The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee of the County of Calhoun was held on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. at the Calhoun County Road Commission, 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan 49068.

Committee Members Present: Lewis Cooper Marilyn Hennon
Steve Essling Ken Kohs
Gene Klisiak Walt Obrinske
Mike Myszka Terris Todd

Also Present: Coy Scheetz, Waste Management
Harold Thomas, Calhoun County Resident
Tiffany Eichorst, Calhoun County Solid Waste Director
Mary Jo Crumpton, Calhoun County Road Commission

Vice Chairman Ken Kohs called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion made by Marilyn Hennon to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Supported by Mike Myszka. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Motion made by Marilyn Hennon to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 8, 2007 as presented. Supported by Mike Myszka. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Ken Kohs introduced Coy Scheetz from Waste Management who was present at the meeting to answer questions on the Sharps Disposal program.

Harold Thomas, Calhoun County resident, informed the committee that he has had conversations with the Calhoun County Road Commission and Tiffany Eichorst regarding the newspaper trailer. Mr. Thomas expressed his concern with accessing the newspaper trailer by steps, especially for senior citizens who have difficulty carrying their bundles of newspapers up the steps to the trailer. He would like the newspaper trailer to be located at ground level for safer access. Tiffany noted that the Marshall recycling site is the only site with steps to the newspaper trailer.

Discussion took place on options to alleviate the steps to the newspaper trailer. Tiffany explained that we have to pay for roll off containers, whereas we get paid for the newspaper trailer. She noted that revenue from the newspaper trailer is approximately $300 per month. Committee members discussed if ADA accessibility requirements applied and if CCRC would help cover the cost of a facility improvement, or if the SWMPC would be responsible for the cost as a recycling expenditure. The cost was estimated at $12,000-$15,000.

Vice Chairman Kohs stated that he would like a recommendation from the Calhoun County Board of Public Works to the SWMPC on options for the newspaper trailer.

**SWMPC ELECTIONS**

Chairman: Ken Kohs nominated John Bomba for SWMPC Chairman for 2007. No other nominations were received.

**Motion made by Mike Myszka to elect John Bomba as Chairman of the SWMPC for 2007. Supported by Gene Klisiak. Voice vote: motion carried.**
**Vice Chairman:** Mike Myszka nominated Ken Kohs for SWMPC Vice Chairman for 2007. No other nominations were received.

**Motion made by Mike Myszka to elect Ken Kohs as Vice Chairman of the SWMPC for 2007. Supported by Lewis Cooper. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND**

**Calhoun County Environmental Health Department:** Since Bob Overley was not in attendance, Tiffany informed the committee that she would email the dates for the Household Hazardous Waste Collections and Tire and Appliance Collections.

**Sharps Removal:** Ken reminded committee members that at the last meeting, he provided a short presentation on the Sharps Disposal program for safe needle disposal by mail. Today, he reviewed the presentation and provided information on costs and participating pharmacies, as well as a sample of the product that would be provided by pharmacies.

Ken introduced Coy Scheetz from Waste Management who was present to provide more information and answer questions. Discussion took place on the administrative end of the program regarding billing, co-pays, managing the program and long term manageability. Committee members requested more information on the process flow, organizational chart and money trail. While many committee members believe it is a worthwhile program, it was suggested that we contact other communities that have implemented this program to find out how the administrative process is handled.

Committee members discussed the estimated cost of $22,000 for the first year. It was noted that this amount represents 10% of the Solid Waste budget. A suggestion was made that the $10,000 budgeted for the Challenge Grant program be used. It was also noted that the committee has the option to do a budget adjustment. Committee members expressed their concern that the initial cost seems high. They also asked if the program could handle a budget cap, and if so, what would happen to the program and potential participants when the funding is gone.

Committee members asked that the following questions be forwarded to Sharps Compliance/BD:

- Please provide a flow chart of the money trail. How is the pharmacy paid back for the sharps containers and how would the County be billed? Is the County billed from Sharps Compliance/BD or from the pharmacy directly? Is Sharps Compliance/BD paying to send the “sharps mail back containers” to the pharmacy, or is the pharmacy purchasing the containers and then being reimbursed by the County? Does the pharmacy track purchases and send reports to Sharps Compliance/BD or the County? Does Sharps Compliance/BD send reports to the County?

