



**Northeast Michigan Regional Multi-County Materials Management Planning  
Committee (MMPC)  
Meeting Minutes**

**10/16/2025, 1:30 PM**

**MOA Solid Waste Management Authority, 6751 Landfill Rd, Atlanta, MI 49709**

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 1:32 pm

**Roll Call**

- a. Connie Gerrie – Absent
  - i. Ashley proxy - Present
- b. Leigh Ann Jewell – Absent
  - i. Taylor proxy - Present
- c. Cindy Johnson – Absent
  - i. Bailey B (proxy for Cindy) - Present
- d. Rachel Smolinski – Present
- e. Ted Fines - Absent
- f. Maddie Khuri – Present
- g. Cheryl Neilsen – Present
- h. Susan Avery – Present (virtual)
  - i. Jackie proxy - Present
- i. Jeff Gehring - Absent
- j. John Dietlin – Absent
- k. Rob Pallarito – Present
- l. Bill Peterson - Absent
- m. Terry Small – Present

- n. Terry Dutcher – Absent
    - i. Jamie Soboleski (proxy for Dutcher) – Present
  - o. Michelle Hamlin – Present
  - p. Michelle Knepp – Absent
  - q. David Langley – Present
  - r. Lance Oldenburg - Absent
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- o Resource Recycling Staff Present: Katelyn Heflin, Elisa Seltzer (virtual), Karre Wagner (virtual)

### **Last Meeting Minutes Approval**

- Motion to approve meeting minutes from 9/18/25
  - o Rob motioned; Terry seconded.
 Approved | Motion Carried

### **Review of Survey Draft Questions**

- Heflin reviewed the proposed survey structure and draft questions. Discussed timeline for survey review. End of October is ideal timeline.
- Seltzer encouraged counties in the background of the survey to be connected to allow for further/deeper analysis of data. Asked if anyone would be opposed to that format. No negative response was heard.
- Discussion on how to disseminate the survey, Seltzer explained feedback was provided in previous meetings to be most effective in getting responses.
- Heflin asked if Counties would also be interested in surveying businesses:
  - o Alpena – yes (would need resident questions to be slightly different from other counties)
  - o Alcona - yes
  - o Montmorency - yes
  - o Iosco – is okay having residents and businesses surveyed (would need resident questions to be slightly different from other counties)
  - o Oscoda – Susan, wants to survey everybody (is more interested in residents)
- Susan asked how long the survey is – feedback from previous meeting was that counties wanted to keep it simple and short, the goal is for around 8 questions.
  - o Further asked if it could be short enough to be put on the back of utility bills and sent back in.

- Survey is mostly intended to be online. Can include tax/utility bills a link or QR code
- Seltzer discussed suggestions from Diane: Include a question on how long people have lived there or if they are a year-long resident or seasonal. RRS can build educational components into the survey, so they learn along the way.
- Heflin reviewed potential resident survey questions.
  - Committee member requested questions (Q1?) allow them to select drop-site in other counties, or an “other” field.
  - Oscoda survey – wants to know if people using Big Creek Township drop-site is being used by residents or non-residents, if they are from the county or from the Township.
  - Committee Member asked questions on Pay-as-you-use system especially if someone isn’t at the drop-off to collect money.
  - Committee Member asked what location in their county would work for a site. Seltzer clarified that site-selection would be refined later, and additional engagement with the counties would occur.
- Heflin reviewed potential business survey questions.
  - Committee Member asked what kind of businesses will be surveyed. What volumes of recyclables those businesses are generating?
    - Note: NAICS code should be asked so potential recyclable volumes can be modeled (Seltzer)
    - Committee Member asked if they could have a question for how the county can support the business? Are they generating a byproduct...
    - Seltzer – not sure if we should ask businesses to bring their cardboard or if they want to bring their cardboard because that could be more volume than drop-off sites are prepared to handle.
    - Q5, for Alpena: instead of compactor, say roll off (Bailey). NMMMA can help them with the process.
- Heflin requested more feedback on resident/business questions. No additional questions are proposed.
- Heflin asked if counties would be open to providing education to residents on organics recycling at home.
  - Committee Member asked for clarification on what that meant, asked them to be more specific in terms of yard waste vs food waste.
  - Committee Member asked if there is a requirement for compost to be addressed in the plan for management. Seltzer – confirmed that organics

must be mentioned in the plan and addressed. Discussed that RRS has a lot of best practices they can provide for educating and for a phased approach.

- Montmorency county is concerned that they are starting from the ground up and just want to get basic recycling started.
- Committee Member addressed contamination concerns, wants their recycling staffed at all times and fenced off to prevent contamination.

Oscoda?

- Big Creek township had a brush site open to the public that people started to dump illegally in, so now its only open once a week and is staffed at all times. Township pays for it.
- Several other committee members discussed their concerns with staffing drop-sites as well as contamination concerns.
- Seltzer discussed that sites will be mandated to be open 24 hours a month to all county residents.
- Heflin stated that efforts will go to educating residents on best practices to reduce contamination.
- Committee Member question on having survey addressed to all taxpayers as opposed to just residents and businesses since a lot of people have 2 homes in this area.

### **Example Survey Results**

- Seltzer presented on example survey results.

### **Recycling**

- **Best Practices for Rural Drop offs / Hub and Spoke**
  - Seltzer presented best practices for rural drop offs and hub and spoke model.
  - Committee Member question on the difference between single stream and dual stream recycling – Seltzer answered.
  - Committee Member discussed can collection for ice hokey team. Drop-off collection site should be running by the end of the year.
  - Seltzer discussed grant opportunities for similar projects through EGLE.
  - Seltzer requested feedback.

- Committee member asked about the arrow between the hub and spoke and who is going to pay for that and manage it. Biggest anticipated question, who pays for the trucking?
- Jamie offered to share processing agreement with NMMMA
  - NMMMA planning to be operational at the new facility by 2026
- Discussion on Otsego millage and contract with GFL
- Committee Member asked if kids could fulfill community service requirements by staffing drop-sites
- Committee Member discussed conservation district partnership and drop-off center works well for them and he does not notice that people abuse it and the millage passed with “big time support”
- NMMMA is set-up for dual stream?
- **Opportunities for Special Materials**
  - Seltzer presented opportunities for special materials.
  - Committee Member shared their experience with specialty collection. Discussion followed.
  - Time not available to discuss goals for MMP re: special materials.
- **Commercial Sector**
  - Seltzer presented on commercial sector.
  - Time not available to discuss goals for MMP re: commercial sector.
- **Acknowledging Plastic Film**
  - Seltzer presented on plastic film.
  - Time not available to discuss goals for MMP re: plastic film.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Return any additional worksheets to Heflin.
- Draft plan needs to be completed by March 2026
- Survey to be completed by RRS and sent to counties for review by early November
  - Committee Member concerns about getting QR code available in time for Dec 1 timeline for tax bill printing
- RRS to send slide deck from this meeting and last to Committee Members

#### **Public Comment**

- None

Next Meetings Schedule (through 2025):

- Thursday, November 20/2025 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Thursday, December 18/ 2025 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn
- Rob / Cheryl
  - motion passed
- Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm

**Approval**

Approved by: *Michelle Knepp* (Secretary)