

**RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES  
April 4, 2017**

**Members Present:** Portage City Council Member Sue Lynch, Commissioner Laura Blaney, Kouts Town Council President Tim Jones, County Council Member Karen Conover, Commissioner Jim Biggs

**Staff:** Therese Haller, Dawn Garmon, Jeannie McCall

**CAC Members:** Duane Davison

**Others:** District Attorney Clay Patton, Reggie Korthals, Christine Lovitz

**Absent:** Mayor James Snyder, Commissioner Jeff Good,

**Council Member Lynch** brought the meeting to order at 1:05

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL - Board**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES & FINANCIALS**

**Minutes – December 2016**

**Council Member Jones** made a motion to approve the financials. **Council Member Conover** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes – January 10, 2017**

**Council Member Conover** made a motion to approve the financials. **Council Member Jones** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes – January 31, 2017**

**Council Member Jones** made a motion to approve the financials. **Council Member Conover** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Financials – February 28, 2017**

**Council Member Conover** made a motion to approve the financials. **Commissioner Blaney** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CAC Appointment – Reggie Korthals**

**Ms. Haller** stated there a vacancy on the **Citizen Advisory Committee**. **Commissioner Biggs** agreed to appoint Reggie Korthals to the committee. The by-laws for **CAC** appointments required the full **Board** to make that appointment. **Ms. Korthals** provided the **Board** with a bio which was contained in the **Board** packet. **Ms. Korthals** made a brief statement to the **Board** regarding her enthusiasm to be a part of the **CAC** again.

**Commissioner Blaney** made a motion to accept the nomination of **Ms. Korthals** as a member of the **CAC**. **Commissioner Biggs** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## **Latex Paint Agreement**

**Ms. Haller** stated the agreement was similar in all aspects to prior agreements with the exception of item four. That was for a 3% increase this year on the \$3 per gallon that the **District** was currently paying the City of Hobart for excess paint at the end of the year that was allocated to Porter County. The **District** had been paying them a \$3 stipend for their service to basically come out, drop their trailer, take the **District** paint, drive their trailer back, and put it through their process and into a container to market to the public. The **District** paid \$3 per gallon for the past six years.

**Ms. Haller** met with Mayor Snedecor and he loves the partnership and the program and believed it was a valuable program, but he was looking to see a 3% increase on the \$3 and that would make it \$3.09 this year, 3.18 next year and then 3.27 the next year. She stated she was comfortable with that and then there could be discussion about the **District's** stepped up message to get the word out to the public regarding latex paint, as recommended by the **Board**.

**Commissioner Blaney** asked how many gallons that would entail. **Ms. Haller** stated about 1100 gallons, so about \$3,600 per year. **Council Member Lynch** stated that per the last conversation they were going to try to get the municipalities to use the paint. **Ms. Haller** said she was visiting all of the municipalities in Porter County, including the county council to talk about the **District** and remind them of the services the **District** was providing to their residents and to promote latex paint. The **District** e-mailed or mailed all municipalities, trustee's offices, many county departments, and many not-for-profits listed with the United Way about the available recycled latex paint. She was talking with the facilities manager for the county about remodeling of the **District** and the recycled paint could be used in the **District** office as a prime example as to the quality of the product.

The **District** was starting the ad campaign to both properly manage latex paint at home and to promote the use of the recycled latex paint. There are ads going in the Val Pak of fliers that are sent in the mail that have the **District** calendar for HHW collections and instructions on how to manage latex paint. There would also be displays about latex paint in all of the libraries in the months when HHW collections are happening in those communities.

A discussion ensued about Habitat for Humanity and the fact that, in Lake County they had been taking the recycled paint and putting their own label on it and reselling it. **Ms. Haller** would contact the Porter County Habitat for Humanity, as well as Rebuilding Together.

**Council Member Lynch** suggested that **Ms. Haller** contact Robin Wilkening because she was pretty involved in that and **Council Member Conover** suggested contacting Patty at City Hall for a contact also.

