



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

September 5, 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, Bulkowski, Antor, Skaggs

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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; Katelynn Nettler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Lauren Westerman, Resource Recovery Specialist; Isaac Thaler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Craig Paull, Assistant Corporate Counsel II; Lori Latham, Communications and Public Relations Director; John Van Tholen, Granger; Pat Greve, Waste Management; Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste; Chad Stob, Everkept; James Hurt, City of Grand Rapids; Ally Rickman, YMCA

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

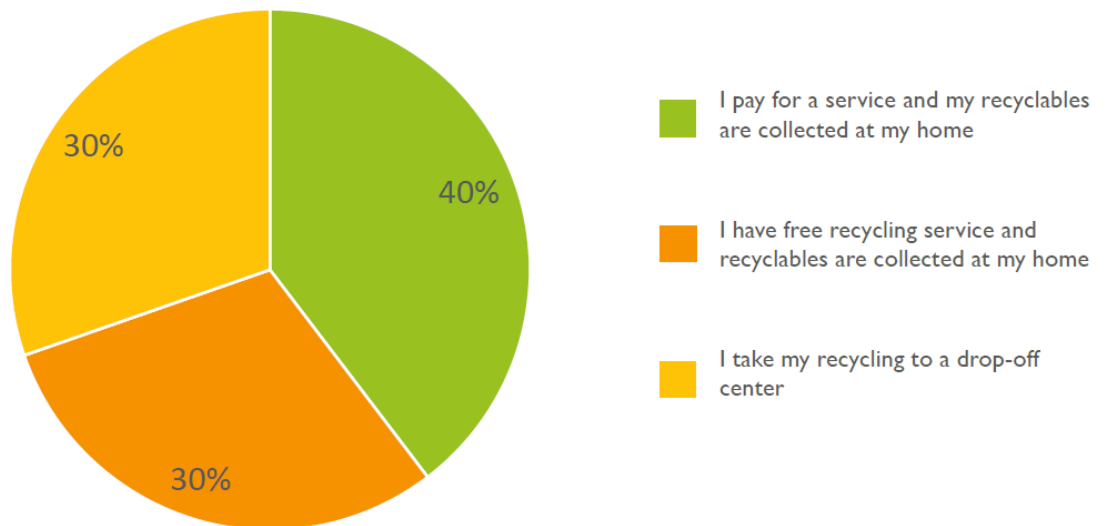
Motion carried unanimously.

III. Administration

A. Kent County Residential Recycling Study – Presentation

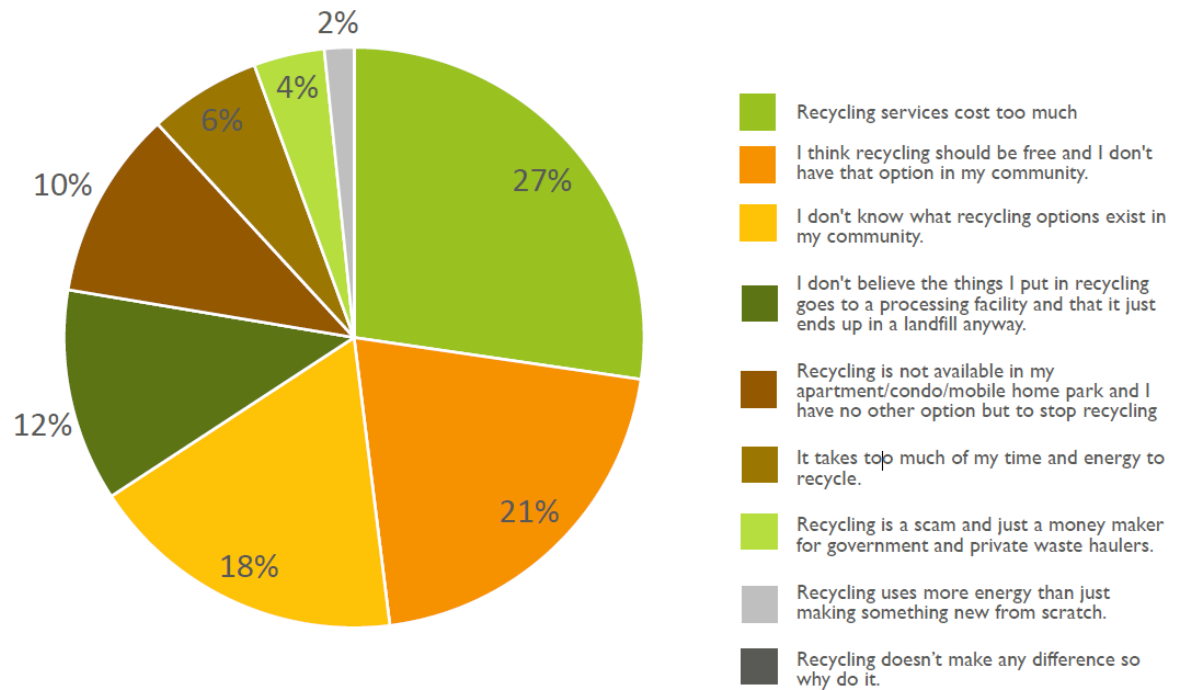
Kristen Wieland presented the Kent County Residential Recycling Study. Here are some highlights from the presentation:

- Between June 25, 2019 and August 13, 2019, DPW collected 2,696 surveys using pop-ups on the website, postings on Facebook and outreach events. Out of 2,696 participants, 2,115 participated from across Kent County.
- 86% of the participants recycle, 7% of the participants used to recycle but no longer recycle, 5% of the participants have never recycled and 2% participants recycle and plan to stop recycling.
- Which of these recycling services do you use most?



