

**Emmet County Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)  
Meeting Minutes**

**2/10/2026, 10:00AM**

**EMS Eppler Station, 1201 Eppler Road, Petoskey, MI 49770**

**Emmet County Staff Present:** Ashley McMurry, Lindsey Walker, Jayna Steffel, Noelle Behling, Natalie Gibbons

**Guests:** Darcy Wright (Petosky Plastics)

**Resource Recycling Staff Present:** Kristen Wieland, Stephanie Robinson (virtual)

**Call to order:** D. Fuller called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**Roll Call**

- a. Lindsey Walker – Present
- b. Kevin Donner – Absent
- c. Denny Keiser, Chair – Absent
- d. Doug Fuller, Vice Chair – Present
- e. Allen Elya III – Present
- f. Jayna Steffel – Present
- g. Caroline Moellering – Absent
- h. Stephanie Marchbanks – Present
- i. Chris Gee – Present
- j. Don Mapes – Present

**January Meeting Minutes Approval**

Motion to approve January Meeting Minutes made by C. Gee. Seconded by D. Mapes. Minutes approved.

**Committee Updates**

A. McMurry introduced Darcy Wright, who works in Research and Development at Petoskey Plastics. Darcy applied to join Emmet County's MMP committee, and her appointment to the committee is expected to be confirmed by the Board of Commissioners later in February.

**January Follow-up**

A. McMurry reminded the committee of discussions during the December and January MMPC meetings about hosting a public engagement session in April. A. McMurry recommended delaying this public engagement session to allow time for the committee to finalize draft goals. The committee agreed this would allow for more meaningful community engagement. A. McMurry noted that the decision to delay this first engagement session will be documented in the quarterly report to EGLE.

Instead of holding an April session, members discussed attending public events already planned for spring and summer, including the Home Show and farmers markets, where staff could invite residents to participate in the ongoing residential survey in-person. L. Walker suggested committee members take the survey themselves to better understand the resident experience.

A. McMurry confirmed that the residential survey will remain open until approximately July. The current responses are expected to be shared with RRS in advance of the March MMPC meeting. A committee member suggested conducting a second survey after the current residential survey closes. S. Marchbanks stated that a second survey might not be needed if the draft goals reflect feedback from the first survey. K. Wieland agreed and recommended bringing draft goals to local governments for early review, noting that Plan approval requires the support of two-thirds of municipalities. -thirds of municipalities

The committee also discussed how they can effectively report goals and MMP progress back to their communities. N. Behling suggested leveraging the county's quarterly newsletter and sharing direct links to Emmet County's MMPC webpage to facilitate access to agendas and minutes.

### **Special materials Goals Development**

A. McMurry provided a recap of the special materials topics that were covered during the December and January MMPC meetings, including disaster debris, reuse, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, household hazardous waste (HHW), textiles, and shingles. Committee members discussed examples of how to manage these materials, referencing programs managed by previous guest presenters, including Hubbard County, Minnesota's Reuse Center and MSU's Surplus Store. A. McMurry shared that Tracy Tomaszewski from EGLE plans to join the March MMPC meeting and can help answer questions about special materials and EGLE expectations for Emmet County's MMP.

A. McMurry introduced 12 draft special materials goals and explained that the committee would discuss each draft goal during the meeting sequentially. She noted that, due to time constraints, any goals not discussed today would be revisited at the March meeting.

#### Draft Special Materials Goal #1 – C&D End Market Opportunities

K. Wieland emphasized that identifying end markets is essential for meaningful C&D diversion, noting long-standing challenges with shingle recycling markets and regulatory concerns. L. Walker referenced examples from January's presentations (MSU, Hubbard County, Minnesota) and observed that successful programs rely heavily on stable markets and deconstruction-friendly policies. Committee members discussed potential targets for this goal, including compiling a list of priority materials and reviewing case studies for reuse and end-market development.

#### Draft Special Materials Goals #2 & #3 – C&D Partnership Opportunities

A. McMurry presented goals #2 and #3 and recommended combining them due to overlap in partnership development. The committee agreed and identified several potential partners, including Habitat for Humanity, BARC, local contractors, utilities companies, and the County Road Commission. The committee also supported a target of forming a small advisory group of builders, non-profits, and haulers to help guide C&D strategies.

#### Draft Special Materials Goal #4 – HHW Hub Feasibility

When first read to the committee, goal #4 focused on establishing a licensed HHW hub in the county, but committee members noted that this would require major facility and staffing commitments. The committee expressed caution about pursuing licensure at this stage and agreed that the goal should instead focus on evaluating options rather than full implementation. Members discussed exploring funding models used in Kent, Kalamazoo, and Charlevoix Counties, and researching feasible approaches for Emmet County.

#### Draft Special Materials Goal #5 – Battery Waste Management

A. McMurry read goal #5 aloud, which focused on improving battery collection and reducing fire risk. Hauler representatives emphasized recent lithium battery fire incidents in trucks and at disposal sites. The committee agreed that expanded resident education, additional collection options, and engagement with the EPA Battery Workgroup and the NextCycle battery track should be included as potential implementation actions for this goal. K. Wieland added that State-level advocacy for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies could also support this goal.

#### Draft Special Materials Goal #6 – HHW Reuse Program

Goal #6 discussion focused on creating a safe HHW reuse program in the county. Members mentioned past issues with participants entering restricted areas during HHW events, underscoring the need for clear boundaries and oversight. The committee agreed

that only low-risk unopened products should be considered and that a nonprofit partner, such as Habitat for Humanity, may be best positioned to manage the reuse component.

Draft Special Materials Goal #7 – Reuse Center Feasibility

The committee reviewed goal #7, which outlined the evaluation of a reuse center at the Pleasantview Road Drop-off Center or other location in the county. Members revisited their discussion of Hubbard County’s reuse program and identified key considerations for Emmet County, including available space, staffing needs, operational logistics, and partnerships with local reuse organizations. The committee agreed that expanding reuse aligns with strong community interest and warrants further exploration.

A. McMurry concluded this portion of the meeting and noted that county staff expect to prepare draft targets and implementation actions for the remaining goals ahead of the March MMPC meeting.

**Committee Input Form Feedback**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Next Steps**

The committee will meet again on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 10am to 12pm.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by L. Walker and seconded by A. Elya III. Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.

Approved by: 

TO BE APPROVED AT FUTURE MEETING