

**HOUGHTON COUNTY
SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2019**

The Solid Waste Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Circuit Court Jury Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

Roll Call:

Tom Tikkanen and Gretchen Janssen. Absent: Glenn Anderson.

Also in attendance were David Hall, Lynn Gierke, Jerry Wuorenmaa and Angela Yu, Evan McDonald, Eric Bradfish, Terrie Bray, Eric Forsberg, and Jennifer Kelly.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the Agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Discussion took place regarding the calendar for the Committee. They agreed to meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month. The next meeting will be on February 26th at 3:30 on the 5th Floor. Jennifer Kelly will prepare a yearly calendar which will be presented at the February committee meeting for approval.

Old Business:

1. Tire recycling grant

The committee discussed the grant process. A grant can be applied for in October 2019 to the DEQ.

Chairman Tikkanen discussed holding a tire recycling event in 2019 at an enclosed facility. Tim Palosaari showed interest and support to hold an event at the Manninen Junkyard and Men-Co in Calumet. Chairman Tikkanen will contact Paul Lehto to see if a tire recycling event is planned in Calumet Township for the upcoming year.

2. E-waste event

Comprenew plans to be a receiver of e-waste. Evan McDonald stated the company is waiting to see a financial report from the last collection they did in 2018. Someone from the Committee will contact Jim at Goodwill.

Household hazardous waste event

The committee discussed the Marquette County hazardous waste events that are held 2 times per year at 2 locations. Marquette has a contract with the vendor for handling of the hazardous waste. Terrie Bray stated that there are signs on the main highway in Marquette County for advertising and/or directions for their events.

David Hall will contact Pete Mackin and MTU regarding setting up an event in Houghton County.

The group discussed volunteers needed for an event. The group stated getting enough volunteers should not be an issue.

Chairman Tikkanen will talk to Brad Austin regarding an event.

Chairman Tikkanen, Gretchen Janssen and Eric Forsberg will discuss getting an analysis on the Transfer Station facility.

David Hall informed the group that Marquette County had training for dealing with hazardous waste through NMU which saved cost. Fire Departments were trained and were able to be a drop off location for the hazardous waste.

Jerry Wuorenmaa stated he was doing some research on the current plan and was waiting for a returned call from the DEQ, and that an amendment to the plan could be done locally.

Terrie Bray stated the transfer station has been at capacity since April 2018.

The group discussed recycling at the transfer station, possible expansion, renovations, and make it more user friendly.

David Hall stated the current plan is from 1999 and suggested maybe following the plan with no updates at this time.

Evan McDonald discussed Waste Management making possible changes.

Chairman Tikkanen questioned if Houghton County could operate their own landfill like Marquette County does. Marquette and Emmett Counties require all areas to come through the County landfill. Marquette County owns their recyclables.

The current plan states that the County will have composting, will have recycling, and will have education.

The group will revisit goals and objectives.

2. UP Solid Waste Forum – Marquette, April 2019

The group discussed attending the upcoming forum in Marquette that is hosted by DEQ.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Gretchen Janssen and seconded by Chairman Tikkanen to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 pm.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Prepared By: Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk/Register of Deeds