

Plan Implementation Advisory Committee Minutes

9/27/21 | 9:00AM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Ohren, Stone, Simmons, Seegert, Bukowski, Naud, Weinert

Members Absent: Williams

BPW Liaison: Smith

Public Present: Coleman

Staff Present: Eggermont, Garramone

Stone called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Public Comment

None

Roll Call

Weinert is present and attending remotely from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Simmons is present attending remotely from City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, MI.

Bukowski is present and attending remotely from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Stone is present and attending remotely from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Williams is not present.

Smith is present and attending remotely from City of Clio, Genesee County, MI.

Naud is present and attending remotely from City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Ohren is present and attending remotely from City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.

Seegert is present and attending remotely from Salem Township, Washtenaw County, MI.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda without amendment moved by Ohren, seconded by Bukowski. All in favor.

Approval of 7/26/21 Minutes

Stone corrected the education subcommittee summary to note the speaker was Mike Garfield.

Approval of minutes as amended moved by Ohren, seconded by Bukowski. All in favor.

Reports and Updates

Member Updates

Eggermont updated on the notice of violation from EGLE to Arbor Hills Energy, the entity that makes energy with the gas from the landfill. They paid a \$750,000 fine and are required to significantly reduce or eliminate their sulfur emissions. Arbor Hills Energy is anticipating refining the gas to sell as a natural gas. Seegert added they are building a new natural gas plant with sulfur treatment. The construction is expected to last 18 months.

Eggermont added the Board of Public Works passed the PIAC's recommendation to approve the RAA Eco-Park sponsorship. In addition, the samples taken during the MRF audit after the WRRMA cart tagging program indicate a contamination reduction of over 40%. WRRMA is likely to receive the follow up grant for additional education and outreach using the data from the tagging and quality improvement program. A report on the grant and results is in process. Garramone added WRRMA has two billboards

for this month that were just put up, one each in Pittsfield Township and Ypsilanti. The billboards have messaging on bagged recyclables and plastic bag/film recycling due to 89% of the oops tags being given for plastic bags/plastic film.

Naud joined at 9:15 am.

When WRRMA toured the GFL MRF in New Boston, MI, Eggermont learned that the machines are down for two hours for each shift just to remove tangles. Members from the GFL MRF attended the recent WRRMA meeting and board members learned they are not recycling glass although they are accepting it. WRRMA is looking into how they can adjust that to have glass recycled as an end goal.

Eggermont has sent membership renewal notices to committee members whose terms can be renewed.

WWRA installed their robotic AI sorter, Eggermont noted on behalf of Williams.

Weinert announced the RAA MRF will run a full scale test the week of October 11th. They are planning to be fully operational on November 1st. RAA is recruiting additional materials and hiring part time sorters. The MRF will have a capacity of about 30,000 tons per year, with the City of Ann Arbor sending about 14,000 tons per year. Weinert added the average value for recyclables is high at about \$130/ton.

Bukowski noted Maine and Oregon passed extended producer responsibility laws. Manufacturers are starting to get behind the movements to be advocate for consistency between states.

Naud updated the NextCycle intergovernmental initiatives track apps are opening in October and due the first week in January. The County Board of Commissioners should be soon approving a climate plan that RRS will be part of working on.

Seegert is looking into building a household hazardous waste center at the landfill and he will be touring the county's Home Toxics Center on Zeeb Road. He is also working on transforming a current space to be an educational center.

Eggermont added the Board of Public Works approved a recommendation to tentatively earmark \$1 million from the solid waste fund towards a new drop off station that has been submitted to EGLE for grant funding. The City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township applied for EGLE's recycling cart grants. Eggermont anticipates seeing sponsorship requests if the proposals are approved.

Subcommittee Updates

In August the Education Subcommittee shared information and generated ideas of topics to cover. In September, Garramone presented on Zero Waste Events and Ohren discussed the program evaluation.

Old Business

Program Evaluation Draft Report Review

Ohren noted the new information to the committee in the report is the first several pages on the evaluation process and some of the transitional information between the sections, as a well as a reflection based on committee discussion of what the department might do that they are currently not doing.

Eggermont thanked Weinert for his edits. The draft present in the packet has his edits incorporated. Simmons requested adding ERG into the text about refrigerants and the Home Toxics Center to further clarify where the refrigerants are referred. Simmons also noted a typo in the sponsorships section.

Weinert asked if this report could have an audience larger than the committee and the Board of Public Works. Eggermont responded that the primary focus has been internal, but that this work could be shared at a future MRC conference and the process explained for others to replicate. Stone requested a table of contents for easier reading and moving through the document. Ohren asked for local promotion of the work the committee and Board gave to this report, such as a press release. Weinert agreed and added local authorities, other communities, and sustainability commissions would be interested.

Motion to recommend approving the recommendations as amended and recommend it to the Board of Public Works for approval moved by Ohren, seconded by Simmons.

Roll call vote: Yes (7). Motion carries.

Next Steps

Eggermont will bring the report for the Board of Public Works for consideration. He will review creating a funding committee and potential to completing an ordinance review to learn what the local ordinances are and where there may be opportunities.

Bukowski noted increasing MRF issues with lithium-ion batteries and could be something the PIAC and education committee could review. Weinert noted reviewing propane tanks as well. Naud toured battery solutions, they are piloting a recycling kiosk for battery recycling that could be a model to review.

Public Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:28am. moved by Simmons, seconded by Ohren. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Isabella Garramone

Minutes approved by *Nancy V. Stone*
Nancy V. Stone (Doc. No. 2021-10-24-ED1)
Nancy Stone, Secretary

9.27.21 PIAC.Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-10-25

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