**Michigan Recycling Coalition**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, November 11, 2022**

***Mission***  *The Michigan Recycling Coalition fosters sustainability by leading, educating, and mobilizing business, government, non-profit, and individuals to advance their own and collective resource use and recovery initiatives in Michigan.*

| Attendance - Bill Whitley, Nick Carlson, Rebecca Andrews, Brad Austin, Dave Smith, Kate Melby, Libby Rice, Natalie Jakub, Rick Lombardo, Tracy Purrenhage, Kerrin O’Brien, Kelly Schalter  Absent - Steve Kent, Justin Jungman, Jeff Krcmarik, Tim Botzau |
| --- |

**10:30 am**

1. Call Board Meeting to Order – N Carlson
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda - PLEASE REVIEW ALL MATERIALS PRIOR TO MEETING - ACTION
   1. Dave motion to approve Brad second
      1. Comments
         1. Bill Whitley - Comparing to last year instead of budget.
         2. KO - report on 2 events, dry dock & FIR
            1. Dry Dock fundraising event was a FY 2022 event. That event raised almost $1000. Not as much as hoped for. End of season event, so not the kind of traffic hoped for. Not great weather, and lots of work for volunteers. Insurance for the event was a lot, as well.
            2. Could be more next year with a better date.
            3. $5595 made on FIR in this fiscal year. About $9,000 in registration, about $5,000 in sponsorship (some brought in by RRS). As we build in regularity of this kind of event, we’ll start to build sponsorship support for that as well.
   2. Additions to Agenda, Approval
   3. Acceptance of Minutes from June Meeting
   4. Monthly Financial Report for August
      1. Bill - updates to budget - will look at in December. Also, rate increases. Can make money with CDs. We have $250,000 in savings probably paying close to nothing. Should look at that again. Certainly 6-figures we could put in CDs and earn 4% on rather than sitting in savings.
   5. Committee Reports
   6. Membership Update
4. Staff Updates
   1. Part 115
      1. KO - Good news! After the election, there’s a lot of alignment in both the house, senate, and administration to get 115 passed this year if at all possible. Dusty is having conversations with leadership, so we don’t know the results of that yet. Taking double-edge strategy: doing our best to talk to the powers that be and do what we need to do to push forward with that committee, because there are likely only to be 2 senate meetings left this year. The committees are beginning to align themselves behind these 2 meetings. Likely if it goes this year, it will go very quickly, maybe without testimony. Probably just procedural work, then transferred directly to senate floor to move forward. Reasoning is it’s not going to get better for republicans or industry after the first of the year. But if it doesn’t get passed by the end of this year, we will be working this year to tweak the bill package as it stands right now to fix some troublesome things and start with that package, but the environmental orgs and administration are really keen on increasing fees and financial assurance on landfills. Lots of interest in not setting us up for that movement. Whether or not 115 passes this year, we will have more opportunities next year. In conversations with others, this gives opportunities to move forward priorities we’ve just barely scraped the surface of like product stewardship. 2 years to move forward. Providing Dusty with congratulations and introducing MRC to the new legislators.
         1. Bill - question - as we think about what we might be interested in or changes we might make, heard recently there’s a push now for 1 or some landfills to extend to ship in trash from the east coast? Not in the state’s best interest, can we do anything about it? There’s some investment and work being done to consider that as an option.
            1. KO - hadn’t heard that, but do know that landfills will be working hard to pass expansions so will need to figure out legality and educate our audience to hold that at bay in deference to the process that is going to be happening. Have gotten questions from Sen. Bayer’s office about how the bill talks about expansion, so that will be an issue. PFAS is going to be an ongoing challenge for landfills. Landfill costs likely to increase over time.
            2. Brad - Authority moved forward, one of the only landfills to be funded with this PFAS project - about $4million in capital and operating costs. Tipping fees will increase $15-20 per ton once it starts in 2027. New plant needs to be online by August 1, 2027. Increasing incrementally to accommodate that. Only a handful of recognized technologies right now. About 25% increase. $6 of that is paying for single stream equipment put in a couple years ago. That was one of the board moves in the last couple years.
            3. KO - is every landfill going to be dealing with this and responding how Marquette has?

Brad - not sure about every landfill. State did a lot of sampling to establish a baseline of where PFAS is showing up. Went after sources first. It’s trickled into landfills for many years. Marquette does not send wastewater to treatment facility. It’s treated onsite. That’s the technology that has to change. Need to implement a new technology. Other places sending to wastewater treatment plants will have to deal with that.

