



**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**April 3, 2014  
8:30 AM**

**Earl G. Woodworth Building  
Meeting Room Chambers  
1500 Scribner Avenue NW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners, Vonk, VanderMolen, Shroll, Bulkowski, Byl, Morgan

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Groenleer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Elissa Soto, Office Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Cal Brinks, Purchasing Division; Chris Robinson, WTE Operations Manager; Kristen Wieland, Resource Recovery & Recycling Manager; Joni Laming, Purchasing Division; Linda Howell, Kent County Assistant Corporate Counsel

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

**II. Public Comment**

None

**III. Review and Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner VanderMolen to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2014 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Accounting & Finance**

**A. 2015 Capital Improvement Program**

Each year staff prepares a five year plan for upcoming Capital Improvement Program Budget (CIP) needs of the department. These include items ranging from replacement vehicles to pieces of equipment that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. This year's estimate is approving 2015 expenditures with 2016 – 2019 shown in anticipation

of future needs.

Commissioner Vonk asked how much the Department has in reserves. Mr. Kendall responded that each Department has enough in reserves for the next five (5) years.

Mr. Kmiecik began by reporting on the CIP plan for the Solid Waste Division. He stated that the largest item is a new loader for the Recycle facility. The existing loader is small and cannot handle the current tonnage. He pointed out a line item for a cardboard screen which staff feels will not be beneficial for the plant. Instead staff plans to install a new baler to help alleviate much of the pressure on the existing MRF.

Mr. Bulkowski asked whether staff is still considering the construction of a new MRF. Director Wood stated that Kristen Wieland, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager will be analyzing the feasibility of constructing another one and will present her findings later in the year.

Mr. Kmiecik continued and stated that South Kent Landfill will need a new rolloff truck and will have two (2) vehicle replacements. There will also be a dozer rebuild in 2015.

Chris Robinsons, WTE Operations Manager reported capital improvements at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. He reported that WTE will have some refurbishments in the coming years. The largest expense is the replacement of volt breakers that are original to the plant and replacement parts are no longer available. Other replacements are the tipping floor roof and possibly a compactor trailer if necessary.

Commissioner Bulkowski noted that the 2019 numbers seem really low compared to other years. Mr. Kendall stated that the WTE has reserves and that excess funds throughout the years have been allocated to cover the expenses discussed today. These funds have been spread among the years as needed.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner VanderMolen and seconded by Commissioner Byl to approve the 2014 Capital Improvement Program Budget for the Department of Public Works and submit to the County Administrator.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. Approval of Monetary Outlays**

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner VanderMolen to approve the monetary outlays for April 2014.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **VI. Director's Report**

#### **A. South Kent Landfill/ISO Audit-Environmental Management Systems**

Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager reported that the Department had a successful audit. One nonconformance was reported and it was in regards to the nonconformance program. This means that the Department must do a better job of keeping track of continuous improvement efforts and needs better way of recording the things it wants to improve upon and preventative action. Other than that the

Department had a fantastic audit and will be moving ahead with registration.

B. Clean Air Initiative/Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Technology

Molly has been assisting Covanta in some of their negotiations with the federal, state and local governments in regards to Part 111D which places stricter compliant measures and air quality standards for new power plants. The message they are trying to convey is that WTE should not be included as a power plant, it should be listed as a greenhouse mitigation measure. So far they are receiving a positive response and awaiting to hear more information.

C. Kentwood Landfill 5-year USEPA/MDEQ Site Review

The Kentwood landfill 5-year review has begun. This year the EPA wants to see whether or not the Department should find a remediation action plan. Ms. Sherwood is considering incremental changes first before attempting high cost measures.

Commissioner Bulkowski asked if, in the long-run it is more economical to take care of the problem sooner rather than later, albeit at a great cost in the present, it will prove to be beneficial in the future. Ms. Sherwood stated that these big changes is what are being considered.

D. DPW Office Rental Agreement

Mr. Wood explained that the DPW rents office space from the Road Commission. Throughout the years there has been a lack in building maintenance that has even led to damage to DPW office equipment. This has been a consistent issue that has been disruptive to staff. Mr. Wood feels it may be time to consider looking other options for office space. He believes that for the amount of money paid in rent the Department could rent a newer office or build a new one. As he and staff continue to explore this idea, he will present it to the Board. He asked that the Board share any recommendations they may have.

E. WTE Clean Corporate Citizen Certificate of Renewal

Mr. Robinson reported that the WTE has retained its designation for the Clean Corporate Citizen (C3). It is a voluntary program administered by the DEQ that rewards facilities for continued environmental improvements and compliance. In 2006 the WTE was the first publicly owned facility in the state to reach this status.

F. Resource Recovery

Ms. Wieland reported that the Resource Recovery staff has been increasing their community involvement. Staff will be participating the Safe Kids Day Event at the YMCA; they will man a booth to promote the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program and the West Michigan Take Back Meds Program.

Our facilities will also be included in the Grand Rapids Community College Greater

Grand Rapids Garbage Tour. Additionally the MRF will be hosting a number of activities throughout spring break.

The MRF will host its first community outreach event on April 24. It is in the evening and geared more towards adults and will focus on HHW and pharmaceutical collection. All these events are posted on the Recycle Kent website.

G. WTE Advisory

Mr. Wood reported that the next Advisory meeting will be on April 9.

H. Operations Reports

Board members were give the Department's operations reports. They are asked to contact the Director with any questions.

**VII. Miscellaneous**

- A. Mr. Wood introduced Dan Rose the new Solid Waste Operations Manager. He stated that as a new employee has been doing a fine job and is learning about the Department and its operations.
- B. Mr. Wood informed the Board that Mr. Kmiecik has given formal notice of his retirement.
- C. Commissioner Bulkowski asked if it were possible to host the Board meetings at some of our other sites as he has not had the opportunity to visit them. Staff will determine which dates work best to do so.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.