**Michigan Recycling Coalition**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**9/12/22**

Attendance: *Nick Carlson - Chair, Becky Andrews, Kate Melby, Natalie Jakub, Rick Lombardo, Steve Kent, Tim Botzau, Tracy Purrenhage, Dave Smith, Jeff Krcmarik, Brad Austin, Henry Hoffman (Guest), Kerrin O’Brien, Kelly Schalter*

**Called to order 10:35**

* Motion for approval of consent agenda: Becky Andrews, seconded by Kate Melby
	+ No opposition - consent agenda approved.
	+ Comments/questions on consent agenda
* Kerrin suggests we talk about available positions on the board, maybe under executive committee

**2023 fiscal year budget**

* Expense side:
	+ Added significant budget to marketing line item which hasn’t had any spending on in recent years.
	+ Suggestion of marketing person
		- Kate Melby - does she have website or anything we can look at?
			* Natalie - she does have a website, but just started going on her own after working with league of michigan bicyclists for a few years. Willing to share what she’s done for GLS. Developing corporate sponsorship package, annual reports, social media, grant tracking tools. She can do many great things. Another thing from her background that’s helpful is that she was the mayor of Mount Pleasant a few years ago. Lots of knowledge and unique perspective.
		- Kate - what if we approve contingent on review of materials?
			* Kerrin - yes.
		- Nick - future budget preliminary losses - 23-24 column I, J, K 3-6, that kind of loss is really big. Need to be thinking about that.
	+ Becky - part of that is not having grants secured for those years.
		- Kerrin - still waiting on answers for this budget year. For the 3 going forward, that’s really more targets about the kind of money we need to bring in through grants to meet our obligations. So that’s a target for additional revenue.
			* Nick - good, just making sure that’s the plan, not really anticipating 3 years of huge losses, just seeing it as a hurtle we’ve got to get over.
		- No other questions.
* Revenue
	+ Kerrin - The thing we’re most concerned about are the grant continuations. We feel pretty good about ag plastics, know NextCycle Michigan will continue. LftL and PCE are relatively small and will likely continue. If they don’t, we can make up the difference likely. Still waiting to hear back.
	+ Becky - pretty much no changes to revenue since board forward.
	+ Kerrin - working with marketing person may bring more revenue by reaching new audiences, etc. but that’s not included. There’s no revenue to offset her expense because we don’t know yet.
	+ No other questions on budget
* Nick motion for approval of 2022-23 fiscal year budget - motion by Becky, seconded by Dave, motion passes unanimously.