- Why use the drop-off center instead of a service that collects it at your home?
 - 41% Curbside recycling costs too much or believe recycling should be free
 - 29% Curbside is not available where I live
 - 10% I don't have enough recycling to fill a cart on a regular basis
 - 9% I use the drop-off location for convenience
 - 6% Other Reasons:
 - Their current trash hauler does not offer recycling services
 - Don't want an extra bin/no space for another bin
 - Without trash service, haulers won't offer just recycling services
 - Lack of trust for haulers to actually recycle and not throw the recyclables away
 - Looking into all of their options to find what fits them best
 - 5% I have too much recycling for a cart

- What motivates you most to recycle?
 - 38% It's good for our planet and keeps plastics and other materials out of the oceans
 - 27% It keeps material out of our landfills
 - 21% It's good for West Michigan and helps protect our lakes, rivers, and groundwater
 - 8% It's good for our local economy and supports local jobs and local businesses that re-purpose materials
 - 3% It keeps our community and neighborhoods clean
 - 2% I see my neighbors doing it and want to do my part too
 - 1% Other Reasons
 - Cheaper to recycle/I receive better deals with my trash services/Free at drop-off stations
 - Morally obligated/religious obligations
 - Saves space in the trash
 - For future generations/children/grandchildren
 - Because their waste hauler gave me the bin
 - Recycle out of habit
- What is the primary reason you no longer recycle or have never recycled?



- Which is the most convincing argument that might make you consider starting recycling in the future?
 - 29% It's good for our planet and keeps plastics and other materials out of the oceans
 - 26% It's good for West Michigan and helps protect our lakes, rivers, and groundwater
 - 21% It keeps material out of our landfills

- 10% it's good for our local economy and supports local jobs and local businesses that re-purpose materials
- Other Reasons
 - Individuals recycling make no difference without large entities also recycling
 - If recycling services were made available at low-cost/included in taxes/for free
 - Need to know/trust that recyclables are being recycled and not just dumped in the landfill
 - Reopen Kentwood Drop-Off
 - Concern for future generations
- 4% It keeps our community and neighborhoods clean
- 1% I see my neighbors doing it and want to do my part too
- The Kent County Department of Public Works is exploring several important opportunities to improve waste management for residents in the next decade.
 - Require that all waste haulers offer both trash and recycling service to all residents as one bundled rate to increase availability of recycling county-wide.
 - Expand the number of cities that are required to deliver trash to the Waste to Energy Facility and then invest in the facility to handle a greater volume of trash, generate more energy and save space in area landfills.
 - Expand the Recycling and Education Center to be able to handle more and different types of recycling materials.
 - Invest in PFAS treatment facilities at all active and inactive county-owned landfills to protect ground and surface water.
 - Recruit private businesses to separate trash heading to South Kent Landfill and turn it into compost, fuel, or other materials.

B. Purchase of SKL Expansion Property – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. Staff was contacted by the property owners regarding purchasing the property (PNN 03-05-001-015-00) in Door Township, Allegan County and located within the established footprint of the planned South Kent Landfill expansion.

Staff requested a property appraisal by Jakems Appraisal Company that established a fair market cash value consistent with the current SEV and negotiated a purchase price factoring DPW ownership of contiguous parcels and future master plan use.

Staff is requesting an approval to purchase the property, PPN 03-05-001-015-00, located in the South Kent Landfill expansion footprint for future landfill expansion or Sustainable Business Park development in the amount of \$252,560.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Janes to approve the purchase of property PPN 03-05-001-015-00 for \$252,560, plus closing costs, and authorize the Director to sign all associated closing documents.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. MEDC Site Readiness Grant Acceptance – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. The MEDC has awarded Kent County DPW a site readiness grant to assist with the necessary due diligence activities associated with the development of the Sustainable Business Park.

Approved activities include:

1. Developing a boundary survey and legal description for site leasing purposes.
2. Development topographic profiles for infrastructure construction and site development.
3. Completing preliminary engineering plans leading to final infrastructure construction documents.
4. Completing environmental characteristics inventory, delineation and mapping of sensitive and wetland areas on the site that should be protected and enhanced.

DPW has the funds required for grant match. Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract language. Staff recommends accepting the MEDC Site Readiness Grant for the Sustainable Business Park in the amount of up to \$95,000 and authorize the Director to sign grant agreement documents.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Skaggs and seconded by Commissioner Bulkowski to approve acceptance of the MEDC Site Readiness Grant for the Sustainable Business Park in the amount of up to \$95,000 and authorize the Director to sign grant agreement documents.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Solid Waste Operations

A. EGLE – Recycling Infrastructure Grant Acceptance – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. DPW applied for an EGLE Recycling Infrastructure grant to purchase a material handler to enable separation of C + D and other bulky material that has diversion potential from loads delivered to North Kent Transfer Station.

After a full year of high-level analysis consisting of waste type determination at the scale, staff concluded that at least 17% of the waste that is accepted for disposal (by weight) is C + D material including significant volumes of clean wood, metal, cardboard, brick, concrete, shingles, drywall, doors, windows, sinks, toilets, bulky plastics and other

renovation and demolition materials. Often we receive items in good-condition that could be reused as-is.

DPW has the funds required for grant match. Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract language. Staff recommends to approve acceptance of the EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$175,440 and authorize the Director to sign grant agreement documents.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Yonker to approve acceptance of the EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$175,440 and authorize the Director to sign grant agreement documents.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Director's Report

Director Baas provided a brief update:

- On October 21, 2019, DPW will have a media event to announce the EGLE Grant that was just approved by the Board.
- A Sustainable Business Park Report Update will be provided at the next board meeting, October 3, 2019.
- DPW received the Consumers Energy power purchase agreement. It is being reviewed by Corporate Counsel and Varnum.

VI. Public Comment/Miscellaneous

None.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.