

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

**7/21/2025, 10:00AM**

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

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

**Resource Recycling Staff Present:** Elisa Seltzer, Katelyn Heflin (virtual)

**Call to order:** Fuller called the meeting to order at 10:06 am

**Roll Call**

- a. Lindsey Walker – present
- b. Marie Passino – resigned from committee
- c. Kevin Donner – present
- d. Denny Keiser – absent
- e. Doug Fuller – present
- f. Allen Elya III – present
- g. Ashley McMurry – present
- h. Caroline Moellering – present
- i. Stephanie Marchbanks – present
- j. Chris Gee – present
- k. Don Mapes – present

**Committee Updates**

Marie Passino has resigned from the Committee; she is no longer with Petoskey Plastics. We will need another representative from a business.

Ashley McMurry will be stepping down as the MRF representative and will now fill the DPA role. Jayna Steffel will most likely fill the MRF representative position.

**Following the Work Program; Developing Goals and Implementation Guidelines;  
Diving Deeper into Recycling Goals**

Following the Work Program

McMurry reviewed the progress the Committee has made thus far as it relates to the laid-out timeline in the work program. McMurry noted that we will be focusing on education and funding programs today. McMurry reviewed the benchmark recycling standards and noted

that Emmet is already meeting these.

McMurry reviewed existing funding mechanisms that Emmet uses. Seltzer noted that we need to keep these in mind as the planning process continues, can we utilize these existing funding mechanisms for new goals and programs into the future? D. Fuller asked about flow control, and McMurry noted the resources Emmet printed out for reference on this topic.

### Developing Goals and Implementation Guidelines

McMurry noted we will focus on the following questions as we continue to work through goals today:

- What policy mechanisms can support each recycling goal?
- What improvements to existing funding mechanisms or additional funding mechanisms can support each recycling goal?
- Education/outreach - what is our education and outreach plan for each recycling goal? What existing programs can we tap into to support education and outreach for each recycling goal?

### Diving Deeper into Recycling Goals

- Commercial, Institutional, Industrial Recycling Goal #1: Complete a Parallel Study (last in 2017) to inform on recycling not captured by ECR, understand flow of materials, opportunities to improve recovery.
  - Policy - How can results inform policy priorities?
  - Funding – RRS/Staff can support.
  - Education / Outreach - Natalie and Noelle have capacity. Big Box stores/corporate take more time. Email, in person, phone, push out over all channels. Provide incentives?
  - Timing – December 2025

Walker asked about Part 115 and beneficial reuse. Noted that the struggle has been finding good end markets for difficult materials like shingles. McMurry noted we will cover shingles in a different goal. Walker asked if Emmet County has the capacity to do this Parallel Study. Seltzer raised questions on how the survey for businesses should be distributed. The Committee set a date for this goal to be finished by December 2025. Seltzer suggested moving the completion date to October. Survey out by October, reaching out to businesses Oct/Nov - get results by December. Evaluate/share the results in the first quarter of 2026.

The Committee discussed outreach to businesses and utilizing the MRC to connect to sustainability contacts at Meijer, as a start. Walker added that municipalities can also help promote the survey. McMurry added that they could also distribute the survey at the fall business expo. Moellering mentioned sharing it at the LTBB Biz After Hours.

- Commercial, Institutional, Industrial Recycling Goals #2: Downtown self-serve cardboard compactor (DSS); Establish County run commercial cardboard route (CCCR); Ban commercial corrugated cardboard from disposal (Ban)
  - Policy – strengthen ordinance to recover more cardboard material. EGLE grant funding opportunity for truck and containers.
  - Funding – capital budget paired with an EGLE grant
  - Education / Outreach
  - Timing - By 2027 add one compactor (in Petoskey or Mack City)

The Committee discussed the cardboard compactor idea. Seltzer explained how the compactor is serviced and the benefits. Seltzer noted that this would allow small businesses that don't have access to a dumpster to be able to recycle their cardboard. Walker shared the challenge of siting a drop site and noted they are trying to think about where a site could be located? On public land or would we need a private business to host? Walker noted she would like to see more private/public partnerships. Seltzer noted that with a compactor, there would need to be a consistent education and outreach plan for businesses. Walker added that waste haulers, as part of their business, must provide cheaper cardboard recycling services to the businesses as part of the solid waste ordinance. Emmet could strengthen this ordinance to support the implementation of this goal.

The Committee continued to discuss establishing a county-run commercial cardboard route. McMurry noted that the upfront costs for a truck and container for this program could be funded through an EGLE grant because you are showing expansion. Committee member Elya noted challenges with businesses not wanting recycling services and the need to change mindsets of business owners and noted that a drop site would be more apt to serving those who actually want to participate. The Committee discussed targeting smaller haulers and incentivizing new businesses to participate where collection gaps have been identified.

Seltzer suggested coming up with a timeline for these goals and identifying if there will be purchases that need to be made. McMurry noted that a capital budget paired with an EGLE grant will be their funding route. McMurry asked if we can combine all three of these goals

and mark them as option one, two, and three if something falls through. McMurphy noted we do not need to do all three of these together. Seltzer noted that tracking what is currently happening with cardboard is the first step. The Committee discussed what they currently know about commercial cardboard. Walker noted that with busier seasons, businesses are throwing more cardboard away as they aren't able to keep up with staff time. McMurphy asked about removing cardboard from the garbage bin if a ban were to go into effect. The Committee discussed providing incentives for businesses to participate. The Committee discussed enforcement as a weakness / gap.