**Staff Updates**

* September and early October events
	+ Kerrin -
		- compost tours happening this week, Spurt has to be canceled because of Bill having COVID. Difficult because we don’t know how many will be taking up the tours. 11 tour sites responding and committing is a good thing, and we’re excited about that.
		- Make the case for recycling Region 5 happening Thursday. 2.5 hour session to teach people how to use these tools. Then $ of that grant will be claimed
		- Oct.6-7 Fall Into Recycling - please help promote and spread that around. FIR has been going on for a long time, but a 2-day event with a focus on NextCycle we hope to bring new types of stakeholders, investors, those interested in getting involved in recycling, but we really need to drive people to that event. Any promotion and support is welcome and appreciated!
		- Part 115 - Still have Sen. Nesbitt being a gatekeeper about this issue. Working to mobilize business members to call his office over the summer. He won’t take their calls or meet with them. Our lobbyist Dusty Fancher is trying to get a meeting with him now so we can be prepared for whatever is coming at us in lame duck. On the table is full package, and also a reduced package that we said we would easily and be happy to forego any impacts on landfills. EGLE negotiated with landfills changes in registration and construction and permitting fees and financial assurance. We said that’s not our issue, that was negotiated by EGLE, what’s important to us are these other things, but we don’t know how he feels about it. Know that Nesbitt & Howell never ended up speaking yet and nothing has happened. Understanding more that he’s anti-environment in some ways, and we don’t know what’s going to happen. Did hear from Shayna Schupan Barry that lame duck is going to be a wiley beast this year. Lots of priorities on the table, not sure if this one will be one of them, but can only hope. Will keep up to date, but activity will likely move quickly without a lot of input from us. We’re just going to push our agenda to move things forward. Probably contingent on what happens in November election. Parties are talking about strategies based on elections.
			* Becky - his committee is under no obligation to address it, he can just bury it without accountability?
				+ Kerrin - yes. We wanted this to go to Senate environmental quality committee, and when it went to his committee, we knew things go there to die. Midwest Strategy Group has shared that this is a priority, so hoping our work with them ends up carrying the day. Ironic that December of this year marks 4 years of having funding and being unable to get policy through. We’re starting to talk about what happens after December. So much could happen, but not sure how to move forward if P115 doesn’t pass yet. Frankly, if we haven’t gotten EGLE or administration support this year, we don’t know what we’ll get next year. Strategy will take a different road next time around. Maybe small chunks.
* NRC Producer Responsibility Guidance
	+ Natalie - Policy committee reviewed stuff from NRC bullet points - one bullet was about chemical recycling, so had some conversations about supporting that. Everyone had to take some time to get familiar and educate themselves about it. If any businesses are going to recycle it should be for highest and best use. Chemical recycling is not highest and best use, so should be focused on zero waste principals and reduce, reuse, recycle. Helpful conversations in July and today approved to support all recommendations in the document.
	+ Kerrin - bringing it up to share support of this policy position from NRC from the MRC and is this something that the Board should also approve? That way we can share our support of it.
		- Nick - would think so. It should work that we start with the approval of the committee, then it goes to the board for final blessing. This is the first time seeing it - will it be sent to the whole board?
			* Kerrin - we can. Has everyone seen it? Thought we talked about it in June.
			* Nick - send to board for approval next month.
				+ Kerrin - agreed.
			* Tracy - sidenote, there was a chemical recycling session at Resource Recycling Conference that was very informative. It was really interesting because they talked a lot about making sure that you know if you’re using chemical recycling, know who you’re working with. There is plastic-to-plastic chemical recycling, so that was enlightening. Not advocating for change, but if you have the opportunity to listen to it, take a look.
			* Big conversation about chemical recycling - largely around the session at the Resource Recycling Conference
			* Incineration vs. landfill
				+ Kate - we don’t have a good track record with regulating incineration, so you’d need another whole policy about that.
				+ Tracy - but now it’s being generalized across the US. If you go to the Kent County facility and look at their records of air quality, this overgeneralizes. Need to be careful about falling into that vs. what we do in Michigan.
			* Nick - board will review, we’ll schedule some time for discussion, and take action on this item.
	+ Membership focus - counties! We’re looking for any counties that you’re seeing activity with that you have contact with who aren’t members of the MRC. If you want Terri to reach out to get them to join our network, send contacts to us or get resources from Terri to follow up on your own. Appreciate any contacts you have that you’d be willing to share.
* Kerrin - collecting lots of resumes for people to fill our education position. We’ve capped resumes at September 15, which is Thursday, so very shortly after we’ll cull the list to see who is going to be a good candidate and begin interviews, and will share once we know something further.

