

Ionía County
Solid Waste Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes for August 22, 2023
Held at 101 West Main St. Ionia

Board Members Present: Gary Pitsch (Temp. Chair), Lynn Mason, John Feuerstein, Rob Weick, Mark Novak, John Vriese, George Chickering, Clare Colwell, and Dan Schoonmaker (10:18)

Board Members Absent: Al Almy, Roger Rockburn, Jack Shattuck, and Jorel Davis.

Others Present: Melissa Eldridge DPW, Sarah Osborn Attn., Patrick Jordan Admin., and 4 members of the public.

Call to Order: Gary P. called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Approval of Agenda: Clare moved and Rob seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: John V. moved and John F. seconded to approve the July 18th minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Christie Valentine asked questions about the Host Committee Agreement. What will the procedure be? How will the tonnage issue be dealt with? Sarah O. explained that the tonnage issue is separate from the HCA. Also, that the HCA is simply a draft. She also gave an explanation about the agreement vs. the plan amendment. Christie V. expressed concern about user fees and public communication. Steven Pitsch discussed the following:

- Asked for support for the 500,000 tons.
- Explained his interest in growing his business and concerns about hindrance.
- The landfill is an asset to the county.
- Perhaps, they may go back into hauling trash ?
- Discussed the varying cap levels at other landfills.
- Discussed contamination from the old dump. The contamination is getting smaller and is being dealt with. It is highly regulated.

Business:

Host Committee Agreement

- The document we were discussing was revised on June 7, 2023. It is a draft document which references issues and is considered a tool to work with.
- What is the next step? Sarah O. suggested we discuss whether the committee should direct the Designated Planning Agent, Melissa E., to move forward with drafting the plan amendment. From there, we would need to submit a notice of intent to EGLE.
- Melissa E. shared details of a Site Review Committee and that it needs to be formed. (see handout) Discussion continued.

Formal Expansion Request from Pitsch Recycling and Disposal

- The formal request letter was received from Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, dated August 7, 2023.
- The request is that the Solid Waste Plan be updated and amended. This amendment would include increasing the maximum amount of waste from 100,000 tons to 500,000 tons. (See attached letter)
- Discussion continued.
- Lynn M. moved, and Mark N. seconded to table action on the Pitsch letter until the next meeting due to the need for more information. Discussion continued. Motion carried to table taking action on the request until the next meeting.
- It was agreed that Melissa E. will be the contact for questions dealing with the issue contained in the formal request.

Montcalm recycling program- Brenda Taeter, Montcalm County Controller

Ms. Taeter was unable to attend this meeting.

Discussion took place whether “other information” could be added to the agenda at this point. It was agreed by consensus.

Johnson Rd. Project

- Gary P. presented information gained from a recent meeting.
- The project will begin on Sept. 5, 2023
- The plan is to begin asphalt on or about Sept. 26-27.
- Detour plan has changed from using Ellis Ave. in Belding to using Canfield Rd. to Kidville to Landfill. Canfield Rd. is scheduled to be highly brined.
- Johnson Rd. will be closed for approximately 3-4 weeks.
- Discussion concerning trucks going both ways took place.
- Discussion on if construction will be appropriate for greater use.
- Has there been enough consideration for infrastructure support for expansion?

Material Management Issues

- Melissa E. has also visited several sites.
- The deadline for Material Management Plan is 2029.
- She suggested modeling our plan after Montcalm Co.
- Compactors and other containers discussed.
- Where might the sites be located? She asked the committee members to think about and propose suggestions.
- Gary P. suggested that hazardous waste, similar to Emmet County, could be done at Pitsch.

Public Comment: Christie V. discussed the areas of contamination, modern contamination along with neighbor and group concerns.

Next Meeting: October 10, 2023 @ 10:00. Discussion occurred on whether the meeting could have Zoom a possibility and if members could vote while on Zoom. More information to come.

Adjournment: John V. moved and Clare seconded to adjourn at 11:30. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Mason