

Ionia County Solid Waste Committee

Meeting Minutes - April 26, 2022
Pitsch Sanitary Landfill Office

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Shattuck at 1:00pm.

Introductions were made around the table. For the record, attendance at this meeting was as follows:

Jack Shattuck	Committee Chairman, County Commissioner
Mark Novak	Committee Member, Ionia County Health Dept.
Melissa Eldridge	Committee Member, Ionia County Soil Conservation Dist.
John Feuerstein	Committee Member, Otisco Township
Clare Colwell	Committee Member, Orleans Township
Rob Weick	Committee Member, Waste Hauler, Creekside
Al Almy	Committee Member, Public
Gary Pitsch	Committee Member, Pitsch Sanitary Landfill
Lynn Mason	Committee Member, Public
George Chickering	Committee Member, Public
Howard Uiterdyk	Public
Kristie Warner Walls	Public
Tim Undseld	MEGLE (Michigan Environment Great Lakes Energy)
Kent Walters	MEGLE Hydrogeologist
Kathleen Young	Pitsch Sanitary Landfill
Steven Pitsch	Pitsch Sanitary Landfill
Ross Young	Pitsch Sanitary Landfill, Manager
Adam Monroe	Pitsch Sanitary Landfill, Assistant Manager, Mechanic

Chairman Shattuck passed out copies of the agenda. After review, he asked for a motion for agenda approval, which was made by Gary Pitsch and seconded by Clare Colwell.

Chairman Shattuck advised that the minutes from the last Meeting, which was held on February 22nd, were not available for review and approval. He advised that these minutes will be produced at our next meeting for approval.

The meeting was opened up for Public Comment.

Kristie Wells asked if this meeting would include a site tour, which was answered in the affirmative.

A question was raised regarding the status of House Bills introduced to amend Part 115 which proposes to change some of the regulations for Landfills and County Planning. Gary Pitsch responded: the Bills have passed the House and are sitting in the Regulatory Reform Committee of the Senate, which is chaired by Senator Aric Nesbit, who represents the district including Allegan and VanBuren Counties. Until this Bill is passed into law, our present Solid Waste Committee must abide by the current Part 115 requirements.

Chairman Shattuck moved the meeting to the next agenda item of hiring an Attorney. He stated that the County desires to engage an attorney to advise this Committee, but no progress has been made since our last meeting.

Chairman Shattuck moved to the last agenda item of reviewing the proposed amendment to the Solid Waste Plan. A drawing showing the boundaries of the Pitsch Sanitary Landfill property was available for review. Members of the Solid Waste Committee were able to

observe this drawing, become acclimated to existing landfill cells, and the proposed addition of six cells that is the subject of this Committee's consideration and approval.

The question was again raised by Mark Novak about the wetland, and how his approval for expansion into this wetland would affect the mitigation process. Tim Undseld answered this question by stating that Pitsch would still be required to go thru the mitigation process, even if this Committee approved the expansion. In other words, MEGLE has the final authority over the expansion.

Tim Undseld introduced another subject about the County's need to grant Pitsch's request for an expansion, by stating that Ionia has disposal capacity by going to other landfills in neighboring counties. In other words, the State's requirement that each County must account for their own disposal to a designated facility is met and the County does not have to approve Pitsch's request. Pitsch countered to this point by stating that Ionia County has an advantage of having a local landfill, because it's citizens will have a lower disposal rate due to a lesser hauling distance, and also the hosting township and county will enjoy a surcharge income from the tipping fees collected at the landfill.

The question was raised by Melissa Eldridge as to the life expectancy of Pitsch's cells 7 and 8 which are included in the current Solid Waste Plan. Gary Pitsch answered this question by stating that given the current rate of incoming waste, cells 7 and 8 should yield disposal capacity through the year 2030. Gary speculated that if cells 9 thru 14 are approved, disposal capacity will be extended thru the year 2070.

There being no further discussion, the next Ionia County Solid Waste Committee meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2022 at 10:00am at the Ionia County Commissioners meeting room.

A motion was made by Lynn Mason, seconded by Melissa Eldridge for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18pm.

The committee members pooled into 6 vehicles and drove around the Pitsch Landfill site, stopping for an on-site meeting at the West property line to observe and discuss the expansion location. Some members walked onto the site to observe the wetland outlet, that drains into the Flat River. This site tour lasted until 3:00pm.

Gary Pitsch
Ionia County Solid Waste Committee Member
Acting Secretary