

**IONIA COUNTY
SOLID WASTE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

10:00 am

County Administration Building

Commissioner's Board Room – 3rd Floor

101 West Main Street

Ionia, Michigan

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2022 Meeting
5. Public Comment
6. Business
7. Public Comment
 - Review Materials Submitted by Pitsch Companies – Landfill
 - Resolution to Initiate Solid Waste Plan Amendment Process
 - Review of Expansion, Enforcement, Tipping Fees Sections of Current Plan
8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 9, 2022 – 10:00 AM

IONIA COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLANNING COMMITTEE

June 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Jack Shattuck called the meeting to order at 10:05 am in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 101 West Main Street, Ionia.

Roll call revealed the following committee members present:

Al Almy, representing the General Public
George Chickering, representing Environmental Interest Groups
Clare Colwell, representing Township Governments
Melissa Eldridge, representing Environmental Interest Groups
Lynn Mason, representing the General Public
Gary Pitsch, representing the Solid Waste Industry
Jack Shattuck, representing the County Commission
Rob Weick, representing the Solid Waste Industry

Also present was Jason Eppler, Interim County Administrator; Sarah Osburn, Cohl, Stoker, Toskey, County Counsel; and several members of the public

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee Chairman Shattuck reviewed the agenda with the Committee. After review, it was moved by Member Pitsch, seconded by Member Eldridge to approve the agenda for the June 14, 2022 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Chairman Shattuck reviewed the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Committee meeting and noted a couple of corrections to the spelling of the names of meeting attendees. After review, it was moved by Member Eldridge, seconded by Member Mason to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 meeting as corrected. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chairman Shattuck called for Public Comment.

Several members of the public offered comments regarding proposed amendments to the County's Solid Waste Plan concerning the possible expansion of the Pitsch Landfill in the northwest area of the County. Additionally, several suggestions were offered regarding making meeting agendas, meeting minutes, committee membership listing and the Solid Waste Plan available on the County's website.

SOLID WASTE PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS

The Interim County Administrator introduced Sarah Osburn, an attorney from Cohl, Stoker, Toskey and stated that her firm acts as General Counsel to the County and, based on her experience, she will be assisting the County with the process of amending the County's Solid Waste Plan. Ms. Osburn provided information regarding the Solid Waste Plan planning process, differentiated between a plan

“update” which can only be ordered by EGLE Director versus a plan “amendment(s)” which can be initiated at the local level without the Director’s involvement; stated that the plan amendment process, which is outlined both in statute and EGLE department rules, is a lengthy one with many opportunities for public, industry and local government involvement; and, reviewed an EGLE department prepared flow-chart which outlines the planning process.

Chairman Shattuck stated that in addition to the Pitsch Companies proposal to expand their landfill, County desired amendments include an increase in the tipping fees received by both the County and the Township and possibly expanded recycling services in the County.

Ms. Osburn also noted that in addition to the plan amendments that the Committee has previously discussed, there are several amendments that should also be made to the plan based on the age of the plan such as updating land use maps, demographic information and other items.

There was a lengthy discussion by the Committee along with input from the public attendees regarding the possible expansion of the Pitsch Companies landfill; whether the expansion will be in Orleans Township or into Otisco Township (Pitsch will provide updated mappings/surveys to the Committee which include the boundary line between the Townships); the regulatory role of the County versus EGLE; the desire of the Committee to be provided copies of the Pitsch Companies’ EGLE permits; and the use of demolition debris as “day cover” and associated blowing trash and papers rather than using sand or gravel.

Committee Chairman Shattuck requested that Mr. Pitsch (and/or his attorney) prepare a formal request to the Committee regarding their proposed plan amendment regarding the landfill expansion. He also requested that Ms. Osburn continue her review of the County’s current plan in order to develop an outline of the amendments that she believes are necessary to bring the plan up to date.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chairman Shattuck called for Public Comment.

Several members of the public offered public comments including expressing concerns regarding the impact to local non-Class A roads in the area north of the Pitsch Companies landfill as they are transporting waste from Montcalm County to the landfill; annual exceedance of the amount of waste that the landfill can accept and the fact that the fines from EGLE are not high enough to discourage this practice; and, the impact on drinking water wells due to vinyl chloride and PFAS from the landfill. Mr. Pitsch shared information regarding the PFAS testing that has been completed in the area and the fact that any samples that have exceeded acceptable PFAS levels are not from the “new” landfill but, rather, from the “old” Township dump.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Committee Chairman Shattuck introduced discussion regarding meeting dates for July and August. He also noted that he will be unable to attend meetings in July and August and suggested that the Committee select a “co-chair”. After discussion, it was moved by Member Eldridge, seconded by Member Weick to select Member Colwell as “co-chair”. MOTION CARRIED.

The Committee set their July and August meeting dates as follows:

July 12, 2022 at 10:00 am

August 9, 2022 at 10:00 am

Both meetings will be held in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Member Mason, seconded by Member Weick to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 PM.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler

Recording Secretary

**RESOLUTION OF THE IONIA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
PLANNING COMMITTEE DIRECTING THE DRAFTING OF
AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Plan Committee has received and reviewed a request for an amendment to the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Plan from Pitsch Recycle and Disposal, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee has considered the request from Pitsch Recycle and Disposal, Inc and has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to move forward with preparing an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Committee hereby directs the Ionia Conservation District, through its Director Melissa Etheridge, as the Ionia County Designated Planning Agency to draft the plan amendment and to support the amendment process in accordance with the procedures set forth in MCL 324.11535(a)-(f).