

**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING
ON WASHTENAW COUNTY
WESTERN WASHTENAW RECYCLING AUTHORITY**

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Held Remotely Via Zoom Videoconferencing**

Members Present: Dries, Schmidt, Maciejewski, McCormick, McCririe, Pratt , Smith

Members Absent: None.

BOC Liaison Present: Jason Morgan, Board of Commissioners Liaison

Others Present: Theo Eggermont, Director of Public Works
Michelle Katz, Water Resources Program Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dries at 5:30 p.m.

2. BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ROLL CALL

Chair Dries attending remotely from Scio Township, Michigan, Washtenaw County.

Vice Chair Schmidt attending remotely from the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Washtenaw County.

Maciejewski attending remotely from Dexter Township, Michigan, Washtenaw County.

Pratt attending remotely from City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Washtenaw County.

McCormick attending remotely from City of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Washtenaw County.

McCririe attending remotely from the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Washtenaw County.

Smith attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Michigan, Washtenaw County.

3. REMOTE MEETING GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS

Chair Dries requested everyone stay on mute unless it is their turn to speak. Board Members are requested not to use chat feature during public comment. Instructions were given to the public in attendance of how to be identified as wanting to speak.

It was explained that Public comment will be divided into two parts. Those living in District 1 (Chelsea), will speak first, and then those living in District 2 (Townships of Bridgewater, Lima, Lyndon, Manchester and Dexter), will speak next. Attendees were instructed to state their names and address when speaking. Comments limited to three minutes per person.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Schmidt, supported by Smith to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, WWRA PUBLIC HEARING #1, JUNE 29, 2021

Motion by McCormick, supported by Schmidt. Motion carried.

6. PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Eggermont explained the purpose of the hearing is to review the roll, the special assessment district, and amount, hear objections to that roll, and make any changes the Board deems appropriate. After the close of the public hearing, the Board can confirm the special assessment roll, they can correct it, refer it for revision, or annul it and direct a new roll to be made.

Eggermont also noted that another purpose of this hearing is to allow members of the public to speak. Eggermont further explained that after the public has had an opportunity to speak, the Board can address the comments, or refer to himself to address comments.

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Eggermont described that this project is a recycling project that provides for the operation and maintenance within the western portion of Washtenaw County in the two special assessment districts. He indicated it provides access to eight different drop-off locations for recycling and for curbside collection in Chelsea, and it provides educational programs and processing and transportation of those materials to facilities. Eggermont explained there is an estimated sixty-five-hundred and seven thousand tons of recycling collected every year. The cost of the assessment is no more than \$31 for District 2, and no more than \$53 per year for District 1. The difference between those is that District 1 is curbside collision, and District 2 is the access to the drop off locations. Eggermont further explained that due to public comment at first public hearing, there is now an allotment for a reduction for multi-family, which is defined as more than four units within the same building, such as an apartment complex. The special assessment for those will be reduced to 67 percent of the total amount charged. The total amount expected to be contributed to the special assessment is \$320,000 per year. He noted that the facility manager at WWRA is usually in attendance to provide additional information but recently had twins and is not in attendance.

8. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON WWRA OPERATING MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS DISTRICT 1 (CITY OF CHELSEA)

Chair Dries opened the public hearing on special assessment District 1 at 5:40 p.m. No individuals indicated they wished to speak. No letters were provided.

9. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON OPERATING MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS DISTRICT 1

Chair Dries, seeing no individuals wishing to speak, closed public hearing for District 1 at 5:41 p.m.

10. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON WWRA OPERATING MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS DISTRICT 2 (TOWNSHIPS OF BRIDGEWATER, LIMA, LYNDON, MANCHESTER AND DEXTER)

Chair Dries opened the public hearing on special assessment District 2 at 5:41 p.m.

Dave Pentescue, Lyndon Township, had a question regarding description of project. He stated he hasn't found any information that indicates if it changes the way it is currently done, if there will be any changes in current locations, number of drop facilities, pick-up times, et cetera. He stated he wants to be able to make a judgment of the \$31 per year, if it's changing anything to current capabilities he has now, which he's currently happy with.

Chair Dries indicated he does not believe there will be any changes to current services.

Mr. Pentescue questioned if it is \$31 per year, is that for just one year, when does that year begin and end, or is it for multiple years.

Eggermont replied that it is a five-year assessment.

Ryan Hayes, Lima Township, explained his is an older gentleman on a fixed income and is already paying GSL and has a recycling location down the street from him and feels like he can take care of this himself. He does not desire to spend more money to do something he's already

doing.