* 1. Fall Into Recycling Report out
     1. Back to fundraising at Dry Dock - worthy of pursuing next year?
     2. Bill - $5,500 with FIR but Dry Dock would have been about $2,000. Was the effort for the $2,000 comparable to the effort for the $5,500? It may or may not be worth it depending on effort level.
        1. KO - if we had more participation with Dry Dock and we had an event or something that advanced our mission, would do it in a heartbeat. FIR advances our mission, so we definitely need to continue that work. Depends on earning potential.
        2. TP - Sarah & Darrell had conversation with person at Dry Dock who chooses dates, there was some indication you’d get a much better date the second time around so if there’s interest in continuing that, it would be worthwhile.
        3. KO - will circle back when there are dates and ideas. Will be looking to make it some kind of event that does add to our mission. Not just raising money but advancing our mission as well.
  2. Project updates
     1. Product Stewardship
        1. KO - 2 grant extensions asked for from EGLe for LFTL and Plastics Circular Economy - no information on those requests. They just sit there. We’re well into the fiscal year now. We proposed work to start Oct. 1 but still waiting on that info. We’re not getting any information, and continue to get calls from members that they haven’t gotten money for their MICROS projects. Wondering what’s going on at EGLE. Something to keep in mind about EGLE grant projects - if and when 115 passes and dept calls for planning, $10 million of that $15 million will go to counties for planning for the first 3 years. There’s a lot of previously earmarked projects like NextCycle. They’re struggling with capacity and trying to figure out how they manage this transition to this largely grant funded project to a planning program, but want to put everyone on notice there won’t be as much grant funding available in coming years. Hoping that’s offset by federal funding. Working to figure out where we fit in, and open to ideas. What’s the most important development & contributions MRC could make? What’s our unique role, how do we advance? With these federal grants starting to come down, we’ll have to respond very quickly to funding opportunities.
        2. There will be a product stewardship grant. MRC is part of that. $100,000 grant. PSI $70,000, us $30,000 managing on the ground. With this new legislative landscape, there’s lots of opportunities with product stewardship. There’s also some a redeveloping contract with materials marketplace and MRC will have a small part. NextCycle role will grow along with funding. May not end up getting EGLE grants, but more opportunities are out there.
        3. Tracy - Matt and Emily are having a conversation about MRC so hopefully it’s about the grants/contracts. Apologize for EGLE. Likely reorg between energy, P2, recycling. Market development and some of the MICROS grants are coming into recycling. Don’t know what round of MICROS.
     2. Landscape for the Lakes
     3. Plastic Circular Economy
  3. Others
  4. Membership Prospects, segment focus: Product stewardship focus
     1. Product stewardship - batteries, paint, and e-waste product stewardship development
     2. E-waste - been working on e-waste for years, but recent work has been around the proposal put forward by HP-lead manufacturers group. Eco-fee proposal for monitors and tvs that would help to pay for recycling and proper disposal of all the stuff covered by the bill. Apparently, Travis B-something - legislative liaison for EGLE got ahold of the proposal and he’s asking some really critical question. Conversations with Liz Browne - EGLE will either be not in favor or neutral on the package. Disappointing because it’s further evidence that Steve Noble is not getting department support for what he’s doing. Dept either doesn’t care or isn’t up to speed. This effort will likely dissolve, but because of working with PSI, this will be high on the list of things to solve. Disappointing, though.
     3. Hired Katie Fournier for education role, and Lauren Denby supporting projects. Lauren starts next Monday, and Katie starts next Monday. Next Monday/Tuesday will be about bringing everyone up to speed and figuring out roles. Excited about opportunity.
        1. Trying to put more meat on bones of strategic plan - at strategic planning process at board forward, we decided that our pillars are the things we do on a regular basis, so kind of redid the chart. Trying to find different ways to explain and connect to help everyone understand where we’re headed. A lot has already been seen just presented in a different way. Still trying to figure out the best way to show how committees and staff interact and contribute to the different priorities and pillars we have. Want to focus on the last slides, which are what’s developing right now. These things could always be added to.
           1. Access - federal funding will be along this priority area. Advocate - could be about landfill tip fee surcharge. Definitely an organics priority. Don’t know what that is - it does affect local governments, so have to tread very carefully. Film plastic - may extend to commercial. NextCycle still coordinating. Will link to document so I don’t have to type it all out!

Nick - really like what you’ve done. A few more tweaks, but love the dot-connecting between what we do and what we’re trying to accomplish. Really narrows in why we do what we do, creates level of purpose. Makes it easier to communicate and tell the store. This is awesome. Gives clear vision of what wer’re doing and why we’re doing it. Especially like slides 8-11. Spot on.

Rick - agree.

KO - helpful to explain it because speaking through it helps make connections, too.

Tracy - echo what Nick said. Awesome. Well laid out. One comment - compost training - operator training, would suggest reaching out to Aaron Hiday about that and talk to him about maybe there can be some contracting with EGLE on that. He’s very interested in EGLE having composter operator training. Not sure exactly what that looks like, but before MRC does it, talk to him. Maybe EGLE can contract with MRC. Just involve him. Otherwise, this is awesome.