**Ms. Haller** said when the trailer full of paint from the six HHW collections goes back to Hobart, she was going to go there with it when they dump it out to determine how they were measuring the volume coming in.

**Council Member Conover** stated as far as education on what could be done with left over latex paint, that Matt Evans from the City Street Department had no problem including something in the information sheet that goes out every month with the water bills that go out to the city residents. **Ms. Haller** stated that she would contact him and see about having the information put in there when the two collections in Valparaiso are scheduled.

**Council Member Lynch** asked about having some of the paint here rather than making people drive to Hobart to get it. **Ms. Haller** replied that had been discussed and there

were some opportunities to have some of the paint here now that our compost sites were open.

**Commissioner Blaney** asked if there were any ads about being able to get the paint.

**Ms. Haller** stated that that would be coming soon.

**Council Member Lynch** stated there should also be something at the Senior Health Fair regarding the paint. **Ms. Haller** stated that the **District** also needed to make some kind of display of the colors that the paint could be tinted since the color choice is limited.

**Council Member Lynch** also suggested the Business Opportunity Night in Portage since it is an avenue to get the word out at an event that is so well attended.

**Commissioner Blaney** stated that she thought a display of the colors would be good, because even she still does not know what it looks like.

**Council Member Jones** made a motion to accept the agreement. **Council Member Conover** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### 2016 Annual Report

**Ms. Haller** stated that the annual report was a recapping of a five year window of District programs. Once the **Board** approves the final report the report goes on the **District** website.

**Council Member Lynch** stated that she thought it was a great report.

**Council Member Jones** stated that his address on the report was incorrect and should be 308 McKinley, Kouts. **Council Member Conover** stated that hers was incorrect also and she would like for the county address to be used.

**Council Member Lynch** instructed **Ms. Haller** to check with all of the **CAC Members** to make sure all of their addresses were correct.

**Commissioner Blaney** asked about drop-off recycling. She stated that she had several comments from the public recently about the boxes always being full when they go to use them and the cardboard blowing around and it just looking like a mess. She stated she didn't think it was because they weren't being taken care of as much as it was that they were just overflowing all of the time. She asked about adding another pick-up day. **Ms. Haller** suggested an increase to monitoring levels at the containers and increasing the pull schedule. **Commissioner Blaney** stated that both complaints were at the Strack's in Valpo and she also knew herself from using the one in Boone Grove that she had never been out there that they weren't trying to find space to put their items. **Council Member Jones** stated that in Kouts people leave a lot of things that don't belong there even though it is right on the sign. They will also leave items outside of the boxes because they won't fit inside.

**Commissioner Blaney** stated that she knew the **District** tried to keep them in highly visible sites for people to use, so she didn't want them to be looking bad all of the time and the drop-off recycling was one of the main things the **District** did. She wanted to know how much it would cost to increase service. **Ms. Haller** stated she didn't believe the cost would be onerous. She asked if the **Board** wanted to wait another quarter for that information or if they wanted the **District** to go ahead and increase the service level at some of the sites. The **Board** felt collections should be increased. **Ms. Haller** stated that the **District** would increase monitoring and/or collections at some of the key sites; Kouts, Boone Grove, Valpo to see if some of that could be curtailed. The **District** uses PACT workers to clean the sites several times a year the **District**. She stated that of the volume of material that goes through the drop-off recycling program, 38% was generated at the Valparaiso Strack's site, 19% Chesterton, 17% Portage, Hebron and Kouts roughly 10%, 4% at Boone Grove and 2% at Burns Harbor.