Carol Studnicka, Manchester Township, explained she is also on a fixed income and cannot afford this. She, similarly, to the previous speaker, takes care of her things herself with an outside service. She indicated she does not want to duplicate efforts and she can't afford it.

Chair Dries inquired if there was anyone else who wished to speak. There was no response. Chair Dries inquired of any letters from District 2. Eggermont read two letters that were submitted.

Nancy L. Sande, homeowner at 11801 Noggles Road, wrote to indicate her protest of an assessment for recycling due to recycling already included in her private-pay trash pick-up and that it is an inconvenience to drive to Manchester. She further wrote that as a widow, she cannot afford the extra cost, especially when she will not utilize.

Phillip Carolan, 1588 Mull Highway, Tipton, Michigan, wrote to renew his objection to the assessment because he already receives recycling in his private-pay trash service. He further wrote that he believed his original comment was dismissed with a comment that the educational program would be sufficient to justify the special assessment to him, but he already receives educational materials and values and participates in recycling. Eggermont explained that he spoke to this individual and wanted to comment that he said to Mr. Carolan the word "addressed" as opposed to "dismissed" the duplication of services, as there are educational offerings as well as access to recycling bins.

Chair Dries inquired of anyone else who wished to speak.

Sue Bade, Dexter Township, expressed she is in full support of having the common recycling site, which is not to pay double. She expressed they do not pay their trash pick-up to pick up recycling because they like the common site for everybody to use. She inquired if they have coordinated with Putnam Township because on social media many people are encouraging people to use the Dexter Township drop off for people who don't live in the township.

Chair Dries inquired if there was anyone else who wished to speak. There was no response.

**11. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON OPERATION MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS
DISTRICT 2**

Chair Dries, seeing no further individuals wishing to speak, closed the public hearing for District 2 at 5:50 p.m.

**12. BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS TO APPROVE/DENY RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM
WWRA RECYCLING OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR DISTRICT #1 & DISTRICT #2**

Pratt made a motion to approve resolution. Supported by Schmidt.

Discussion: Smith was curious if there is information for those on low or fixed income, or if there is better education available regarding the difference between previous assessment and this special assessment. Eggermont explained it's a renewal of project that's been going on and has been updated due to inflation, as it hasn't been updated for over ten years. It was \$26 and now it is \$31, but other than that, the program will stay the same. Eggermont noted there are additional funds available through State of Michigan and he will be working with the facilities manager to apply for a grant to supply additional outreach and education to residents. He explained he is not aware of any information for people on fixed income.

Smith discussed that from both public hearings it seems like Manchester Township has the most objections, and is wondering if there is a township drop off, and maybe that is a way to address the concerns of the populous there. Eggermont replied there is a drop off in Manchester. Smith inquired if local municipality is in support of that and does their own education. Eggermont replied that the municipality has sent a resolution to help kick off this process, as a resolution is a mandatory part of providing services. Smith continued to inquire, wondering where the disconnect is with education around the drop-off site being available. Chair Dries indicated there does seem to be several people from certain municipalities that are commenting on this. He indicated the township supervisors of all townships and the City of Chelsea get copies of public comment from both hearings. Eggermont explained to anyone listening that they can Google WWRA and there is a list of locations to find the closest one to them. Maciejewski followed up on Smith's comment about residents on a fixed income. She explained that living in rural townships, there are options for trash haulers, so they may want to find a less expensive hauler that does not offer recycling.
End of Board discussion.

Roll call vote: Chair Dries, yes. Schmidt, yes. Maciejewski, yes. Pratt, yes. McCririe, yes. Smith, yes. McCormick, no.
Motion carried.

13. NEXT STEPS

Eggermont explained next step is for secretary to endorse the date of confirmation and certify resolution, at which point the special assessment district is considered conclusive unless it's attacked by a competent jurisdiction within 30 days. The special assessment will go in winter tax roll, which goes out around the beginning of December.

Maciejewski addresses that there were comments in the Zoom chat feature. Chair Dries explained people were asked not to comment in the chat, and what was in the chat was the same as what the individual spoke to. There was a second comment by the same speaker. Eggermont addressed it and said the locations will not change, and special assessment theoretically could change on an annual basis, but townships have requested to keep it consistent throughout all five years.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McCormick, supported by Schmidt.
The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Molly Maciejewski
Molly Maciejewski, Secretary