

**JOINT MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND  
RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES  
JULY 18, 2017**

**Members Present:** County Council Member Karen Conover, Commissioner Laura Blaney, Commissioner Jim Biggs, Commissioner Jeff Good,

**Staff:** Therese Haller, Dawn Garmon, Donna Stuckert, Steve Dolak

**Others:** David Matsey, Ken Taylor, Michelle Taylor, Reggie Korthals, Walt Breitingner, Duane Davison

**Absent:** Mayor James Snyder, Kouts Town Council President Tim Jones, Portage City Council Member Sue Lynch

**County Council Member Conover** brought the meeting to order at 1:15

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL - Board**

**NEW MASTER RECYCLER**

**Ken Taylor** earned his master recycler certification by helping at Earth Day, passing out surveys at Strack and VanTil, participating in the Wildlife Celebration Event, and distributing rain barrels at Earth Day.

The **Board** acknowledged his accomplishment and thanked him for his participation and volunteering.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES & FINANCIALS**

**Minutes-April 4, 2017, June 13, 2017**

**Commissioner Blaney** made a motion to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Biggs** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Financials – February 28, 2017**

**Commissioner Blaney** made a motion to approve the financials. **Commissioner Good** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed 2018 Budget**

**Ms. Haller** explained that she had budgeted for a full-time hourly position to become a salaried position. She was also seeking to make a part time hourly position into a full time position. The person would collect batteries, help to move electronics to the Valparaiso Compost Site for pick-up by the electronics' vendor, transport Steve in moving composting equipment, check and clean up the recycling sites, and assist Steve with other duties.

**Commissioner Blaney** asked if there was a reason why the **District** would not just hire another part-time person.

**Ms. Haller** stated that the **District** could look at that. However, it was training them, utilizing them, and maintaining continuity.

**Commission Good** stated his main concern was that the **Board** made a decision less than a year ago about continuing with the electronics even though there was no return on the program. He stated that he didn't know how the **District** could continue to keep taking on things like that that cost the **District** more and then turn around and build up the staff and the overhead. He stated he was concerned about that and again it came back to where are we going to be and what we are going to do and pay for going forward. His comments were in the spirit of what the county is trying to do and accomplish.

**Ms. Haller** stated that in regards to electronics, a second person is necessary to maintain that program. It has now expanded and Hebron has taken on a satellite location.

**Commissioner Good** stated that his question would be if Hebron needed that location in looking at the population base there.

**Ms. Haller** stated she was just looking at trying to maintain the programs.

**Commissioner Good** stated that he also wanted to maintain the programs. He questioned growing a program that was basically revenue negative.

**Commission Biggs** stated that he thought the District request had merit, but

**Commissioner Good** made some very good points. He suggested, as **Commissioner Blaney** had stated, that another part-timer be brought on and try that for a year and then revisit the issue next year at this time. In that year there may also be found a way to bring in some more revenue and reduce the negative effect of the program.

**Ms. Haller** stated that was true and that there was some potential out there with that program.

**Commissioner Good** stated that he believed the **Board**, in the near future was going to have some decisions to make. A big component of the **District** and how it was run had a lot to do with physical buildings, and locations. He stated that in his long list of things he wanted to do, Waste and Recycling was on there. He didn't want to share it at this time. The commissioners were trying to prioritize everything. He thought some of this could be re-invented just by physical facilities and places that the District had those types of things. To him, he sees some opportunities there and it wasn't just physical facilities but it was the whole thing. He thought the District needed the facility to be able to offer those services.

**Ms. Haller** stated that the budget had been presented to the council, but when she went before them she would let them know that the **Board** stepped back from moving a part time position to a full time position.

**County Council Member Conover** stated that she didn't think the council would have a problem making the operator position salary since it is already a full time position.

### **Midyear Program Updates/Advertising/Outreach Updates**

**Ms. Haller** had given the **Board** a spreadsheet with mid-term updates on the various programs. Electronics collected was a little more than what was collected at the same point last year, the cost was a little less than last year and there were two transport hubs but a total of five locations for drop-off with no cost to the public. The **District** did collect from all of the county buildings as requested, and presorting and transport of the batteries.

HHW: The contract was renegotiated with the service provided in an effort to drive down those costs. The pounds and cost reflected on the spreadsheet was for only two

collections. The gas can exchange through cooperation with NIRPC was listed. Latex paint recycled so far with the City of Hobart: the **District** had sent them 782 gallons and 179 gallons had been taken.

Composting and grinding so far was only for the Boone Grove site. So far this year there had been 11,000 visitors, mainly at the Valparaiso site. That total included people dropping off electronics. Two sites are open to the public, but there were three other compost sites where the district assisted in operations-Chesterton, Portage, and the Pines.

**Commissioner Good** stated that building facilities rebarked all of the county buildings with the mulch from the compost site. Before, it had been trucked in from somewhere else. The highway department had also taken wood chips and some were donated to 4-H for the fair. This year the county was also doing a couple of miles of test road of using a recycled soy bean oil that was a spray to put over asphalt that would extend the life of the road.

Of the seven drop-off recycle sites, the level of service was increased to the Valparaiso and Chesterton sites. The number of boxes on the ground, as well as the frequency of collection, was increased to the Valparaiso site. Monitoring was also increased at the Valparaiso, Chesterton, Boone Grove and Portage sites.

**Commissioner Blaney** asked about the illegal dumping. **Ms. Haller** stated that the **District** was a tenant on private property the various levels of illegal dumping ordinances the host communities would not be applicable to private property. The **District** therefore does the best it can with education. So, until the **District** had its own gated facility where all things could be taken, those problems would continue.

The **District** educator was in the schools and working with Parks Department's summer programs as well. She has directly spoken to 5400+ students. Other avenues were over 2200 children and adults. Those include Earth Day, Garden Show, Health Fair, Portage Chamber Network Night, radio interviews, library display cases, direct mailers, and e-newsletter.

The MS4 Grant was received and at this time 66 rain barrels have been given out in the community. 2,700 of the coloring books have been distributed by the **District** and Park's efforts. 10,000 coloring books were published and there had been three rain barrel workshops. Home Owner Associations and Property Owner Associations could receive rain barrels for their green spaces. Morraine Ridge, Town of Burns Harbor, Housing Opportunities and several others have taken advantage of that opportunity. After that the **District** was looking at the value of the ValPak as an educational tool. It reaches 50,000+ households and the cost was \$1,600. In regards to the MS4 coloring books specifically, the Porter County MS4 coordinator would like to get a grant or sponsorship that would fund that project in which the Kankakee River Basin and the water that flows into it was addressed.

**Commissioner Biggs** suggested that when talking to the storm water guys, have them give the **District** a list of vendors that do work down there for the county to contact as a sponsor for that project.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ms. Haller** stated that the meeting was billed as a **Board/CAC** joint meeting. There were some advisory members in attendance. They were Duane Davison, Committee Chair; Walt Breitenger, Committee Vice-Chair and the newest member Reggie Korthals. The **Board** thanked the committee members for their service and dedication.

**Next Board Meeting-October 3, 2017 1:00 PM**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business **Commissioner Biggs** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Good** seconded, motion carried unanimously.  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:50.