**Commissioner Blaney** asked if another site needed to be added. **Ms. Haller** stated that was possible but it was difficult finding a host that was willing to have it and it be in a highly visible area. The **District** had thought about seeing if there was space at the Valparaiso Compost Site, but it would be limited access. **Council Member Conover** inquired about the intersection of 250 and 130 at the Family Express. **Ms. Haller** was instructed to talk with them. **Attorney Patton** suggested the new Family Express round about store on Calumet. **Council Member Conover** made a motion to approve the Annual Report after corrections were made. **Council Member Jones** seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **Water Quality Workshops Results**

The District recently partnered with the local MS4 partners from Valparaiso, Chesterton, Portage, and the county division of Partners for the Development of Storm Water Management along with NIRPC and the Isaac Walton League to provide a workshop and a rain barrel to those in the Lake Michigan Water Shed areas, which was part of a grant the District secured for water quality issues. There were 15 participants at the Portage workshop, Valparaiso had 16 and Chesterton had 19. **Ms. Haller** stated the workshops were specifically at the north end of the county in the Lake Michigan watershed which was required by the grant and that the **District** should also be addressing the Kankakee Watershed District in the future. She stated the workshops were successful and participation was good and the **District** would look to continue with them, as well as move those opportunities south. The grant funded coloring book, which the **District** partnered with the county MS4 division and Sunset Hill Park to produce, would be printed the next day. She had spoken with Rich Hudson and Mike Navotny about the possibility to produce a similar product for the Kankakee Watershed. With production and art work the cost was \$5,000 for 10,000 coloring books. The **District** educator would distribute the coloring books to students in schools in the Lake Michigan Watershed and the County Parks educator will also be distributing to students through their program. Everyone that was partnered in the workshops thought it was a good thing and they are looking forward to doing it again. **Council Member Jones** asked where he could get some of them and also **Council Member Lynch** stated she would also like some for the events that are held at Portage because they were a great thing to have and she didn't want to see them sitting around on a shelf. **Council Member Conover** said she would pass them out at City Hall too. **Ms. Haller** stated they would be going to production and the **District** office should have them in a couple of weeks after it goes to production. The **District** would definitely get them to the partners and the MS4s within the watershed as well.

### **Earth Day Event, April 22, 2017**

**Ms. Haller** stated she had given them a flyer as a reminder of the event. If anyone was able to attend and help by volunteering to help greet people or helping where people vote on the rain barrels or the arts, just let her know and she would let them know where the **District** needed them to fill in if they were available. She added that a Reuse Fair would be incorporated into Earth Day. **Council Member Lynch** stated the Reuse Fair held in Portage was very successful and that she would be there to help on Earth Day. **Ms. Haller** said the Earth Day event had been shortened this year and would end at 2:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. A discussion was then held regarding the tree seedlings that are given out by the **District** on Earth Day and the manner in which they were wrapped. **Council Member Lynch** stated that the District could always use the help and she stated how she always loved the Silly Safari and the entertainment. **Ms. Haller** stated there

were 33 schools participating in the rain barrel event and seven artists enrolled with probably a dozen pieces for the reuse art exhibit.

### **2017 Calendar**

**Council Member Lynch** thanked **Ms. Haller** for sending the **Board** the **District** calendar.

### **OTHER**

**Council Member Lynch** asked **Mr. Davison**, the **CAC** chair person, for any comments or information he would like to share with the **Board**. He stated he had met with a business owner in Portage that had a very large quantity of recyclable items that he couldn't find a market or vendor to take care of. In researching the issue **Mr. Davison** had met Christine Lovitz whom was in attendance. She worked out of the Valparaiso transfer station for Republic Services. However, they couldn't take the items because they were black plastic.

**Ms. Lovitz** talked about her experience and the Homewood Facility. She stated that because of the eye on the scanner something that was all black could not be recognized by the scanner. Even though the material could not go to Homewood she stated she likes to research those types of issues and would be seeing if she could find a solution for the business owner. Part of her job was to be involved with the Chamber of Commerce and let them know the facts and about recycling and how it affects companies and how it can be an asset to the company. A brief discussion was held regarding the transfer stations.

**Council Member Lynch** stated that anyone who had not been to Homewood should definitely go. It was well worth it.

**Council Member Conover** and **Attorney Patton** had to leave at this time (1:58 p.m.).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next Board Meeting – July 18, 2017 1:00 PM**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, **Commissioner Biggs** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Council Member Jones** seconded, motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.