



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

May 2, 2019

8:30 AM

**Earl G. Woodworth Building
Meeting Room Chambers
1500 Scribner Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Vonk, Brieve, Yonker, Janes, Skaggs, Bulkowski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Antor

OTHERS PRESENT: Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Administrator; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Kristen Wieland, Marketing & Communications Manager; Katelyn Nettler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Constance Westgate, Environmental Engineering Technician; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Craig Paull, Assistant Corporate Counsel II; Calvin Brinks, Purchasing/Fleet Services Manager; John Van Tholen, Granger; Pat Greve, Waste Management; James Hurt, City of Grand Rapids; Gerald DeMaagd, Resident of Kent County

I. Call to Order

Chairman Vonk called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Monetary Outlays

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Janes and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Environmental Compliance Management

Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager provided an update on PFAS. At the end of March, the Governor announced that more restricted limits were going to be developed for PFAS chemicals in drinking water. Also, early April, the Michigan Department of Human Services and others on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team release new screening levels for five PFAS compounds. Prior to April, there were only screening levels for two PFAS compounds. The new screening levels are lower much lower than the previous levels. Nationally, Michigan is taking the lead on PFAS.

IV. Accounting & Finance

A. 2018 Financial Review – Presentation

Director Baas discussed the 2018 Financial Report. Here are some highlights:

- In October 2018, the Board of Public Works approved the Sustainable Business Park Master plan that provides a roadmap for business development and infrastructure buildout for a 250-acre business park to attract industry and technologies to both utilize and convert municipal solid waste for recycling, energy and fuel. DPW and the business development team will continue to advance the project in 2019.
- The Recycling and Education Center – education space received new exhibits to support growing demand for tours and presentations. The newly remodeled space provides West Michigan based municipal solid waste management history, recycling and the 20x'20/90x'30 vision.
- Two studies, a front-end processing MRF and combustion expansion comparison for the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) provide project costs, bonding requirements and tip fee rate sensitivity analysis to increase commodity recovery while removing high heating value material to improve throughput or increase combustion capacity by fifty percent to meet overcapacity challenges at the WTE.
- DPW continued its work through the Independent Power Producers Coalition (IPPC) as we strive for a fair avoided cost rate structure for WTE energy revenue starting in 2022. Work continued with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and Consumers Energy.
- The department made significant progress testing landfill leachate, groundwater and associated storm water management outfalls as well as development of proposed pretreatment plant designs to treat PFAS at closed and operating landfill facilities.
- Property was acquired and preliminary site plans developed to relocate administrative offices at the Recycling & Education Center as the Road Commission anticipates relocating from the Scribner campus by 2021.

- A total of 270,065 tons were delivered to WTE Facility in 2018, an increase from 262,788 tons in 2017 and 258,991 tons in 2016. The increasing waste deliveries continue to reflect the upturn in economic activity in West Michigan. The 2018 Budget was based on annual waste deliveries of 260,000 tons. Total tons transferred including reject waste was 83,607 tons, an increase of 5,579 tons from 2017.
- The Higher Heating Value (HHV) remains a contributing factor in the amount of waste transferred due to processing capacity lost. The WTE Facility is designed to combust 625 tons of waste per day with the average heating value of 4,800 Btu/lb. Average HHV of waste combusted in 2018 was 5,591 Btu/lb. The elevated HHV reduced average processing to 508 tons per day. For 2018, actual tons processed were 185,413 tons compared to 185,209 tons in 2017. Reference tons processed (corrected to 4,800 BTU/lb.) totaled 215,968 tons for the year compared to 214,032 tons in 2017, meaning the plant produces more energy per ton of waste combusted but burns fewer tons per year due to the higher HHV.
- The Special Waste program at the WTE facility is a service to local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies for secure, witnessed destruction of illicit drugs, evidence, confidential documents, medical records and Med Take-Back pharmaceuticals. During 2018, the facility received and destroyed 239,740 pounds of these materials from 78 local, State and Federal government agencies; a notable decrease from 2017 with 301,600 pounds which is attributed to the end of the Yellow Jug Program in which the DPW collected remaining materials from a defunct organization.
- South Kent Landfill received 345,122 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) in 2018 down from 347,465 tons in 2017, a decrease of 0.7%. 42,975 tons of WTE combustion ash was received in 2018 up from 42,735 tons in 2017 for an increase of 0.5%. With MSW and combustion ash, South Kent Landfill received 388,096 total tons of material for an overall decrease of approximately 0.5% from 2017 to 2018.
- The North Kent Transfer Station (NKTS) first received municipal solid waste in 1992 and expanded in 2001 adding a new compactor and doubling the size of the existing facility. NKTS continues to experience significant flow with MSW disposed decreasing only by 334 tons (0.3%) in 2018 from 2017. Customer transactions increased by 1,313 (2.8%) transactions compared to 2017. 2018 surpassed last year's record for the number of customer transactions and was only 0.3% below last year's facility record for tonnage managed through the facility since opening in 1992.
- The cost of operation for the NKTS in 2018 was \$2,204,218 (an increase of 2% over 2017). Total sales for the year were \$4,127,830 (0.9% increase over 2017). The solid waste SWAP agreement with Republic Waste Systems continued to reduce transportation cost with 20,557 of the 101,346 tons of MSW transferred directly to South Kent Landfill in 2018, down from 26,381 tons transferred in 2017.
- The recycle drop off center at NKTS continues to see significant use throughout the year with 1,474 tons of recyclable materials received and transferred to the Recycling and Education Center Facility for processing, a 15% increase from the 1,284 tons received in 2017. Residents continue to bring electronics, tires, propane cylinders and appliances for recycling and continues to see significant usage by the residents in northern Kent County.