- Is there a way to ensure this program is not being abused? Is it possible to track how many containers a customer has received? If so, how? How are co-pays handled? Who tracks the customer and money exchange reports?

- Cost: Would the Solid Waste Fund have to sustain this program permanently? Can we decide to stop funding the program at any time? What is the turn around time for billing if we decided to end our funding for this program? Will we have to account for those sharps containers that have already been purchased but not mailed in? Can we fund this program with a set, “not to exceed”, amount? What would happen to the program and its customers if we expended our set amount and do you have a plan to continue the program through a certain date/time?
• Are we waiting for legislation to be enacted regarding sharps disposal? Is this happening in the near future?

• Are there any counties currently enrolled in the program from the Great Lakes Region or states that surround Michigan? If so, are any counties the same size as Calhoun County? What has been their experience with the program? What have their costs been to sustain this program? Are they still funding the program? Please provide references.

• Who is responsible for advertising and how is it paid for?

• Are there other funding sources? Are there grants available?

Ken stated that he and Tiffany would get more information from Waste Management and contact other communities that have implemented the program.

Ken observed that, as a committee, we have problems making decisions and moving forward on recycling initiatives, and that is part of the reason for the Solid Waste Workshop group with the County. Steve Essling added that the purpose of the SWMPC is not strictly recycling, but programs that benefit the environment in general.

**Continuation of Challenge Grant Program:** Tiffany reminded committee members that while we did receive Challenge Grant applications last year, the committee chose not to approve any Challenge Grants. The applications that were received failed to show projects that would be self-sustainable in the future. The committee agreed that we do not want to solicit applications if we are not going to fund the programs. Committee members stated that they do not want to lose the program as a whole and agreed it provides an avenue for recycling initiatives; however, the committee may want to review the program during the strategic planning sessions. Discussion continued.

**Motion made by Marilyn Hennon to discontinue the Challenge Grant Program for 2007, and explore other programs to fund. Supported by Steve Essling. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Solid Waste Workshop 2007:** Tiffany stated that the County appointed the following to serve on the Solid Waste Workshop: Terris Todd, Mike Rae, John Bomba, Ken Kohs and Marilyn Hennon. Committee members asked how the participants were selected. Tiffany responded that she provided the County with the SWMPC members who expressed interest and the County appointed the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the SWMPC and Marilyn Hennon who had expressed prior interest.

Tiffany noted that the draft RFQ for a facilitator was sent to the County. The due date for completion of a strategic plan is August 31, 2007. Discussion continued.

**CALHOUN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

**Dead Deer Removal Contribution:** Tiffany informed the committee that she sent out the memorandum to all townships, cities and villages regarding the SWMPC allocation of $6,000 for deer carcass and debris disposal costs in Calhoun County. Funding will be distributed to all governmental entities in Calhoun County that choose to participate. Governmental entities interested in participating will be required to send in information regarding their deer carcass and debris disposal costs for a six-month period, so that we can properly distribute the funding. Gene Klisiak informed the committee that, after further investigation, CCRC currently is not required to pay for dead deer disposal costs at the landfill. Discussion continued.
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Vacancies

- **Environmental Interest Representative:** Tiffany provided the committee with a letter of interest from Cheryl Vosburg, Environmental Program Coordinator for the City of Marshall.

  Motion made by Mike Myszka to recommend approval of Cheryl Vosburg to fill the SWMPC Environmental Interest Representative vacancy. Supported by Ken Kohs. Voice vote: motion carried.

- **Solid Waste Industry Representative:** Tiffany noted that she is soliciting for this vacancy.

- **Regional Solid Waste Planning Agency Representative:** It was noted that this is not a necessary position.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mike Myszka agreed that the committee does linger on decision-making and suggested the use of having subcommittees for project review. In the past, the SWMPC has split into subcommittees to make recommendations to the SWMPC on the budget and Challenge Grant applications. Discussion continued.

Steve Essling informed the committee that the final meeting of the State Policy Committee is being held on Friday, March 30, 2007. It seems there is an increased effort to start the solid waste planning cycle, as the plan requires updating every five years. It is possible that we may need to start doing our updates this time next year. Steve noted that a DEQ representative is scheduled to attend the next Consortium meeting in Paw Paw. Discussion continued.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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Vice Chairman Ken Kohs  Mary Jo Crumpton