

A special meeting of the Gratiot Area Solid Waste Authority was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Schooley. A quorum of the Authority was present.

Authority members present: Matthew Schooley and Kurt Giles.

Authority members not present: none.

Others present: Matt Biolette (Republic Services), Alan Leute, Cynthia Michels, Aeric Ripley, and David Ringle.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Giles, seconded by Schooley, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Giles, seconded by Schooley, to approve the minutes of August 11, 2017, as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

Matt Biolette, Republic Services, presented information about the current state of emergency in recycling preparation and recycling markets due to China's new acceptable materials standards. He explained that the commodity values have crashed because of the requirements for a purer supply. Processing costs haven't changed, but the end product has much less value, so processors are working to decide what they can actually process and still meet costs.

Biolette went on to say that part of the problem is contamination of the end product. Consumers are recycling, but in many cases, they are recycling improperly and the results are contamination. Biolette gave the example of one unrinsed ketchup bottle. That bottle can contaminate dozens of surrounding, carefully cleaned bottles, and render the end product useless for sale to China, according to their new standards. Much of this contaminated product eventually ends up in a landfill. Public education will be crucial to bringing recycled end-product up to standards. Contaminants must be removed to make it saleable.

Biolette said they are waiting for a statement from the Isabella County Material Recovery Facility, our recycling partner, regarding changes in rates necessitated by the change in materials standards. He asked the Authority to consider an amendment to their contract to allow them to pass through added costs to the curbside recycler. Biolette also asked for an annual review of the contract in relation to recycling costs. He explained that amendment would also allow for other options, should the Isabella facility close.

Chairman Schooley opened the floor for discussion following Biolette's presentation. Topics reviewed included the negative value of recycled glass, options other than China for end-product, possible restriction of acceptable plastics, costs of trash collection only versus current rates, drop-off collection versus curb collection, hybrid programs, Senator's Nofs Proposed bill #943, and public education. Biolette agreed to research answers to several questions, and return information as soon as possible.

Chairman Schooley thanked Biolette for the presentation, and Biolette left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

David Ringle and Aeric Ripley left the meeting the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

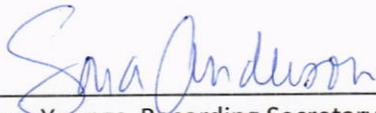
Chairman Schooley moved to the topic of review of the by-laws. After much discussion, the Authority determined additional review is necessary before changes can be considered.

Public Comment

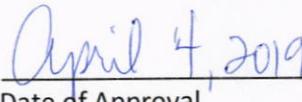
No public comment was offered.

Adjournment

Motion by Giles, seconded by Schooley, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.



Sara Youngs, Recording Secretary



Date of Approval