



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

August 5, 2021

8:30 AM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Brieve, Skaggs, Yonker, Greene, Bulkowski, Janes, Ponstein

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Administrator; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Kristen Wieland, Marketing & Communications Manager; Katelynn Kirkstra, Resource Recovery Specialist; Lauren Westerman, Resource Recovery Specialist; Craig Paull, Indigent Defense Administrator/Attorney Administrator/Controller; John Van Tholen, Van Tholen & Associates; Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste; Steve Faber, Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications; Diane Druckenmiller, Arrowwaste; Keith Granger, Granger Waste Services; John Gorney, City of Grand Rapids

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:31 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 Ponstein to approve the Consent Agenda.

The Consent Agenda was approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Yonker, Janes, Ponstein, Bulkowski

ABSENT: Commissioner Greene, Skaggs

NAYS: None

Commissioner Skaggs and Greene joined at 8:34 a.m.

III. Accounting & Finance

A. 3Degrees/SKL Carbon Offset Credits Agreement for SKL – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. The Kent County South Kent Landfill (SKL) generated Verified Emission Reduction credits as a Climate Action Reserve (CAR) Project for the past ten (10) years and qualifies for a second crediting period under the CAR Registry.

DPW received recommendations from Energy Developments Limited (EDL), operator of the SKL landfill gas-to-energy plant and requested proposals from companies providing turnkey registration, verification, and brokerage for Verified Emission Reduction credits.

DPW negotiated a 5-year agreement with 3Degrees Group where the DPW retains 80 percent of the market price of the VERS less fees charged by the Registry associated with issuance, transfer, and retirement of VERS.

The contract has been reviewed and approved by Corporate Counsel.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Ponstein and seconded by Commissioner Janes to approve a contract with 3Degrees Group, Inc. to manage Project registration, verification and broker Climate Action Reserve – Verified Emission Reductions (VERS) credits and authorize the Director to sign contract documents.

The Action Request was approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Skaggs, Yonker, Greene, Janes, Bulkowski, Ponstein

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

B. 2022 DPW Accrual Basis Budget Approval – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. Each Year the Department of Public Works prepares a Rate Study for its operations. This rate study is a cash basis income statement and its primary use is to set disposal rates to cover cash expenditures including wages, benefits, operating expenses, capital improvements and dept payments.

The budget submitted to the Controller's Office is full accrual basis budget and audited financial statements are filed on the basis. Therefore, the rate study has adjustments for

capital improvement plan expenditures, principle payments, landfill cell construction reserves and internal fund contributions.

Annual approval of a full accrual basis budget by the Board of Public Works streamlines and enables the Boar to make any needed budget adjustments instead of bringing these requests to the full Board of Commissioners and was recommended by the County Budget Director for DPW enterprise funds.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Ponstein and seconded by Commissioner Janes to adopt the 2022 Accrual Budget for the Department of Public Works showing revenues of \$57,841,530 and expenses of \$57,841,530.

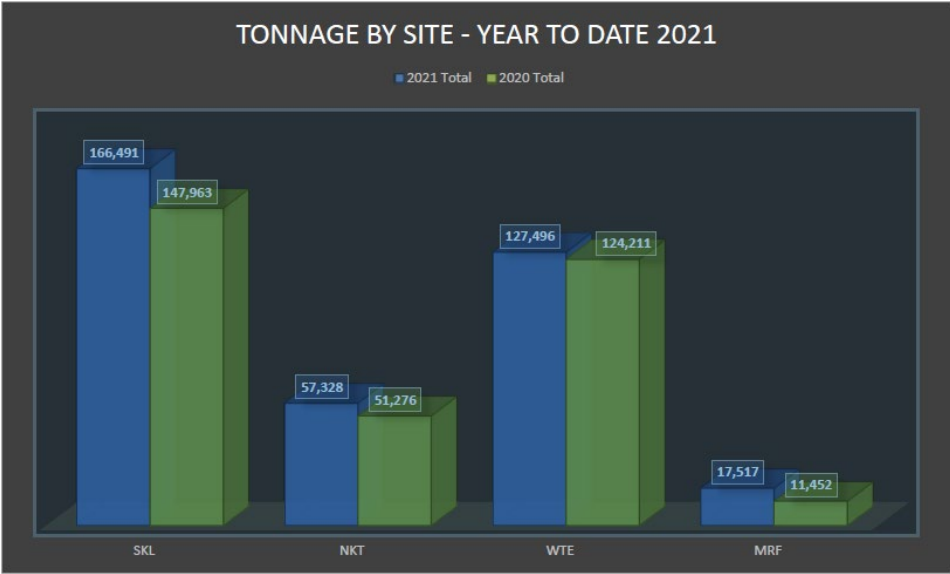
The Action Request was approved by the following vote:

