have hit our bottom line and we need to find ways to reduce spending and keep the tax levy at a minimum.

We have no issues with the services provided by the Waupaca County Recycling Program. We feel this decision is in the best interests of our residents.

Regards,

Tom Martin,
President of the Village of Embarrass

Motion by McClone, seconded by Golding to approve the release from the County/Municipal Recycling Agreement for the Village of Embarrass effective 1 January 2025. Motion carried without a negative vote.

2024 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC): Birr stated that the conference was scheduled to be held 28 Feb – 1 March at the Chula Vista in the Wisconsin Dells. There was discussion about who might be interested in attending the event and why. There is a one-day registration rate available that would be best used on a Thursday. Anyone interested needs to contact Birr ASAP so she can get them registered.

Birr also announced that she will be the new Chair of the Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association. The Board congratulated her on her continued and increasing involvement with the organization.

Board member and staff report(s): conference, seminar, convention, and/or webinar reports: Zaug opened the floor to any reports. Golding reported that she attended the Legislative Conference in Madison recently. She said she would give her full report at County Board, but some of her big take-aways from the conference were as follows:

- The demographics of Waupaca County is trending toward an older population. This will lead to challenges in the future in providing adequate health care and other services for them.
- There are some new grant funds available to help rural areas with road issues that have resulted from heavy agricultural use.
- They visited their representatives' offices in the Capital and talked with their staff. They were able to meet with them later that evening and discuss issues of concern.

Recycling Coordinator's Report:

- a. Education Outreach:** Birr spoke about the Food Waste Prevention Week and Compost Awareness Week social media campaigns she is working on. She also reported that radio ads and talk show dates for 2024 have been scheduled. Birr also mentioned she will be working on a mailing next month, sending out updated PTF brochures and program flyers.
- b. Program Updates:** Birr reported that they are working with a new vendor for our plastics- Quincy Recycling. The other company we were using started having an issue with the number of green bottles in the bales. Birr also suggested an idea for a compost bin and pail bundle sale and she shared an ad she created. Lastly, she stated she had been working on the recycling annual report, due May 1st.

PTF Supervisor Update: Barden reported on the following items:

- GFL has completed swapping out our dumpsters for theirs at all the drop-off sites. Our dumpsters are now located at the PTF and staff will sort through them with the intention of selling off the good ones and scrapping the rest of them.
- Repairs were done to the roof over the office area –specifically the junction between the taller main building and the office addition. This has been leaking for some time and repairs have been attempted many times in the past. It appears to be a good repair, we will have to wait and see.
- Barden talked about the security cameras on site, stating it took 3 years to get a camera replaced for the scale. There are also issues with our recording system as it is out of date and no longer supported. There was discussion and Barden was tasked with looking at other options, getting some quotes, and reporting back with options.

Director Report: Francis reported he did not have much new material to cover. He spoke about the Courthouse remodeling project a bit and said there would be more to discuss about that soon.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be 11 March 2024 at 3:30 pm.

Adjourn: Motion by Van Dyke to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm

Submitted by,

John D Francis
Solid Waste Director