



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

November 5, 2020

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, Antor, Vonk, Bulkowski

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Kristen Wieland, Marketing & Communications Manager; Constance Westgate, Environmental Engineer Technician; Lauren Westerman, Resource Recovery Specialist; Katelynn Nettler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Isaac Thaler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Craig Paull, Indigent Defense Administrator/Attorney Administrator/Controller; Calvin Brinks, Purchasing/Fleet Services Manager; John Van Tholen, Van Tholen & Associates; Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste; Pat Greve, Waste Management; Bill Stough, Sustainable Research Group; Diane Druckenmiller, Arrowwaste; James Hurt, City of Grand Rapids; Steve Faber, Byrum & Fisk; Mark Rambo, City of Kentwood

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 Vonk to approve the Consent Agenda.

The Consent Agenda was approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Vonk, Antor

ABSENT: Commissioner Bulkowski, Yonker

NAYS: None

Commissioner Bulkowski joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

III. Administration

A. Administrative Office/SafeChem Update

Director Baas discussed the two PowerPoint slides. The first slide showed the rear view and the front view of the Administrative Office/SafeChem building.

The City of Grand Rapids' zoning requirement on the Wealthy Street corridor requires parking in the rear of the building. To be consistent with the rest of the campus and from a public safety and public access standpoint, the City of Grand Rapids agreed it made more sense to have the entrance in the front.

B. MEDC Site Readiness Grant – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. In 2019, DPW applied for an MEDC Michigan Site Readiness Program grant and received up to \$95,000 to assist with necessary due diligence activities associated with development of the Sustainable Business Park.

Work included developing a boundary survey and legal descriptions for site leasing purposes, development of topographic profiles for infrastructure construction and site development, completing preliminary engineering plans leading to final infrastructure construction documents and completing environmental characteristics inventory, delineation and mapping of wetland areas.

DPW applied for and received a second MDEC MSRP grant for up to \$75,000 to complete final engineering design for the SBP.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Antor and seconded by Commissioner Skaggs to accept the MEDC Michigan Site Readiness Grant for the Sustainable Business Park in the amount of up to \$75,000 and authorize the Director to sign grant agreement documents.

The action request was approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Skaggs, Vonk, Antor, Bulkowski

ABSENT: Commissioner Yonker

NAYS: None

Motion carried with all voting in favor and Commissioner Janes abstaining for reasons of conflict of interest.

Commissioner Yonker joined the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

C. EGLE Market Development Grant – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. In June, DPW submitted a proposal to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's (EGLE) - Recycling Market Development grant program. This grant provides funds to grow recycling markets locally and increase the use of recycled material.

DPW's project, titled 'New Respect for Glass: Evaluation and Recommendations for the Beneficial Use of Post-Consumer and Post-Industrial Non-Deposit Glass in Michigan, DPW will lead the state in identifying and attracting processing technology that creates new markets, stimulate demand and supports businesses to commercialize technologies that improve the quality, quantity and demand for recycled non-deposit container glass in Michigan. The research will directly inform future opportunities at the Sustainable Business Park.

Kent County will work with three partner agencies - selected for their qualifications to carry out specific tasks for the project. Sustainable Research Group will perform market research to quantify the five different types of glass materials generated and disposed in the state that is available to be recycled; Gershman, Brickner & Bratton (GBB) will perform a market analysis of the region's post-consumer glass from non-deposit sources; and The Right Place, Inc. will facilitate a series of private-public stakeholder sessions to expand the outputs of Phase II and evaluate market potential for the use/reuse of recycled glass in the state, with a focus on recommending one glass processor for tenancy at the Sustainable Business Park.

Kent County DPW and project partners will provide \$18,700 in match funding toward the total project cost of \$67,800. Grant acceptance documents will be reviewed by Corporate Counsel.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Antor and seconded by Commissioner Skaggs to approve EGLE Recycling Market Development Grant in the amount of \$49,100.

The action request was approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Skaggs, Vonk, Antor, Bulkowski, Yonker

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

Motion carried with all voting in favor and Commissioner Janes abstaining for reasons of conflict of interest.

