

Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 3, 2019

Orion Center, Multi-Purpose Room,

7:00 PM

1. **Call to order by the Chair:** 7:06 PM
2. **Roll call:** Present: George Hanley, Mike Flood, Corinna Womack, Rodney Tocco, Jessie Richmond, Mike Deluca; Absent (with notice): Harold Flood, Matt Menghini; Guest: Kathy Klein
3. **Determination of a quorum:** Yes
4. **Public comments:** None
5. **Regular order of business**
 - a. **Approval of minutes** from November 2018 meeting: Womack made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Deluca; motion carried.
 - b. **Approval of agenda** for the January 2019 regular meeting: M. Flood requested to add an update to the Reports section of the agenda. M. Flood made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion was seconded by Deluca; motion carried.
 - c. **Pending business** - none
 - d. **New Business**

Kathy Klein of Waste Management presented on the topic of Changes in Environment Around Recycling. Traditionally 30-40% recycling was sent overseas to China, however their recent Operation Green Fence campaign has set a limit of 1.5% allowable contaminant for each bale of imported recyclables. It's quite expensive for US recycling facilities to meet these strict requirements. Other markets such as India and Vietnam are flooded, so it's up to us to find new ways to manage our waste streams.

There is no national legislation and laws vary from state-to-state. Here in Michigan we have been moving away from a Solid Waste Management Plan to a Sustainable Materials Management Plan – a strategy for managing recyclables and yard waste. The biggest roadblocks are the costs both for operation and for funding regulatory oversight. People support the concept but there is no funding mechanism.

Another problem faced by our local recycling facilities is “Wish-cycling” – the practice of tossing questionable items in your recycling bin hoping they can somehow be recycled. Tangling and contamination can increase costs and shut down the recycling plant. Plastic bags and combustibles are two of the biggest violators. Every facility has their own guidelines on what they can accept. Customers should contact their waste hauler for these guidelines to be sure to get the right information for the final destination of your recyclables.

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If your waste hauler takes your recycling to Eagle Valley Landfill in Orion Township, you can check their website www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com

The goal needs to change from recycling to **reducing consumption**. Before you produce something, know how it's going to be put back into the system. Repurpose material whenever possible, and recycle just the core items. This is where we get the greatest reduction on greenhouse gases.

If anyone would like to learn more, one source of information is the WM Sustainability Forum. This is a collaborative space where corporate leaders, municipalities, government officials, experts, innovators and influencers can share insights and exchange ideas. The forum will be held January 31 in Phoenix, AZ, but registrants can live stream. For more information please visit the company website or Facebook page.

e. Reports

- i. Green Business: The 4Q18 winner, Nutz About Chocolate, was not able to attend the December Township meeting to receive their plaque. M. Flood brought the plaque to the meeting. Deluca and Hanley will present to the winning business on behalf of OTERC.
- ii. Odd Job Disposal, Inc.: The Township has received a large number of complaints that Odd Job Disposal has not been picking up their customers' trash in a timely manner. Due to concerns about rodents and sanitation, Township enforcement officers delivered a letter informing Odd Job their license to pick up trash in the Township was in jeopardy. The company has to appear before the Board of Trustees on Monday, January 7. The outcome of this decision will have no impact on financial end – that is outside the parameters of our Ordinance and would be a civil matter. Residents can send notice to Clerk's office if trash is not picked up by any licensed company.
- iii. Single Hauler Discussion: An ad hoc committee was organized by the Township (not affiliated with the Environmental Resources Committee) to explore this topic, but has not had any meetings due to other priorities. Even if the Township decided to move forward, it can take up to a year to organize something of this magnitude. Nothing will be done before trash hauler licenses are renewed by the Township in March. These licenses are renewed on an annual basis.
- iv. NO HAZ update: Orion Township will once again participate in the North Oakland Household Hazardous Waste program (NoHAZ) and will continue to offer this program to Township residents for free. 2019 collection dates are tentative. At this point, a collection event in Orion Township is not planned as there is not available space. Township Supervisor Barnett is working with local businesses to secure a site.

6. Committee comments:

- a. Deluca stated he is not renewing his term on the committee as voting member but will change to non-voting member. Womack made a motion that he remain as voting member. Richmond seconded the motion. Deluca will consider.

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- 7. Adjournment:** Womack moved to adjourn at 8:33 PM . Tocco seconded the motion; motion carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 7, 2019
7:00 PM
Orion Center, Arts & Crafts Room