Michigan Recycling Coalition

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2022

IN-PERSON MEETING AT MRC OFFICE

**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.*

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**10:30 am**

Attendance: Kerrin O’Brien, Kelly Schalter, Lauren Denby, Katie Fournier, Kate Melby, Rebecca Andrews, Brad Austin, Nick Carlson, Bill Whitley, Jeff Krcmrik, Justin Jungman, Dave Smith,

Online: Natalie Jakub, Rick Lombardo, Terri Raterink

Absences:Tim Botzau, Steve Kent, Tracy Purrenhage, Libby Rice

# Call Board Meeting to Order – N Carlson

Welcome- Introduce Lauren Denby new staff member, Lauren started in November, she is a graduate from WMU that studied Environmental Sustainability and Anthropology. Board go around – introductions.

# Public Comment

# Dusty Fancher will be here about 12:15, we will deep dive on Part 115, and pop some champagne.

# Consent Agenda - PLEASE REVIEW ALL MATERIALS PRIOR TO MEETING - ACTION

### Additions to Agenda, Approval

### Acceptance of Minutes from June Meeting

### Dave Smith makes a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bill Whitley seconds.

### Monthly Financial Report for August

### Kerrin- we are still working on Financial Data – no promises, things have been crazy around here. It takes a month to get the credit card statement, grant reimbursements take some time to cycle through the system. We are waiting to hear from Comerica on the CD.

### We applied for an Extension for Landscape for the Lakes and Michigan Plastic Circular Economy, neither were approved for the extension. We applied for a Product Stewardship grant for $70,000 however we did not include that in our financial summary and that was rejected as well as a contract.

### Bill Whitley- Will we be making up enough money with the limit in grant funding from EGLE given Part 115 passing? We need to be financially careful this upcoming year if we do not have an opportunity to apply for EGLE grants, or if counties are stepping into planning and there is increased rate of application/competition for the few EGLE grants that will be otherwise limited by Part 115 MMP planning investment.

### Bill Whitley- have we thought about a lawsuit if EGLE renew funding is not being allocated for grants?

### Kerrin- Frankly, no, we have EGLE staff on our board and they are our largest funding source, maybe we can start collecting some information on how this has affected counties and service providers.

### Natalie- Washtenaw County Meeting – Detroit and/or Ann Arbor – are discussing applying for EPA REO grants.

### Membership Update

**All in favor of moving forward- All Ayes.**

# Staff Updates

### Part 115- We can skip for now.

### EGLE Update

### We are unsure when the state will call for Part 115 Materials Management Plans, there is a lot to look at during this time, how they are going to prepare counties, permits, etc.

### Jeff- we will need to re-engage stakeholders around this process however as of now, details and process is cloudy.

### Bill Whitley- Questions around permitting and what permits will contain is undetermined and that will be important.

### Brad- Recycling and Solid Waste perspective- Financial Assurance, permitting, planning this is all going to take significant time investment.

### Kerrin- I think there is a big question here about EGLE capacity to make available and manage grants in FY 2023. There are discussions about adding capacity but from what funding mechanism feels nebulous, in that we have been made aware that the initially budgeted 9 million for oversight may no longer be available. It may be helpful to us and our members that reviewed Part 115 to pull out information on what EGLE and the public will need to know and address. Matt Flechter did not feel like there was money, transparency, a process, and now Liesl Clark has left her position as director of EGLE. Now, we have some movement because of part 115.

### Rebecca Andrews- Is there a different unit from the EGLE regulatory department for managing Part 115? A county planning department?

### Jeff- Yes, I believe that is how it will be organized, and I think that there is already staff in place for that department but I cannot say for certain.

### Justin Jungman- what I am hearing is a large opportunity to visit communities, assist in materials management planning. There may be an opportunity to generate some revenue via consulting.

### Kerrin- we may dip into our rainy-day fund to offer support/consulting as a free service in the meantime between release of the EPA grant and when counties receive Part 115 planning incentive funding.

### Becky- Maybe the MSU Leaders Training 6 hrs. (not an official certification but may have some financial incentives) may be the way we do some of this education.

### Kerrin- Yes and MRM which we will need a national certification for.

### City of Detroit and Green Living Science may be working together to apply for the EPA REO grant so there may be an opportunity to combine efforts with the MRC application.

### Working with OSU on an NSF Shape grant, lots of organizations are involved Padnos, next cycle, several others- sustainable packaging grant- includes boat shrink wrap and data mining.

### Others

### EGLE- hopes to get out modules for the Recycling Leaders Training in May to the MRC

### Kerrin- we may want to convene EGLE cohort at the MRC conference to do some pre-training networking and education.

### Nick- We do need to create a package for conductor training/planning for materials management plans- you may get overloaded doing planning and answering questions for certain counties- its an opportunity to structure what recycling is going to look like for the state of Michigan but we’ll have to decide where the line is between member support, public support, and contracted, paid services.

