



*Alcona County
Michigan
"1st of 83"*

**Northeast Michigan Regional Multi-County Materials Management Planning
Committee (MMPC)
Meeting Minutes**

08/22/2025, 10:30 AM

MOA Solid Waste Management Authority, 6751 Landfill Rd, Atlanta, MI 49709

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 10:30a.m.

Roll Call

- a. Connie Gerrie – present
- b. Leigh Ann Jewell – present
- c. Cindy Johnson – present
- d. Rachel Smolinski – present
- e. Ted Fines – absent
- f. Maddie Khuri – absent
- g. Cheryl Neilson – absent
- h. Susan Avery – present
- i. Jeff Gehring – absent
- j. John Dietlin – absent
- k. Rob Pellarito – present
- l. Bill Peterson - present
- m. Terry Small – present
- n. Terry Dutcher – absent
 - i. Jamie Soboleski (proxy for Dutcher) – present
- o. Michelle Hamlin – present
- p. Michelle Knepp – present

- q. David Langley – present
- r. Fairview Facility Manager – absent
- Resource Recycling Staff Present: Elisa Seltzer, Katelyn Heflin (virtual)

Last Meeting Minutes Approval

- Motion to approve meeting minutes from 6/27/25
 - Rob Pallarito / Terry Small 12 yes / 0 no | Motion Carried

Meeting Logistics, Bylaws Clarifications, Proxy Voting, Work Program and Plan Drafting

Meeting length and locations

- Committee agreed that meetings should be 1.5 hours moving forward.
- Future meeting schedule and locations:
 - Upcoming meetings for 2025 do not align with landfill meetings because they are scheduled for Thursdays.
 - Any other space preferences for these upcoming meetings or do we want to look at this for next year?
 - Atlanta discussions were had.
- The Committee discussed scheduling a December meeting.

Bylaws Clarifications

- RRS will send out a meeting reminder, agenda, and ask for confirmation of attendance a week in advance so that we know how many members will be showing up.

Proxy Voting

- Seltzer clarified that all members of the MMPC are eligible to have a proxy. They must notify the Chair ahead of time and representation must be the same.

Work Program Re-Submission

- Seltzer noted that the work programs have been rejected so we will need to resubmit.

Plan Drafting and Approval Timeline

- Seltzer reviewed a timeline of when the plan needs to be drafted and noted the need to reserve time for public comment leading up to plan approval.
- RRS will share work plan timeline.
- RRS will share bylaws with the Committee as approved.

Part 115 Highlights and Opportunities in the 5-County Region

MSW Currently Disposed in Michigan and Opportunities for Diversion

- Seltzer reviewed a high level of MSW disposed in Michigan and how much of that waste is recoverable.
- Seltzer reviewed changes made to Part 115 and implications for counties such as funding and the elimination of import/export authorization.
- Seltzer noted that the counties may want to strengthen their flow control as the import/export authorization is going away.

Benchmark Recycling Standards Requirements (BRS)

- Seltzer reviewed the requirements of the BRS.

Opportunities

- The Committee noted the challenges of mattresses ending up in the landfill.
- Seltzer noted that we have a mattress recycler in Northern Michigan.
 - o There is a lot of recoverable material in mattresses.
 - o The counties could partner with BARC to sponsor a mattress recycling event.
 - o A Member noted that they send all of their mattresses to BARC already and asked if there will be funding for this.
 - o Seltzer – if you plan for it in your budget, yes, you can use EGLE funds to pay for it. Noted that it is a reimbursement.
 - o Seltzer – you can start building real infrastructure into your budget.
- Seltzer gave another example of a good opportunity: addressing food waste.
 - o The counties can start small by tackling food waste enabling residents to compost on site. You could also subsidize the cost for residents to buy a compost bin.
 - o Seltzer gave an example of Emmet County education and resident engagement when they launched their bin program.
 - o Rachel – noted that they don't focus on food waste currently but would like to in the future.
 - They are also looking at a comprehensive drop off.

