

**GENESEE COUNTY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday December 4, 2024, 1:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Genesee County Materials Management Planning Committee met at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday December 4, 2024, in Room 301 of the Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, Michigan, 48502.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Cody Roblyer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Roblyer greeted everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves, what agency they are with and one thing they would like to get out of this process.

- Rachel Thompson; Emterra Environmental; incorporate change initiative.
- Mark Cherry; Country Oaks Landscape Supply; organics collection in Genesee County.
- Amy Freeman; Genesee Conservation District; organics collection in Genesee County.
- Tim Church; GFL/Brent Run Landfill; focus is to have the plan done quickly.
- Dan Potter; Genesee County Division of Water and Waste; more avenues for the disposal of end product from treating waste.
- Mike Csapo; Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County; create a plan that has actionable follow-through steps and incorporates disaster debris management planning.
- Heather Griffin; City of Flint; would like the community to have more involvement and knowledge of the plan.
- Coetta Adams; Montrose Township; educate herself and be able to educate constituents.
- Andrea Kruse; Priority Waste; awareness and education to the public about recycling.
- Cody Roblyer; Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission; education.
- Dru Hajec; Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission; give residents more options and resources.
- Theresa LeFavour, Secretary for Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. OVERVIEW OF THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS**

Mr. Roblyer presented an overview of the Materials Management Planning process. He pointed out that the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has given some guidance for the county Materials Management Plan (MMP), but more is needed. As plan development progresses, changes to the anticipated timeline and tasks may occur.

Mr. Roblyer gave a brief history: in the early 2000's, EGLE called for each county to do a Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Genesee County has done two amendments since then which the county initiated themselves to keep the plan current with changing solid waste infrastructure and needs.

Mike Csapo inquired if the 2023 plan passed. Mr. Roblyer responded that although it passed through the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee and Genesee County Board of Commissioners, it did not pass with enough approvals from the local units of government. Mr. Roblyer added that information collected during that process can still be used in this new process. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Roblyer stated that in the past the purpose of the SWMP was to establish landfill capacity. The new MMP is focused on programs that divert waste from landfills such as recycling and composting.

Funding will be provided by the state to support the development and implementation of the plan going forward.

The goals of Genesee County's previous SWMP were to improve education and awareness around waste diversion, to reduce waste generation, and create a healthy environment.

Some items that will be updated are socioeconomic data, materials management data, deficiencies, goals, implementation strategies, and materials management infrastructure. Materials management facilities that were previously not required to be in the SWMP are now required to be in the MMP such as recycling centers and composting facilities.

Mr. Roblyer discussed the timeline with total plan development being about two years. After the plan is developed, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and local units of government will need to review and approve the plan. Once the plan is approved by the Board, local units of government will have 120 days to take action on the plan. The plan should be finalized in December 2027, and then implementation will begin.

Mr. Roblyer then described the role of the committee. He stated that the committee will oversee the process and approve the different components of the plan.

An interactive exercise took place.

*What challenges or barriers do you foresee?* Money, support for decision makers, public education, potentially changing state laws, technology that has not yet been invented.

*How can we address these challenges?* Write language that is not too prescriptive and cannot be open to interpretation, performance based specs, public awareness to make decisions, intergovernmental cooperation, and public-private partnerships.

*What are the long-term goals you envision for our community's approach to materials management?* Create a comprehensive plan that makes it as easy to get materials back

into the circular economy as it was to buy them in the first place; expanding what can be recycled; to make people care.

*How do we see waste diversion playing a role in achieving these goals? Keeping resources in our community (e.g. making eye glass frames out of water bottles collected during the water crisis in the City of Flint).*

*How can we encourage widespread participation in waste diversion initiatives? Focus not only residential waste diversion but commercial and multi-family properties; Collecting materials from businesses to lower their landfill contributions which will also save the business money in trash pick-up; Pick up food scraps from restaurants to use toward compost; Make it cost effective for businesses so they will support the initiatives; Residential and commercial need to take ownership in their materials management practices; Retrofit apartment complexes with recycling containers; Require space for not only trash and recycling but also food waste; make recycling a priority at the government level.*

#### **V. MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN WORK PROGRAM\*\*\***

Ms. Dru Hajec presented an overview of the MMP work program. The work program outlines tasks relevant to developing the MMP as well as costs associated with each task. Some of the required elements are a timeline, including public participation elements, the cost of plan preparation, staffing needs and responsibilities, and sources of funding for the plan.

EGLE is providing funding for the plan in the amount of about \$789,000 over the three-year development timeline. It is not clear yet how this funding will be received. Genesee County also receives funds from the Genesee County Solid Waste Ordinance to support this effort. After the three years, Genesee County will be receiving \$60,000 annually from EGLE for MMP implementation.

An overview of the MMP tasks and subtasks were presented by Ms. Hajec. Mr. Roblyer noted that the work program is required by EGLE before the County can start the MMP process and receive funding. The Work Program is due December 25, 2024. He also stated that the work program is subject to change as more guidance is provided by the state.

Discussion ensued.

**Motion: Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Mike Csapo, **Supported by** Daniel Potter, to approve the Materials Management Plan Work Program as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Roblyer discussed the household hazardous waste collection events, also known as Recycle Day. The events have become dramatically more expensive in recent years while not being able to meet demand of residents wanting to drop-off waste. The solution to these problems is the development a permanent recycling drop-off facility. This is

being developed in the City of Flint at the old McDonald Dairy site. Anticipated opening date for the facility is in 2026/2027.

**a. Election of officers**

Mr. Roblyer stated that election of officers will take place at the next meeting. If anyone is interested in being a chairperson or vice-chairperson, please reach out to him or Ms. Hajec.

Mr. Roblyer stated that the plan is for meetings to take place on the first Wednesday of every other month at 1:30 pm.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Roblyer adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa LeFavour  
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission