



**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**February 4, 2021**

**8:30 AM**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Greene, Antor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Manager; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Becky Dyer, Division Financial Supervisor; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Kristen Wieland, Marketing & Communications Manager; Constance Westgate, Environmental Engineer Technician; Katelynn Kirkstra, Resource Recovery Specialist; Lauren Westerman, Resource Recovery Specialist; Isaac Thaler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Stuart Velarde, Resource Recovery Specialist; Calvin Brinks, Purchasing/Fleet Services Manager; Craig Paull, Indigent Defense Administrator/Attorney Administrator/Controller; Stephanie Lee, Risk Manager; Steve Faber, Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications; John Van Tholen, Van Tholen & Associates; Fred Sawyer, Waste Management; Rick Chapla, RC Consulting; Bill Stough, Sustainable Research Group; Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste; Charles Hauser, Granger Waste Services; Todd Butler, Granger; Granger Construction; Katie Carlson, Arthur J. Gallagher; Jill Kizyma, Arthur J. Gallagher

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Emily Brieve.

## 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 Bulkowski to approve the Consent Agenda.

The Consent Agenda was approved by the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Greene, Antor

**ABSENT:** None

**NAYS:** None

## III. Administration

### A. Public Works History/Overview – Presentation

Steve Faber from Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications presented on:

- History of trash management in Kent County
- Kent County's role over the last 50 years
- Finding solutions together for today and beyond

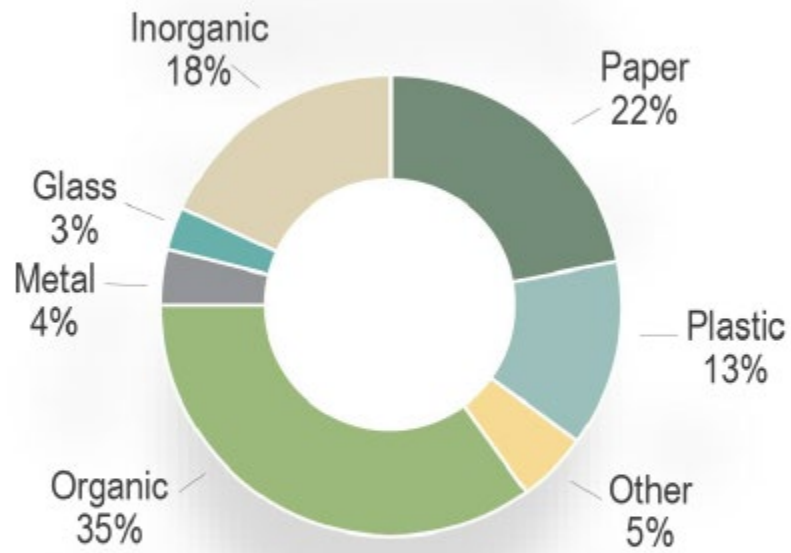
Here are some highlights from the slides:

- No organized means for disposing of discards for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was fed to livestock, tossed in a remote corner of the yard, or tossed down wells.
- By 1895, US Army Corps of Engineers deem floating garbage a navigation hazard on the Grand River.
- In 1897, the City of Grand Rapids builds incinerator. In 1902, 13,624 tons of garbage, 704 dogs, 8 cows, 33 horses were burned in it.
- In 1905, the City of Grand Rapids institutes mandatory garbage collection.
- From 1912-1957, Piggeries seen as a solution to organic waste to complement city incinerator.
- In the 1950's, local dumps were introduced as the next solution. When they got too full, they were lit on fire.
- The Waste-to-Energy Facility opened in 1990. Also, Kent County DPW assumed responsibility for processing recyclables.
- Yard waste was banned from landfills in the State of Michigan in 1995.
- In 2010, Kent County Recycling and Education Center was opened to process single stream recycling.
- The Board of Public Works affirms Reimagine Trash (2015) vision to reduce landfill waste by 90% by 2030. Also, they approve the Sustainable Business Park Master Plan in 2018.
- Michigan ranks 1<sup>st</sup> for states with most buried trash per capita. It has 62.4 tons of buried waste for every man, woman and child in the state. Also, Michigan leads

the nation with greatest percentage of privatized landfills. Only 18.3% of Michigan landfills are public.

- Below is a breakdown of the solid waste from 2016:

### Kent Municipal Solid Waste Composition (mean % by weight)



Source: West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum  
2016 Michigan MSW Valuation Study. [wmsbf.org/msw](http://wmsbf.org/msw)

- Decisions for the near future to rely less on landfill:
  - Increase capacity at WTE, \$120M
  - Pre-sort inbound waste at WTE to recover and recycle/divert some, \$15M
  - Increase participation in residential recycling from 25% to 50% through policy & education
  - Increase participation in single-stream commercial and multifamily recycling through policy & education
  - Cover more of the true cost of recycling by increasing fee to process recyclables (currently \$140/ton but tipping fee is currently \$65-75/ton)
  - Implement first phase of the Sustainable Business Park to begin mixed waste processing to divert 300K+ tons, including organics – Cost TBD (also has policy implications)
  - Increase capacity to process Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste – Cost TBD

B. Administrative/SafeChem Facility Construction – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. For several years, the DPW has prepared to relocate administrative staff and expand the SafeChem facility presently located at the Kent County Road Commission Central Complex located at 1500 Scribner NW in Grand Rapids.

DPW acquired additional properties, Progressive AE the developed concept, design and construction documents that were completed in December 2020. Granger Construction Company, selected as the project construction manager, bid the project in December/January.

Construction costs, including owner soft costs, is \$3,738,017 and includes a project contingency of 7.5% (\$246,419).

The Granger Construction Company Guaranteed Maximum Project (GMP) contract amendment is \$3,381,935.

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Yonker and seconded by Commissioner Bulkowski to authorize the Director to sign the GMP contract with Granger Construction Company in the amount of \$3,381,935 and to move forward with construction of the Administrative/SafeChem facility to be located at the Recycling & Education Center campus, 977 Wealthy Street in Grand Rapids.

The Action Request was approved by the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Greene, Antor

**ABSENT:** None

**NAYS:** None

**IV. Solid Waste Operations**

A. SKL – Cell 41/42 Construction – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. The Cell 41/42 construction project will develop the next set of municipal solid waste landfill cells at the South Kent Landfill encompassing approximately 8.5 total acres. In addition to the cell construction the project also includes litter fencing, a leachate handling station and perimeter road extension. The overall project is consistent with the Construction Permit Application approved by the MDEQ (EGLE) in September 2017

Two bids were received by Kent County Purchasing through RFQ 4215:

- **Fisher Contracting Co.:** \$3,438,580.00
- **Catskill Remedial Contracting Services, Inc.:** \$4,107,830.50

After review of the submittals, staff recommends awarding the construction contract for the South Kent Landfill Cell 41/42 Construction to Fisher Contracting Co. in the amount of \$3,438,580.00, the low responsive bid.

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Yonker and seconded by Commissioner Bulkowski to award the construction of the South Kent Cell 41/42 Construction Project in accordance with RFQ 4215 and its associated addenda to Fisher Contracting Co. in the amount of \$3,438,580.00.

The Action Request was approved by the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Greene, Antor

**ABSENT:** None

**NAYS:** None

**V. Waste to Energy Facility Operations**

A. WTE Insurance Coverage – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. The WTE property and general liability insurance renewals were solicited through Kent County Fiscal Services for 2021 coverage. Included in the packet are the summaries and recommendations from Fiscal Services and Risk Management.

The 2020 property insurance premium through Arthur J. Gallagher, with American Insurance Company (ACE), was \$337,346 and the 2021 premium is \$384,741, a 14% increase. This increase is predominately due to the premium rate increase, but also relates to the increase in the total insured value (TIV).

It is recommended to renew the general liability insurance through Arthur J. Gallagher with Chubb and excess liability with Chubb and Scottsdale Insurance. The premium for liability coverage is an increase from last year of 12% from \$164,914 to \$184,13. It is also recommended obtain standalone terrorism coverage with Lloyds of London for a premium amount of \$5,520.

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Yonker and seconded by Commissioner Greene to authorize the Director to acquire property, general liability and terrorism insurance for the WTE facility as recommended by Risk Management.

The Action Request was approved by the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Greene, Antor

**ABSENT:** None

NAYS: None

**VI. Director's Report**

Director Baas provided a quick overview of tonnage received by site, budget vs. actual.

**TONNAGE BY SITE**  
**Year 2020**

<b>2020</b>	<b>SKL Received</b>	<b>NKT Received</b>	<b>WTE Received</b>	<b>MRF Received</b>
January	25,358	7,544	21,771	2,996
February	21,525	5,745	18,426	1,610
March	23,118	7,592	20,690	1,275
April	22,783	7,429	20,212	0
May	25,214	10,809	20,674	2,784
June	29,966	12,156	22,437	2,787
July	29,858	11,379	23,422	2,696
August	27,219	10,748	21,654	2,537
September	30,096	11,094	22,142	2,681
October	29,736	10,989	22,155	2,707
November	26,454	10,768	21,385	2,878
December	26,772	9,312	21,544	3,384
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>318,099</b>	<b>115,565</b>	<b>256,512</b>	<b>28,336</b>
<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>320,500</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>YTD % to Budget</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>116%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>81%</b>

Commissioner Janes left the meeting at 9:55 am.

**VII. Public Comment/Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Bulkowski asked for an update on the Sustainable Business Park.

Director Baas stated that two-hour interviews were set up for the five proposals and the interviews will be completed by Friday. We hope to have a recommendation to the Board in April or May.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.