BRS Status

Alpena

- Alpena has 7 drop off sites. They have trouble with keeping and locating sites. They do not have one that is within the city limits. They hope to add one more site next year.
- For the new MRF, they are working through the requirements with CDA. They are jumping through those hoops. They have an architect working on the site design – an RFP will go out soon. The equipment RFP will go out soon as well. They hope to have site clearing happening by the end of this year. Most construction would happen in the spring and summer of 2026.
- Things are moving forward!

Alcona

- 1 drop-off in Lincoln. They have a cleanup once per year and charge the townships for it. They may offer e-waste collection this year in conjunction.

Montmorency

- Recycling in Hillman no longer open. Landfill no longer taking tires. They do accept scrap metal.

Iosco

- Oscoda Charter Township is over 5,000 residents. The Committee asked if this would be considered a municipality? They noted that Oscoda Charter Township is extremely rural and curbside service would not be efficient.
- The Committee discussed the challenges of meeting the curbside recycling standard in this example by 2028.
- Jamie noted that Iosco started out with no service for recycling. They started out with an EGLE grant for community engagement. Worked with RRS to figure out funding. Looked at a \$25 assessment per household (PA138) – townships were not interested. Iosco then participated in EGLE's NextCycle program. They ended up putting up a millage in the County. They now have .45 mills that raises about \$650k per year. They also have a recycling advisory board. They also held their first e-waste recycling event in June and will host an HHW event this fall.
- They will also have a shrink wrap collection event.
- Iosco does not have to pay for their recycling out of their general fund.

- The biggest challenge is residents expecting services right away.

Oscoda

- Oscoda – we have two drop offs and we accept from all residents of the County. BRS IS met. The Drop off is in Big Creek Township. GFL is the hauler for the drop off.
- Oscoda has tire and electronic recycling each year.
- The County takes in the money and reimburses each participating township.
- They want to offer glass recycling – very clean site.
- Pay MacGregor's transfer site for bins - would like their own area – staffed site.
- Big Creek Township is working towards owning two recycle bins.

Discussion

- A Member noted that the Townships decide how they will comply.
- The Committee discussed EGLE funding for drop off centers, specifically for tires. They discussed the difference between a permanent drop off and a mobile station.
 - o Challenges with funding and the need to charge for tire drop offs.
- A Committee Member asked about the access to recycling versus participation. In order to reach the BRS, recycling for curbside must be accessible to residents (in communities over 5K). It is not mandated participation.
- The Committee discussed the benefits of collecting cardboard from commercial entities in the counties, noting the material is generally a clean, low hanging fruit. They also discussed challenges with contamination and that the drop sites end up self-policing from residents who dislike the misuse of these sites.

Data Homework – Worksheets

- Seltzer reviewed the worksheet handouts for members to support in accurate data collection.
- RRS will also share these electronically.

Community Engagement

- Seltzer noted that it is important to keep all municipalities in each county up to date with what is happening during this planning process so they are not blind sighted when it comes time to approve the plan.
- Seltzer suggested sharing a quarterly newsletter with your communities, emulating what Emmet County is doing.
- Seltzer noted upcoming meeting topics and the need to focus on funding.

- Speakers – what would like to learn more about? What speakers would you like to bring in?
 - o EGLE – to speak about grant opportunities (for November meeting)

Public Comment

None

Next Steps:

- RRS will share slides as a PDF
- RRS will share links for virtual attendance – Sue can only attend virtually on Thursdays. Jackie can be her proxy for voting.

Next Meetings Schedule (through 2025):

- Thursday, September 18/2025 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Thursday, October 16/2025 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Thursday, November 20/2025 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Thursday, December 18/ 2025 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn
Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski /Rob Palarito 12 yes / 0 no | Motion Carried
- Meeting adjourned at 12:03p.m.

Approval

Approved by: *Michelle Knepp* (Secretary)

