



Manistee County Board of Commissioners

Manistee County Courthouse • 415 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

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MANISTEE COUNTY GREEN TEAM/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 28, 2019
8:30 A.M.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Public Comment
- 3) Sarah Archer - P.A. 69 Recycling Update (APPENDIX A)
- 4) Allan O'Shea – Solar & Wind Projects
- 5) Other Items From Committee Members
- 6) Adjournment

**Manistee County Green Team
Recycling Program Report – March 28, 2019
Sarah Archer, Iris Waste Diversion Specialists, Inc.**

The following is a summary of Recycling Program activity since February 28, 2019

Meeting Attendance

- Green Team – February 28, 2019

Current Volume Report

Total weight (pounds) of materials collected from 6 recycling drop-off sites.

January	34,579	April		July		October	
February	32,280	May		August		November	
March		June		September		December	
						Total To-Date	66,859

- There was a 3% increase in volume for February 2019 compared to February 2018.
- Total program costs through February 2019 are \$335.60 lower than in February 2018.

2018 PCA Cardboard Recycling Fundraiser Program	
LOCATION	TOTAL WEIGHT (Tons)
Betsie Valley School	31.55
Manistee Catholic Central	309.91
Kaleva (Brethren SEEDS)	29.12
Old Brethren High School	No data
Onekama Schools	108.03
Wellston Transfer Station	70.57
TOTAL	549.18

Education

- Monthly e-newsletter sent

Operations

- The sign board at the Copemish site was destroyed in January. A new sign board was constructed from scrap wood and set up in February to identify the site as a Manistee County Recycling site along with a copy of the recycling guidelines. The new sign board was damaged within 10 days after set up.
- Received pricing for recycled content message center sign for the Copemish site. Cost with shipping is just under \$1,500.00. Funding sources are being investigated.

Grants

- DEQ 2019 SCRAP TIRE COLLECTION GRANT PROGRAM
 - Use of the same Manistee County Fairgrounds location on Saturday, June 29 and Saturday, September 28 is pending approval by the Fairgrounds Board in April.
 - Announcement of dates with location to be determined was released in recycling e-newsletter.
 - Press release to media will be made upon approval of fairgrounds location in April.

- MANISTEE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 - Limitless Fund Grant Program would be applicable for purchase of signage for recycling sites. Applications open August 15 and close October 15, 2019 with award announcement prior to December 31, 2019.

Other

- Regional Resource Recovery

There has been interest from Mason County citizen, Chris Riley to develop a business plan for a recycling center to serve the Mason/Manistee area. Recycling Coordinator and County Planner Carson have met with Riley to discuss this endeavor. Riley has prepared a background document and has spoken with Senator Curt VanderWall and a staffer from State Representative Jack O'Malley's office, as well as Mason County Administrator Fabian Knizacky. Riley's information was presented by Knizacky to Mason County Building, Planning, Drains and Airport Committee who advised they have no interest in moving forward with a countywide recycling program at this time. Archer supports continued research and development of this concept however has informed Riley that funds are not currently available for work on such a project. Archer is investigating potential funding sources.
- Michigan Recycling Coalition Annual Conference – May 14-16, 2019 Ann Arbor Sheraton
 - Recommended session for Counties: *Ready. Set. Plan.* – Thursday, May 16 10:30 am – Noon
 - Presentation by Christina Miller, DEQ provides comprehensive explanation of changes to Michigan Solid Waste law.
 - Session Description: Planning for disposal is a thing of the past. With a fully funded program and a renewed mission, wholesale changes to Michigan solid waste laws, Part 115, are next. County Planning requires local governments and private sector partners to work together to assure capacity is in place to manage materials at the end of their useful life but hasn't been deployed in 20 years. With the expectation of passage this year, gain a comprehensive understanding of the changes to Michigan solid waste law that will update and reinvigorate the County Planning process. With these anticipated changes, learn what tools and resources are being developed to support County Materials Management Planning and move Michigan beyond disposal.
 - Thursday only member registration cost is \$125. A limited number of scholarships are available.
 - Full conference program is available at www.michiganrecycles.org