- In 2018 the Resource Recovery Program conducted 194 tours at the Recycling and Education Center (REC), 24 tours at South Kent Landfill and, in cooperation with Covanta staff, an additional 39 Waste to Energy tours for a total of 257 tours total. These tours reached 6,540 students and 1,836 adults for a total of 8,376 people (a 30% increase in number of tours and a 27% increase in guest attendance from 2017). Tours came from schools, churches, scouting, business and community groups.
- DPW received a grant from the MDEQ to host three tire collection events in 2018. Working with community partners including townships and Kent County Parks Department, the events were held September 15 in Courtland Township, September 29 in Lowell and October 13 in Solon Township (Long Lake Park). Collections were open to all Kent County residents. A total of 3,111 tires were collected during the three events compared to one event in 2017 with 179 tires collected. Despite hosting tire collection events around Kent County, the last two years, there were significantly more tires collected at these events due to our collaboration with the surrounding communities and intentional marketing efforts, primarily through social media at no additional cost.
- 2018 marks the twenty-eighth year of Kent County's involvement in recycling. The Recycling & Education Center – a single stream recycling facility at 977 Wealthy SW opened in 2010. A total of 33,133 tons were received, a 1,001 ton increase over 2017.

V. Director's Report

A. Kentwood Recycling Drop Off Closure

Director Baas discussed the Kentwood Recycling Drop Off Closure. The site was operated for 12 years by Kent County Department of Public Works, several years beyond the contract terms with the City of Kentwood. With improved access to curbside recycling in southern Kent County and increasing operations cost of public drop off sites, the Kentwood Recycling Drop Off station will close on June 30, 2019.

B. SafeSharps Promotional Materials

Director Baas discussed the SafeSharps Promotional Materials. DPW continues the partnership with the Health Department for collection of SafeSharps under the SafeHomes Program.

VI. Public Comment/Miscellaneous

Gerald DeMaagd, 5515 Wilmont Court SE, Kentwood, Michigan provided a perspective on the closing of the Kentwood station, He says:

"Rockford is not really Rockford and Kentwood is not really Kentwood. That's North Kent County and South Kent County. As a South Kent County resident, I feel left out if DPW closes the station near him and leave the other one open. I'm a regular recycler. Growing up in World War II, residents cut the top and bottom of the can out and smashed it flat for steel recovery. Now, you're not going to get that compliance in today's world. However, there's a group of us, I'm just speaking in general terms here that believe recycling. We like to recycle and that's a very convenient point. Now this issue with contamination, I think a lot of that

started when it went to single stream out there. You used to have product separation. As a home owner, I sort out papers, bottles, cans, plastic and corrugated which is not cardboard. You know, people call it cardboard but corrugated is different than tact board. I worked in a papermill, I know the difference. We had to sort this stuff out. It doesn't make sense to me as a home owner, to sort this stuff out at home and I know they shouldn't put plastic in with paper but when you go to the recycle facility, it all goes in together. I already got it sorted out when I get there, and I put it back together than you have to sort it out again. Well, I understand it's not supervised but that doesn't mean it couldn't be. You know, my daughter lives in Charlotte, Michigan in Eaton County. The City of Charlotte runs a recycle station. It's only opened a couple of days a week. They have a compactor onsite, a supervisor and volunteers. They get a premium for their paper because they have volunteers taking staples out of office papers. Now that's pretty extreme but their getting more money for their product by not mixing it all together. So, I don't know where Ken Yonker lives, but he said, "Why not open another recycling facility in another part of the county?" I mean, I think you need to change the method for those recycling stations to go back to sorted products with supervision, limited hours. And another thing, I know you have budgets, as a resident of Kent County for 50 plus years, I'm a little tired of hearing Kent County has a triple A bond rating and we've got a lot of money but, yet you take away of service that I use on a regular basis. I think you need to keep that landfill open until you get your long-term solution in place. Now you say, curb side recycling is available, well based on Facebook comments, the people are saying we're not going to recycle anymore. One thing, there is two issues, one is cost, the other one is the only come every two weeks. We have a family next to me with five kids, they have more recyclables than garbage. Until you can mandate recycling and provide adequately pick up recyclables, the interim solution of closing that is not the right thing to do. I ask you to reconsider."

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.