

Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting
January 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Carlton County Courthouse

Members Present

Voting Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Ezell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Crestik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Proulx
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elaine Lindell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Hebert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Schulstrom
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Del Provost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/> H. Merrill Loy
Non-Voting Members	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karola Dalen

Guests: George Knutson

Carlton County Recycling and Solid Waste Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Review and approve October 26, 2016 meeting minutes

October 26, 2016 meeting minutes were approved with one correction. Crestik moved to approve the minutes. Lindell seconded and supported by all yea votes.

2. SWARA reappointments

All terms were approved by the Carlton County Board of Commissioners at the Dec. 13, 2016 meeting. The following 3-year terms were approved: District 1 – Del Provost, District 4 - Jack Ezell, At-Large – H. Merrill Loy, Student – Maggie Schulstrom.

3. Recycling Center Grants

Salmon made a motion, to allocate \$5,000 per staffed Recycling Center for the annual 2017 County Recycling Facility Grants. Schulstrom seconded and supported by all yea votes.

4. Press Release/News Articles Wrenshall School

Dalen explained that the press release was put together for the purpose of positive press for the school and Green Schools Project. It combined the stories of Wrenshall Industrial Arts class constructing the Blackhoof Recycling Center and the school's participation in Green Schools Project. A lot of time was taken to put the story together and the press release included several nice photos. Articles ran in the Pine Journal and two photos were featured in the DNT. The story was also featured in our Green Schools Project newsletter and will be in the Winter Resource & Recycling newsletter. Wrenshall school ran the article in their monthly school newsletter. This is an tactic we would like to employ with the other schools participating in Green Schools Project.

5. Update on Green Schools Project

Knutson shared a progress spreadsheet of what schools are participating for the 2016/2017 school year. Some schools are participating for a second time. Progress is going well. Significant effort has been put into helping schools understand the importance of organics recycling. A "food weigh" event is planned for the second week in February at Washington Elementary. The total food waste will be measure for the week and compared to MPCA standards. All schools in the county have either participated in GSP or have had a recycling and waste reduction assessment, with the exception of Esko. Dalen did have a conversation with Esko's superintendent. They have hired a new Head of Custodial and are working on getting their recycling program back on track. We hope they will take us up on the offer to assist them. Two superintendents have related their concern to Dalen regarding the assumed staff time for the required "Green Team" in the grant requirements.

6. Replacing Mahtowa Unstaffed Recycling Center

Mahtowa recycling sheds are next on the list to be replaced. The funds are included in the 2017 budget. The buildings are worn out but most importantly are undersized. Dalen explained that due to the facilitation required for this type of project, replaced of one shed location per year is the most practical for work load management.

7. Newsletter

The winter edition of the Resource & Recycling Newsletter will go out at the end of the week. Dalen wanted to inform the committee that photos and a short story on the Bayside Tour will be included.

8. Ag Plastic Collection

Dalen informed the committee of a new program to collect ag plastic organized by several central Minnesota counties. Farms can pick up an ag plastic dumpster to keep at the farm. The material is collected by the recycling company. The dumpsters purchased with grant funds and farmers do not pay a disposal fee for the material. Carlton County farms are not currently eligible but the program coordinators want out of area farms to sign up to assess the interests in other parts of the state. Dalen will send an email requesting Carlton County farms to sign up.

9. Sharing Time, Tips for Reuse/Recycling

The committee discussed the challenge of making it a habit to use re-usable shopping bags. Provost suggested the committee keep updated on the Duluth group which is proposing a plastic shopping bag ban, similar to the City of Mpls and State of California. Crestik informed the committee on why plastic shopping bags are not accepted in curbside collection. Salmon reminded the committee to conveniently keep plastic shopping bags for reuse in an empty tissue box. Shulstrom shared that her family re-uses large chip bags as garbage bags. Ezell reminded the committee that the WLSSD's contract for with the landfill in Superior, WI expires in 2022, which is only five years from now. There are several proposals in the state for existing landfills to start accepting MSW. Either way, distance travel will increase and likely the cost of MSW disposal will increase as well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by,
Karola Dalen
Resource and Recycling Coordinator