KO - will keep sharing as things develop. Let us know if we’re missing priorities. If there are things we should be doing that we’re not, reach out!

1. Strategic Priorities
   1. Contract rates
   2. Developing projects
2. Committee Reports
   1. Executive Committee – N Carlson
      1. No update from Nick.
         1. KO - EC minus Nick met. Talked about what needed to go on the agenda. One thing - mentioned above. Contract rates. Looking to the executive committee and plan to talk about contract rates. When product stewardship asked for our contract rates. Rates increased from $75 to $100 for ED and $45 to $60 for staff. With this contract, PSI is getting 70% of money, but we’re doing 50% of the work because our rates are low. Need to work on justification on overhead, HR costs and evaluate those more carefully, figure out where we need to be. We’ve been very successful and if we are able to pass Part 115, that’ll be another feather in our cap. We have some influence here that we need to look at carefully. Another issue is we might need to look at personnel policies again.
         2. Kate - as an org, could we provide people who are not our staff as consultants at times?
   2. Policy Committee – N Jakub
      1. Did not meet today, taking a little hiatus until 2023. First meeting of the new year in Feb. Between then and now, meeting with KO to do strategic planning & recruiting. Nothing for the next few meetings, but looking forward to seeing what happens with Part 115. Thinking about how to make the most impact. Stay tuned.
   3. Conference Committee – K O’Brien
      1. Conference logo is complete. Theme is collaboration grows recycling. Feel good about that one. Next couple months about nailing down conference topics. If we do pass Part 115 this year, our conference next year is going to be off the hook. We are really going to attract and need to attract and need to provide information to county and local municipalities like they haven’t been engaged before. Need to be strategic and careful about topics. It’s been difficult because everybody can recycle and everybody needs information. But in specific areas, people need specific information. We need to zero in on audiences that are of most import to launch Part 115 effort. Already have arrangements for EGLE to support and take a cohort through the conference. Now with Katie as education specialist, this cohort can be led through to develop mentor/mentee relationship and give them access to network. Lots of opportunities developing. Kalamazoo Radisson is the perfect place for us to grow. Angling for 2015/first Governor’s Recycling Summit numbers (500+). Always interested in ideas and input on how to deliver all of that. Also have someone looking for 2024 event space. Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Detroit area - will see how that all plays out.
   4. Committee Forum
      1. Kate - Education committee continues to do prioritizing process based on audiences. Last time we worked on K12, what are the priorities for educating K12 students & teachers, and we’ve been doing this process around that. Looking for the best way to do that online. On our third variation, but it’s been a rich process and pointing in some clear directions. Should have exciting information once 4 audiences are done. We’ll have 20 priorities and will have to narrow that down, but we’ll have given some useful information through that. Also continue to grow committee.
      2. Dave - Don’t forget Recycle, MI gear for holidays!
      3. Kerrin - as we think about strategically what the education coordinator is going to be engaged in and how to bring in another person, getting more in touch with the fact that when we say education, people are thinking of very different things. As Katie delves into her work, we’re going to be looking strategically and critically about how our committees are connected and we have to be really thoughtful about how we do this stuff. May be a reason in the future to bring committees together to talk about shared priorities and where to spend time/activities and how they fit together.
3. Board of Directors Updates
   1. Dave - Have a bunch of rubbermaid container lids. Can send pics if you think you have these types of containers and you need lids, happy to give those away.
   2. KO - we can put that in the newsletter, too, if you’d like.
   3. Nick - went to Israel to meet with a company who takes wood product and has developed an all-natural binding agent. Add this to wood fibers and make injection molded wood products. Working with them to try to make new products out of the wood that goodwill gets. Furniture is about 50% of waste Goodwill sends to landfill and much of that is wood waste. Met to begin talking through, see what type of equipment would be needed. Just closed on 80,000 square food building, starting to install Hydroblox equipment, and plan to add the wood process to that same building by the end of next year (still a lot of details to hammer out on how the relationship works). Fun & exciting to see how it all works. With this wood product, you can take what doesn’t work, grind it up, and do it again. Wood hangers - if they break, give it back to goodwill, it goes through the process and becomes a new hanger. You can also mix textiles into the wood pulp.
4. Wrap-up and Call to Action
   1. Nick - want to make sure everyone knows next board meeting is in person at the same conference room as usual. Lunch provided. December 12, 10:30-12:30
5. Close Meeting
   1. Bill Whitley motion to adjourn, Dave Smith seconded.

**1:00 pm**



In-person Meeting at MRC Office | December 12 & March 13

R.A. MacMullen Center | August 9-10, 2023