JANUARY	LBS	% Change from Previous Month
Arcadia Twp	8,537.0	28%
Brown Twp	4,063.0	16%
Cleon Twp	1,191.0	10%
Maple Grove Twp	4,597.0	-6%
Onekama Twp	13,346.0	18%
Springdale Twp	2,845.0	21%
JANUARY TOTALS	34,579.0	16%
FEBRUARY		
Arcadia Twp	6,559.0	-23%
Brown Twp	3,555.0	-13%
Cleon Twp	2,261.0	90%
Maple Grove Twp	3,936.0	-14%
Onekama Twp	13,658.0	2%
Springdale Twp	2,311.0	-19%
FEBRUARY TOTALS	32,280.0	-7%
MARCH		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
MARCH TOTALS	0.0	
APRIL		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
APRIL TOTALS	0.0	
MAY		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
MAY TOTALS	0.0	
JUNE		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Two	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
JUNE TOTALS	0.0	

JULY	LBS	% Change from Previous Month
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
JULY TOTAL	0.0	
AUGUST		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
AUGUST TOTAL	0.0	
SEPTEMBER		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
SEPTEMBER TOTAL	0.0	
OCTOBER		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
OCTOBER TOTAL	0.0	
NOVEMBER		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
NOVEMBER TOTAL	0.0	
DECEMBER		
Arcadia Twp	0.0	
Brown Twp	0.0	
Cleon Twp	0.0	
Maple Grove Twp	0.0	
Onekama Twp	0.0	
Springdale Twp	0.0	
DECEMBER TOTAL	0.0	

YEAR TO DATE (in lbs.)	34,579.0
YEAR TO DATE (tons)	17.3

Year to date comparison by site

Totals in pounds	Feb-18	Feb-19	Totals in tons	Feb-18	Feb-19
Arcadia Twp	6,639.0	6,559.0	Arcadia Twp	3.3	3.3
Brown Twp	4,466.0	3,555.0	Brown Twp	2.2	1.8
Cleon Twp	N/A	2,261.0	Cleon Twp	N/A	1.1
Maple Grove Twp	6,163.0	3,936.0	Maple Grove Twp	3.1	2.0
Onekama Twp	10,869.0	13,658.0	Onekama Twp	5.4	6.8
Springdale Twp	3,264.0	2,311.0	Springdale Twp	1.6	1.2
Unassigned Extra Service	N/A	N/A	Unassigned Extra Service	N/A	N/A
Totals in pounds	31,401	32,280	Totals in Tons	15.7	16.1

Recycling Opportunities - Manistee-Mason Counties

Sarah Archer, Rob Carson, Chris Riley

24 January 2019

Sarah is a consultant in the resource recovery industry for 25 years and has been the contracted Recycling Coordinator for Manistee County since 2011. Sarah has considerable experience and contacts in the industry across the state and her knowledge will be critical to developing a business plan. Rob is the Director of the Manistee County Planning Department the last nine years and has provided strong, continuing support to recycling planning and development during his tenure. Chris is a citizen of Mason County working to develop a broad-based sustainable recycling program in the area. Sarah and Rob noted that Fabian Knizacky, Mason County Administrator, should be contacted – this contact has been made and Fabian expressed interest to see what we are proposing and possibly participate. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians may have interest in recycling and could be approached as a potential partner.

This document should function as a draft outline of a business plan to accomplish a self-sustaining recycling program in the Manistee-Ludington landscape. We see the benefit of learning from other recycling efforts such as the Emmet County model (<https://www.emmetrecycling.org/>) that identifies over 20 different materials that have a Michigan market (one-page handout). We also recognize the need for flexibility in our business plan to be able to adjust to positive and negative cycles that influence the recycling industry and commodity markets.

- I. **Spatial Scale:** Emmet County has a population of 33,193 and their recyclable material stream benefits from a relatively large and diverse commercial source for a rural Michigan county. Manistee (24,427) and Mason counties (29,073) each have a smaller population - combining their recyclable material streams would provide greater volume that will attract buyers and support stability. This fits into the “hub and spoke” conceptual model that includes a centralized “super-hub” transfer facility that collects from the ends of the “spokes”. Sarah noted that adding a third or fourth county could be beneficial to long-term success of the program – this tiers to flexibility. Wexford County (33,276) would be a desirable partner, but typically have not been interested. Benzie has their own partnership with adjacent northern counties. Lake County (12,013) would be an obvious addition, with somewhat limited expected volume.

