

Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)
6/26/2025 Meeting Minutes
10:00am
County Administration Building Commissioner's Board Room – 3rd Floor
101 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan

Call to Order: 10:00am

Present: Melissa Eldridge (ICD), Dan Tietema (Organicycle), Gary Pitsch (Pitsch Enterprises), John Feuerstein (Otisco Township), Don Johnson (WM), Steven Blayer (Granger), Lynelle Wilson (Ionia Chamber of Commerce), Jack Shattuck (Ionia County), Doug Hyland (Village of Muir), Dan Schoonmaker (Michigan Sustainable Business Forum), Michael Lamphere (Boston Township), Tonya Tepin (ICD).

Absent: Kristie Walls

Virtual: N/A

Presentation: Dan Tietema

1. Organicycle started as an organics hauler.
2. Highlighted a need for education on what waste is what: is it contamination or not?
3. Food to yard waste ratio - there is an important "brown" to "green" ratio of 2:3, respectfully. Organicycle picks up a lot of commercial "green"/nitrogen rich waste.
4. It takes about 5-6 months for the composting process to go start to finish.
5. Goals for them and Ionia County:
 - a. Have great transparency.
 - b. Increase compostability of products.
 - c. Educate workers and the public.
6. They currently have locations in Muskegon, Holland, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo
7. They have space to handle an increase in food waste compost and they are always expanding/opening new locations.

Old Business:

1. Data Report (SWOT)
 - a. Pitsch is in the process of getting a tire chipper.
2. Updates
 - a. MRF Tour - received important statistical information to further encourage recycling in our county.
 - b. Recycling Guide - is constantly being updated in response to questions by the public or materials that come up in conversation.

New Business:

1. Board Appointments
 - a. Kristie Warner-Walls has resigned from Chair. Lynelle Wilson suggested as the new Chair. Motion to approve by Hyland, second by Tietema, third by Pitsch. Motion passed.
 - b. Steven Blayer suggested for new Vice Chair. Motion by Hyland, second by Tietema, third by Pitsch. Motion passed.
 - c. Dan Schoonmaker for Secretary. Motion by Hyland, second by Tietema, third by Pitsch. Motion passed.
2. Proposed Change to Work Program
 - a. Move the Organics unit to the Solid Waste timeline and move Solid Waste to the end of the plan. Motion by Tietema, second by Blayer. Motion passed.
 - b. Organics conversations:
 - i. Granger does not have current contracts with schools for collection of food waste; however, they send some other food waste to Hammond Farms.
 - ii. How can we work with the school and prison systems to increase the compostability of their cafeteria products?
 - iii. How can we work with the prisons to give prisoners a healthy composting work opportunity?
 - iv. How frequently must compost be picked up?
3. July Public Forum
 - a. A Google event will be sent to the MMP members by Tepin.
4. Recycling Section Draft Edits/Approval.
 - a. Motion by Wilson, supported by Blayer.
 - i. *Let it be noted this approval is for the Committee to continue moving forward with planning the next unit (Organics). Edits may be made to the Recycling MMP Draft and brought to the Committee for further discussion and approval prior to submission of the FINAL Draft.*

Next Meeting: July 24th, 2025 - 10:00am

Adjournment: motion by Pitsch, supported by Feuerstein - 11:09am