IV. Solid Waste Operations

A. South Kent Landfill Earthwork Contract – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. Bids for the annual earthwork contract at the South Kent Landfill were solicited by Kent County Purchasing. One qualified bid was received on October 26, 2020. Based on bid evaluation, staff recommends awarding the 2021 earthwork contract to Oetman Excavating of Wayland, MI, the low, responsive bidder, in the amount of \$888,500.

The contract is effective for a period of one year (December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021) with two additional years available for optional renewal upon mutual agreement of both parties and approval of the Purchasing Manager.

This unit price contract primarily involves soil excavation, providing daily cover and placing intermediate cover throughout the year. In 2021 we anticipate that approximately 117,500 cubic yards of excavation will be required. In addition, the contractor will be responsible for meeting other excavation needs performed on an hourly rate basis. These tasks consist of pond cleaning, ditch cleaning, gas well raising and other general excavation and earthwork needs not covered by the unit price items of the contract.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Vonk and seconded by Commissioner Janes to award the South Kent Landfill 2021 Annual Earthwork contract to Oetman Excavating LLC in the amount of \$888,500.

The action request was approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Vonk, Antor, Bulkowski, Yonker

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

V. Resource Recovery and Recycling Operations

A. EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. In April, DPW submitted an 'Advancing Polypropylene Recycling and Processing in West Michigan' proposal to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's (EGLE) Recycling and Organics Infrastructure grant program.

The project will recover more residential polypropylene (#5 plastic) with higher commodity value at the Kent County Recycling & Education Center through three

objectives: (1) increase residential polypropylene plastics recovery with education highlighting specific types of polypropylene products to be included in recycling carts, (2) equipment acquisition to enable mechanical and manual sorting of PP and marketed as a standalone commodity, (3) build stronger relationships with organizations with shared common goals for improving domestic recycling capacity.

Polypropylene is commonly used in manufacture of yogurt cups, butter tubs, foodservice packaging, other food containers as well as non-food packaging. Currently PP, collected in residential recycling programs and sorted at material recovery facilities, is comingled with 3-7 plastics where value is lost with added transportation and processing. Unlike water bottles and milk containers, PP is underpromoted, increasing the likelihood it is discarded in household trash.

A funding request in the amount of \$498,600 has also been submitted to The Recycling Partnership for equipment purchase and provide \$75,000 in educational outreach funding. If match funding is awarded, staff anticipates County funds will not be needed for this project. The total project cost is \$573,600. Grant acceptance documents will be reviewed by Corporate Counsel.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Janes and seconded by Commissioner Yonker to approve acceptance of an EGLE Recycling and Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$150,000 to improve polypropylene recovery and increase commodity value at the Kent County Recycling & Education Center.

The action request was approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Vonk, Antor, Bulkowski, Yonker

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

VI. Accounting & Finance

A. Financial Review through September 2020

Director Baas discussed the chart. The South Kent Landfill tonnage and revenue is down from 2019. This is due to lower tonnage coming into the landfill. DPW expenses are up compared to 2019 due to opening a new cell and setting aside additional dollars under the GASBY Rules. Also, we had additional repairs and maintenance cost around upgrading the manholes throughout the facility. In 2021, there should not be a dramatic difference since things are settling down.

VII. Director's Report

Director Baas discussed the funding the Recycling and Education Center is receiving to assist with education and marketing. This funding will occur in November.

VIII. Public Comment/Miscellaneous

Commissioner Brieve discussed Commissioner Vonk leaving the Board at the end of the year. He started serving the Board of Public Works since 2003 and has served our community for 40 years. We appreciate all that Commissioner Vonk has done in Kent County to help with recycling and help with solid waste.

Russ Boersma from Arrowaste shared comments about the decrease tonnage at the South Kent Landfill and the SWAP Agreement. The SWAP Agreement is creating an unfair advantage for Republic when they dump per the agreement rate. This disadvantages other haulers that support the system and pays the gate rate.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.