- II. **Existing Infrastructure:** Manistee County has a 20-year-old solid waste management plan with a very limited amount of information providing direction on recycling and resource recovery – basically out-dated. We are unaware of any similar direction for Mason County and need to research this. Sarah indicates that Ludington and Scottville have contracted residential curbside recycling of some recyclable material types. The City of Manistee offers contracted residential voluntary curbside recycling service, but participation is low. Rob and Sarah both noted that the Emmet model works because of county “flow control” ordinances which requires all waste and recyclable materials to be handled at the Emmet County transfer station/recycling center. Sarah indicates that Manistee County has one private landfill (Republic), Mason County has no landfill currently (Table 1), although landfills are not critical to recycling success. Mason County has three waste and recycling transfer facilities; two operated by the local units of government in Hamlin Township and Summit Township. One private waste transfer and recycling station is operated by Waste Reduction Systems on Stiles Road in Ludington. Additionally, Padnos in Ludington has a drop-off for standard recyclable materials. Manistee County has three waste transfer stations operated by Dickson Township, Maple Grove Township, and Norman Township. Dickson and Norman Townships also offer recycling drop-off at the transfer station sites. Recycling in Manistee County is also available at 10 other locations; 3 operated by local units of government, 6 managed by the County, and one recycling drop-off located at the Manistee Landfill owned and operated by Republic Services. Sarah noted that currently only an estimated 9% of the Manistee County waste-stream is captured for recycling, and this figure includes PCA’s school paper/cardboard recycling fundraiser program.

County	Landfills	Waste Transfer Station	Drop-off sites
Mason	0	3	4
Manistee	1	3	12

There is no current human infrastructure funded to implement and manage a recycling program serving the general population in either Mason or Manistee County. Development of a program will also require acquisition of heavy equipment, trailers, etc. to segregate and transport recovered materials. These costs will be proportionate to the scale of the program that can be agreed upon by partners.

- III. Education and Outreach:** Education and outreach is a very important component to the success of any recycling program and must be included in the program budget. E&O will require multiple years to familiarize public users and commercial businesses as to what materials and services are available, along with rules, locations, hours of operation, etc. Like other requirements of beginning a recycling program, this effort will require additional funding to support. Current DEQ grant funding mechanisms require matching funds, essential a killer for start-ups. Technical assistance will need to be provided to existing businesses, particularly those with valuable recycling products. Sarah noted potential issues regarding development of new drop-off sites, transfer facilities, and a “super-hub” likely will necessitate permitting and coordination with state/local governments creating additional need for technical assistance, along with possible evaluations for right-sizing, cost-benefit analyses, etc. Developing and maintaining relationships with existing profitable recycling commodities will require continuous coordination, such as Emmet County has done. Examples of in-state recycling processors include Clean Tech in Dundee, MI who have a contract with Proctor & Gamble for their post-consumer PET and HDPE resins, Bata Plastics in Grand Rapids, MI, East Jordan Iron Works (metals), and DART Container in Mason, MI who recover plastics and polystyrene foam (service ware and take out packaging).
- IV. Relationship Building:** We still must approach a representative of Mason County (other than Grant Township) and confirm their interest to participate, and whether a recycling management plan exists for guidance. We recognize the existence of waste/recycling businesses – Republic Services in Manistee County, Waste Reduction Systems and Padnos in Mason County – that already operate within these two counties and may or may not agree with the direction of our plan. Similarly, this effort will require contacting township representatives in both counties to determine or update the expectations of each entity regarding resource recovery needs. Hopefully all will welcome the concept of a “Super-Hub”, but this may create some territoriality, especially in regard to locating it. Creating a governing “body” will also need to be considered, it would be important that oversight occur to foster growth/maintenance of the program, especially in its first 5-10 years. This is where self-sustainability will be important and right-sizing the effort to what the waste stream can supply/generate. **To be totally self-sustainable, a multi-county effort will require a commitment from many stakeholders; government, citizens and commercial business interests in the project area.**
- V. State of Michigan Policy Implications:** During the 2018 Legislative session, HB 6483 11-7-18 was introduced to amend Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act - Part 115 by Representative Rob Ver Heulen. This bill was not passed and is expected to be reintroduced in 2019. The bill brings about much needed amendments to Michigan’s solid waste planning act to shift the focus of planning from maintaining landfill capacity to utilizing the waste generated in Michigan as a resource and establishing county plans and a regulatory environment that supports materials management and recovery through reuse and recycling facilities, composting facilities and market development to boost and create a robust resource recovery industry. The bill also outlines funding for developing County Materials Management Plans, as well as grants for infrastructure, outreach, and market development. During the 2018 Lame Duck session, funding to support the changes outlined in the bill was approved through the Wayfair fund.