**Strategic priorities**

* Board forward - producer responsibility is one of those strategic priorities. So next meeting that’ll be perfect.
* Kerrin - recap of BF
	+ Notes attached.
	+ Going over BF notes.
* Henry Hoffman - reached out about learning about the MRC and attend our board meeting. He’s been listening in. Why here & what he does:
	+ NRC producer responsibility thing is very interesting. Recently retired, Emmet County, about 5 minutes from recycling center, knows Andi Tolzdorf, working with remote pickup areas, cleaning them up and stuff. Andi gets tired of answering questions, so suggested listening in and planning to attend the Oct. 6-7 workshop. Was at the spring one as well. Learning more, and in retirement, want to try to reduce waste of all sorts, and make sure it’s handled better & more professionally, get producers more responsible. May chime in at future meetings more. Hoping to help.
		- Secret suggestion from Tracy - add a “public comment” section to the board meeting agenda for people like Henry.
* Nick - we have an organics council, talking about a proposed product stewardship council. We want specific councils for 2 of our 4 pillars. Should we have market dev. & access councils as well to help define strategy and position moving those balls forward?
	+ Kerrin - will add.
* Kate - pillar model - without being able to see, part of where we get tangled up may be that pillars sounds so permanent. We are using it as a layer that represents our current direction. How are we using/expressing the things we put in the other part of the structure, where are we focusing them right now? Maybe we need to change the word “pillar” to make it sound less permanent.
* No space at RAM center next year.
	+ Will try to lock in 10-11 dates for BF. Just kidding, August 9-10.
* Hybrid meeting for December? We do try to do fun in December so maybe a good time, but also a productive meeting. December & February or December & March? March is good because it increases odds for those who have a drive due to snow. So December 12 and March 13.
	+ Nick - is there a way to highlight that those 2 are in person?
* Kerrin - we have been talking with MEC about our office space and maybe kind of paring it down. We are considering moving to a little different place in the building and having 2 small enclosed offices, mostly for stuff and a couple desks because we mostly work remotely. So not our typical space, but we’d still have our meeting space. Any thoughts or issues with that? Probably cut our rent in half.

**Committee reports**

* Executive committee
	+ Nick
		- Didn’t add that next Monday will be conducting annual review and from there will be approving Kerrin’s bonus and as discussed a while back, KO will authorize bonuses for staff. So the plan is to conduct review next week Monday and will send a synopsis of how that went.
		- Open & changing seats on the board. Any word from Scott?
			* Kerrin - reached out a number of times, but haven’t heard back, so thinking he has left us behind, so we should prepare for that. That means we have 2 openings. Who had to leave earlier?
	+ Nick - motion to appoint Kate to the open business slot that Scott has left.
		- Seconded by Tracy
			* No opposition
				+ Kate abstained.
	+ Shuffling board members around. Do we move around people or just bring someone on for a shortened term? Move Jeff to Gov. then just have to fill at-large?
	+ Nom. committee will bring forth candidates to fill Scott’s spot.
* Policy Committee
	+ Met this morning, went over NRC doc. Changing from monthly to bi-monthly and considering time change. Will be reflecting on how to do legwork to provide education for some things we’re just learning about and not sure about. Building that into our work. Educating, providing policy statements, education before forming opinion. Changes, but all good changes. Also having an election next month. 3 open positions for voting members. Let Natalie know if interested in joining policy committee
* Conference Committee
	+ No real reports. First meeting will be coming up this month. We will be in Kalamazoo this year. Starting to develop theme. Next thing is figuring out where 2024 conference will be. Exploring that soon.
* Committee forum
	+ Nick - still have link to reports so you can get in and look at them. Did not look this month, but easy to access and read through. Any other updates or reports?
		- Kate - education committee, looking at shifting to more of a roundtable and maybe pulling out a couple things to be action projects.

**Board of Directors Updates**

* Dry Dock
	+ Tracy - Dry Dock secured from Wednesday through Saturday in Bay City. If you remember, when we had conference in Bay City, it was one of the bars we went to during the pub crawl. It was the outside venue for the pub crawl. Doing it as a fundraiser. Tim and his awesome relationship building skills was able to get WM to sponsor the event. At this point, any money we generate is strictly revenue. If we do a band or something Friday, that could change that. This is an opportunity as a revenue-generator/fundraising thing. Looking to fill spots to work to sell and pour beer/wine/cider. Setting up event calendar to promote. Cool opportunity, something different to try. End of September 29, 30, & Oct. 1.

**Wrap-up, Call to Action**

* Nick - Next week’s ED review on Monday, sign up for times at Dry Dock or show up and drink with everyone, look into feasibility of a couple different councils, reaching out to County people, sending contact info to Terri, Fall Into Recycling, moving Board Forward to the 9 & 10, first in-person meeting for December 12.

 **Motion to adjourn - Tracy, seconded by Brad**

* Adjourned at 12:08 pm