### Justin- and there’s a marketing piece we’ll want to have clear language and promotion- what will our impact be and how we can help- put this into writing. We want to ensure we are on point with EGLE requirements and what other consultants are providing. And this seems like a pretty obvious conference track, maybe even a separate event for counties, maybe a webinar series.

### Kerrin- there is a 5 year planning cycle – for the cycle there is even more money available. 60,000 + 50 cents per capita is the last two years. I’m not sure how much planning in the process timeline is documented in terms of when they are awarded vs. when that incentive ends, i.e at the end of the 5 year timeline or when planning ends, etc.

### GBB, RRS, there will be other consulting firms we have not heard from yet, but many organizations will be stepping into this work with county planning.

### There are sunset fees, landfill tipfee surcharge and others, up for discussion and debate this year. We would want to incrementally increase surcharge tip fees as far as policy work goes so it doesn’t hurt as much.

### Membership Prospects

# Strategic Priorities

# **What would the board like to see the MRC prioritize for 2023?**

# Marketing Strategy- how we present what we are going to provide- how do we market to the groups that Part 115 effects, underserved communities, sending information to the people most likely to need services and support.

# Justin- maybe even another staff person that exclusively travels to counties to offer assistance in Part 115 MMP.

# Jeff- A summary on Part 115 Changes what they mean for different segments – waste v recycling, public, private, municipality, etc.

# Kate- Do we have a full list of county planning agencies?

# Kerrin- Christina Miller has been meeting with these folks. And we have a working list of county recycling that Becky researched in the education drive.

# Kate- maybe newsletter article- how to make the most of Part 115 changes by engaging partnerships and stakeholders now.

# Poll membership- top part 115 questions- have a one on one with EGLE to answer these questions – like an EGLE MRC interview- 30 minute webinar- ‘Your Top Questions on Part 115 Explained”

# Brad- We want to get in front of this and be the voice, front end now. County Plans have dust on them, its about masterplan, more business, how to keep people living in these communities. This stuff is going to come sooner than later. Questions are going to come quick. Justin- get credibility right in the front, we’ve been working on this for years, and we can say in nice ways, here are the consequences of not engaging with this planning. Kerrin- I’m scared that people will find out what’s required here and there will be hell to pay.

# We should make it a priority to reach out to the other counties that are not MRC members and ensure they have all been reached out to.

# Part 115 – Dusty Fancher

# We want to explain some of the confusion and controversy around the amendment that was established as a rider of the part 115 bill package. You will likely be flagged down to answer questions about this amendment.

# We sat down with senator Nesbitt, he was pretty clear this amendment to redefine Chemical Recycling was going to be a lame duck initiative for him. Folks from the chemistry council, they didn’t think Part 115 was going to pass soon enough to address this issue. Many people didn’t like that the bill for defining chemical recycling was being introduced in a bubble, not a part of the larger, comprehensive package. Chemistry Council pushed us to include this as an amendment to our bill package when it became clear part 115 would pass in lame duck.

# Nothing changes from a regulatory standpoint between old and new legislation. I tried to pick it apart with a needle, I couldn’t. I worked relentlessly with EGLE, Kerrin picked it apart. At the end of the day if they are dealing with source separated material, they are dealing with source separated material. Many people were neutral on the amendment. The environmental justice community has come out against this amendment because of chemical recycling air quality/ pollution issues. The definition further clarifies products sold as fuel are not recycled products.

# Dow Chemical was a big stakeholder here and in their eyes the argument has been we need to be treated as manufacturers not recyclers and we ensure that by solidifying no regulatory change.

# I have not gotten very many specifics about why this language is harmful. The best I got is, ya’ll might use this in a harmful way at some point later down the road, no specifics on how.

# We basically had to weigh, are we going to leave off this amendment, risk not having the package passed in 2022 and then having to re-engage and re-educate a full new slate of legislators next year.

# If we need to go in and change this language in 2023 – we can absolutely do that in another legislative session.

# Committee Reports

### Executive Committee – N Carlson

### Is our level (hourly rate) going to be different for consulting vs. grant work?

### Policy Committee – N Jakub

### Conference Committee – K O’Brien

### Released call for speakers. We will promote than on an ongoing basis. Friday the 13th – call for speakers due. We are looking for sites for 2024. We are having some problems finding a venue- people are not wanting to give an entire hotel over for conference, may be challenging, hoping to land on something soon. Could we get the new director of EGLE to come speak? Dave will reach out because they used to work together at MI Conservation.

### Committee Forum

### Education – we are not meeting this month but we are working on a prioritization process- looking by audience i.e k-12, recycling staff, and new elected officials. From the three conversations we’ve had, it all fits and lends itself well to the scope of the EPA grant application the MRC is working on. It’s converging towards the same place.

# Board of Directors Updates

# Wrap-up and Call to Action

# If you have any contacts for counties for us to reach out to for membership, send those along.

# Plan for Part 115 Education

# Survey for Members

# Close Meeting

# Dave Smith makes a motion to close the meeting, Bill Whitley seconds. Adjourned at 12:51

1:00 pm



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

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