



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

**11/20/2025, 1:00 PM**

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

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 1:07pm

**Roll Call**

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

- i. Llyod P (proxy) - present
  - p. Michelle Knepp – present
  - q. David Langley – absent
  - r. Lance Oldenburg - absent
- Resource Recycling Staff Present: Elisa Seltzer, Katelyn Heflin (virtual)

### **Last Meeting Minutes Approval**

- Motion to approve meeting minutes from 10/16/25
  - Cheryl Nielson/Rob Pallarito
 Approved | Motion Carried

### **EGLE Presentation – MMP Overview + Grant Opportunities and Use of MMP Funds**

- DJ shared the regions that he covers as an EGLE Recycling Specialist. Noted that he is a “grant enabler.”
- DJ shared other EGLE staff member roles and responsibilities.
- Focus of plans has shifted from solid waste plans to materials management.
- DJ noted that there are no statutory requirements that will fine counties for failures in implementation. However, EGLE does want to see progress and will be tracking momentum.
- MMP goals and benchmark recycling standards – EGLE wants to see counties doing better than what they are doing now.
- DJ began to review what MMP funds can be used for – they can be used for almost everything besides buying or leasing land.
- The Committee discussed different grant opportunities through EGLE:
  - Circular Economy
  - Infrastructure Grant
    - Iosco County shared how they identified sites for their drop off sites, partnering with a school and an ice rink.
- The Committee discussed what the EGLE MMP funds can cover.

### **Sustainable Funding Mechanisms**

- Alpena shared their use of PA 138 and what the approval process looked like to get the surcharge passed.
- Alpena County is also the processor, so they are able to receive revenue through sale of commodities.
- Iosco County shared their decision not to pursue PA 138. Iosco County leadership did not want to place any charge on the tax bills that was not voter approved.

#### PA 69

- Same legislative pathway as 138 but allows you to charge up to \$50 per household and also includes businesses. Requires voter approval.

#### Disposal Facility Surcharge

- Seltzer noted that Emmet County has a pay-as-you-throw system as well as a transfer station tip fee that helps diversify their funding sources.

#### Flow Control

- The Committee discussed the possibility of counties flow controlling recyclables to the new NMMMA MRF.
- Flow control for all waste from three counties to go to the MOA landfill is in place.

#### Millage

- Iosco County spoke to the roll out of their millage. They have a 0.45 mill that narrowly passed. The Committee discussed that millages, once passed, tend to do well because the residents want the services to continue.
- The Committee discussed what the millage applies to – all property.
- For counties that don't have a funding mechanism for recycling, a millage is a popular pathway – it gives the power to the people. It is best practice to include funding for HHW materials in the language because residents care about the proper disposal of this type of waste.
- Iosco noted that they would have gotten educational content out to the public earlier to educate better.
- The Committee discussed the need to have a staff person dedicated to securing funding and implementation of goals that will be laid out in this plan.

#### Ordinance

- You can use an ordinance to set a pay-as-you-throw mechanism.
- You can use an ordinance to require that haulers report their waste volumes back to you to increase your understanding of materials moving through your county.

## PA 185

- PA 185 authorizes a county to establish a department and board of public works, incur contract obligations, levy taxes, issue/pay bonds, and do special assessments.

## Developing and Authority

- NMMMA mentioned that the door is open for other counties to apply for membership to the current NMMMA authority.

## Municipal Utility

- Local units can assess a fee to cover costs.

## **Existing Recycling Funding Mechanisms and Services**

Funding mechanisms and what they are used for:

	Alcona	Alpena	Iosco	Montmorency	Oscoda
<b>Funding and amount</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volunteer drop off</li><li>• ..</li><li>• ..</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$25/HH/yr fee Surcharge</li><li>• Landfill surcharge</li><li>• Addl fundraising for event recycling/clean up day, ewaste, tires</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Millage - additional 0.45 mills</li><li>• ..</li><li>• ..</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landfill surcharge</li><li>• Interested in MOA surcharge</li><li>• Board consider millage for next year - have nothing at this point.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landfill surcharge</li><li>• Oscoda County is only Big Creek Township. We fund 99.5 % for recycling, from our General fund. received a small amount from Townships for tires and from the County a small amount for Tires and Electronics.</li></ul>
<b>Paying for?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WM \$5/car - hauled to Bay City. Shifting to NMMMA due to WM tripling rate.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycling drop off sites</li><li>• Hauling</li><li>• Staffing</li><li>• MRF</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycling drop off sites</li><li>• HHW event</li><li>• Ewaste events (partial)</li><li>• Staffing</li><li>• Education/outreach</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ..</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ..</li></ul>

## **Recap of Recycling Best Practices**

- Seltzer reviewed best practices for building out a hub and spoke system with multiple drop sites feeding the NMMMA MRF.
- Seltzer reviewed best practices for building out drop offs and a focus on education and outreach.
- Seltzer encouraged the Committee to look at using MMP funds to host special materials collection events in the region. We will work to integrate this event planning into the Year 2 Work Program budget.

- Seltzer showed the Committee data on commercial cardboard generation and encouraged the Committee work to tackle this high value material.

## **Goal Setting**

- Seltzer reminded the Committee that local units will need to approve (or not act on) the plan. How can the Committee ensure that their local units are up to speed on the plan? How can the Committee give the plan teeth working with the local units?
- Seltzer shared the definition of setting SMART goals.
- Seltzer reviewed example regional recycling goals with county-specific objectives.
- The Committee discussed the structure of goal setting across the wider region that will have different needs per county.
- The Committee discussed challenges with funding and staffing their recycling efforts and the issues with contamination.
- The Committee discussed other possible goals related to hosting HHW collection events and curbside recycling.

## **Newsletter Update**

- Feedback on Newsletter:
  - Change Terry Dutcher to Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski.
  - Change Jackie Bondar to Michelle Knepp as well.

## **Survey Update**

- Test link will be emailed out, along with the language that can be shared with distributors.
- Feedback on introduction:
  - o Second paragraph between first and second sentence add: manufactures in Michigan are using to recyclables to make new products.. E.g. :
    - Glass
    - Cardboard for fast food bags
  - o “Supports jobs in the region”

## **2026 Meeting Dates and Locations**

- The Committee decided on the third Thursday of every month at the MOA landfill in person – from 1:30pm – 3:00pm
  - o Set for the whole year – and change as needed.

### **Public Comment**

- None

### **Next Meetings Schedule (through 2025):**

- Thursday, December 18/ 2025 1:30pm – 3:00pm

### **Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn
  - o Motion to adjourn Connie Gerrie/Rachel Smolinski
  - o Motion passed
  - o Meeting adjourned at 2:59pm

### **Approval**

Approved by: *Michelle Knepp* (Secretary)