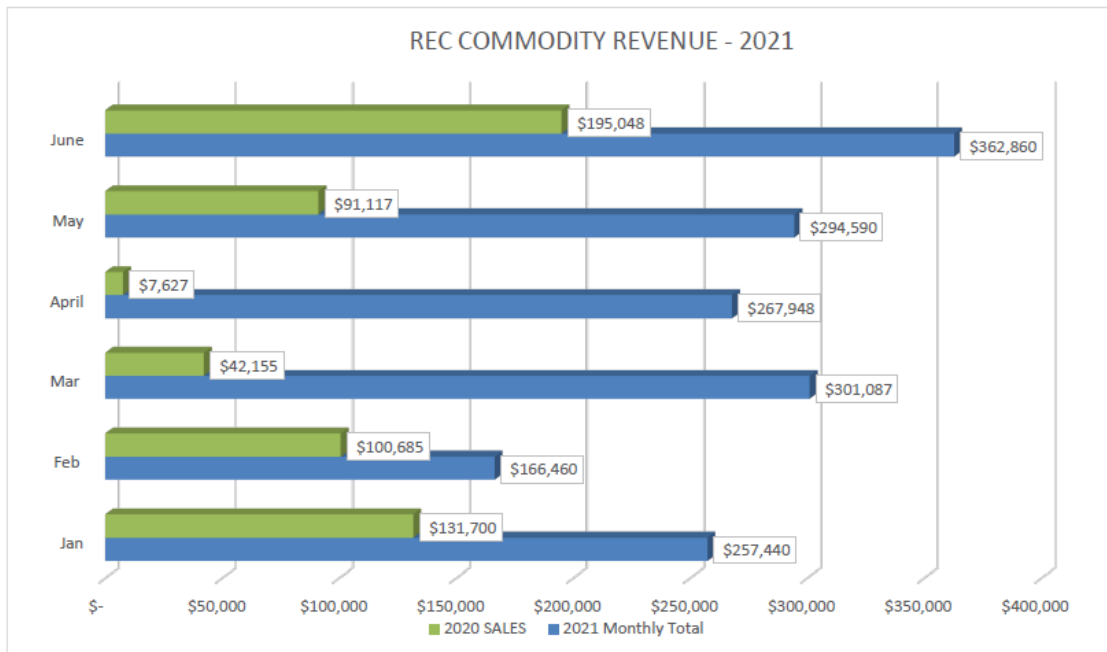
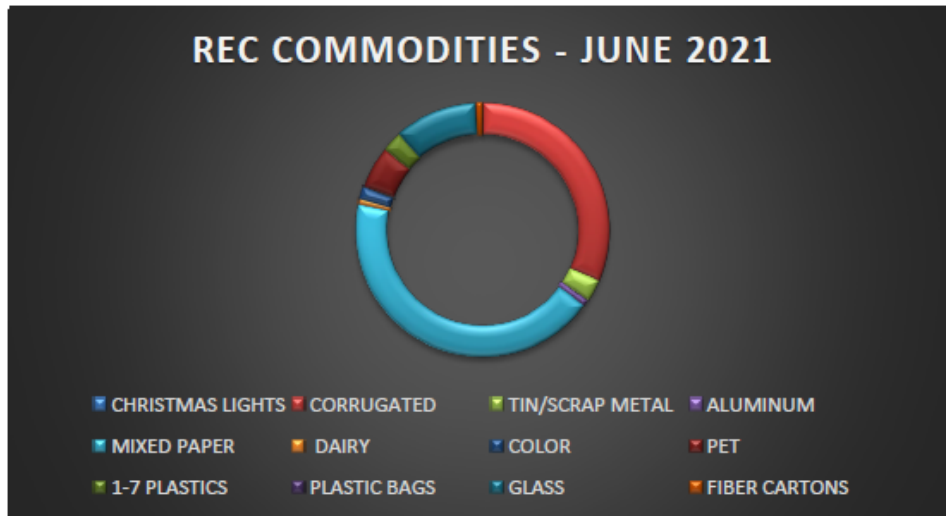
- YEAS:** Commissioners Brieve, Skaggs, Yonker, Greene, Janes, Bulkowski, Ponstein
- ABSENT:** None
- NAYS:** None

Steve Faber from Byrum & Fisk provided an update on the recycling poll done on 600,000 Kent County residents. A detailed report will be provided at the next Board meeting.

IV. Director’s Report

- A. Annual Surcharge Report – 2020
Director Baas briefly reviewed the 2020 Annual Surcharge Report.
- B. DPW at a Glance
Director Baas reviewed the DPW at a Glance handout.





C. Administrative Offices/SafeChem Construction Update

Director Baas provided an update on the Administration Offices/SafeChem building. The masonry brick has arrived and will be installed soon. Granger continues to do a great job. DPW plans to move in by the first week of December.

D. Sustainable Business Park Update

Director Baas discussed the two finalist, Urbaser and Continuous Materials. The Business Development Team met with each finalist to review the RFP responses. A recommendation for consideration will be provided to the Board soon.

E. WTE O&M Vendor Update

Director Baas discussed Covanta not renewing the contract after February 2023 at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. DPW has received five proposals and has narrowed it down to three – Urbaser, Vicinity Energy, and Great River Energy. The second interviews will take place in the next couple of weeks.

V. Public Comment/Miscellaneous

Keith Granger from Granger Waste, 16980 Wood Road, Lansing Michigan supports recycling. He is curious if there has been any cost analysis associated with recycling and what the expected recycling cost would be for residents and businesses.

Chair Brieve stated that the survey results are being reviewed.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.