- Commercial, Institutional, Industrial Recycling Goal #3: Explore end market opportunities for shingles, C&D materials, Reuse for C&D, other: Shingles recovery; Reuse center for C&D; Drywall, other materials.
  - Policy – Encourage state action to provide market pull on materials such as shingles, tires, rubble/asphalt, wood.
  - Funding –
  - Education / Outreach -
  - Timing – up and running by 2030

Seltzer noted that we will have more time to come back to these materials and end markets opportunities in the reuse section of the planning process – materials such as shingles, wood, etc. A reuse center can be a good solution. Walker noted that the challenge with the C&D industry is that the cost of labor prevents contractors from participating in source separating. A reuse center may need to be ready to accept co-mingled materials. The Committee discussed that C&D and dimensional lumber caused wear and tear on equipment. The Committee discussed the challenge of hazardous materials such as lead based paints, asbestos, etc. and keeping building contractors informed. C&D waste is not a part of Emmet's solid waste ordinance. Emmet should look at Boulder's model ordinance.

- Multifamily Recycling Goal #1: Extend Multifamily recycling services in existing curbside communities. Consider ordinance, planning & zoning requirements for new site development to include space for recycling. Responsibility for private Multifamily owners to provide service.
  - Policy -
  - Funding -
  - Education / Outreach - Before the end of the year for developments underway.

- Timing - Bear Creek Township 2026. City of Petoskey, LTTB in 2026. County research.

The Committee discussed how they would track and implement this – by units. Target communities: City of Petoskey (62-unit development); Bear Creek Township (all MF housing); LTBB (Victory Square Housing) or use comparable # units. - don't use this specific project. Determining best approaches: Cart Depot; Drop site bins; Other. The Committee discussed building this into future construction projects. The Committee discussed assessing the effectiveness of the TRP grant. The grant did not require any follow-up analysis. The Committee discussed developing best practices for multifamily recycling and sharing a model for new site plan development.

- Residential Curbside Recycling Goal #1: Expand residential curbside recycling service to three townships by January 2030. Target Springvale, Littlefield, Pleasantview and West Traverse Townships.
  - Policy –
  - Funding – EGLE grant funding new curbside recycling truck – apply 2027 (funding / truck by 2030) and carts / bins with township contribution.
  - Education / Outreach - Make the case for curbside to residents and elected officials (concurrent with assembly survey). Consider how to best reach residents / renters – mailers.
  - Timing – Conduct survey by 2026. Apply for EGLE grant funding in 2027.

The Committee discussed getting more buy-in from residents and funding an additional recycling truck to expand curbside recycling.

- Drop Site Recycling Goal #1: Establish one self-serve cardboard compactor by 2028. Establish three additional drop off sites by 2030:
  - Carp Lake/Paradise Lake / Carp Lake General Store
  - Downtown Petoskey
  - Harbor Springs/West Traverse
  - Policy –
  - Funding – EGLE grant for infrastructure, build into capital budget for drop site bins, one per year - \$40,000/site for 3 bins, plus fencing, pavement, signage.
  - Education / Outreach -
  - Timing – 2030 (at one / year) 2028, 2029, 2030.

The Committee discussed the best locations for a drop site, including the July 4<sup>th</sup> event space. A Committee member asked if there was any other innovative approach to

convince a property owner to become a host site. How can we be proactive about addressing property owner concerns about contamination, etc. Walker noted that we need to maintain a good relationship with the site host. Seltzer added that in the past, they had contracted with a licensed waste hauler to stop by the drop site and pick up anything that they could haul. It's worth having a volunteer ambassador pool for the drop site. Enforcement ideas include community service, honor society, paid drop site support, improved enforcement, surveillance, follow up, or service club volunteers. Walker noted this requires political will. The Committee agreed that Bear Creek Crossings needs specific attention.

- Any Other Recycling Goals? MRF Improvements? Ed/Outreach Tools? Policy improvements? EPR?
  - Mapes shared that through these goals we are looking at exterior expansions, but if we plan on expanding, the facility itself needs interior improvements. The facility is already busting at the seams with how busy it is. Facility improvements considered: Needs picking up daily. With the growth in services, we need to improve access and egress. Study budgeted for 2027 for a second gatehouse – traffic flow study – Saturday 7:45 am – 20 cars in line by 8 am. Admin office – move out to facility – build reuse center with admin center. McMurry noted that the County is looking at a second gate house.
  - Walker asked if a cardboard screen would prevent the County from recycling plastic film?
  - The Committee discussed getting a grant to study the recycling residuals.
  - The Committee discussed making a case for additional staff by end of year for the MRF and also the composting operator.
  - The Committee discussed the need for compost pad improvements – the cost for this is about .5 million dollars.
  - Other equipment? Do we need a bigger shredder?
  - Generator for power outages?

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Behling reviewed outreach the County is doing to keep all municipalities informed of the planning process.

### **Public Comment**

None

**Next Steps**

Next Meeting scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>. McMurry asked if we should cancel the August meeting and just meet on September 8<sup>th</sup>? The Committee motioned to approve the cancellation of the August meeting. Motion passed, August meeting cancelled.

Next Meeting: September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved Walker and seconded by McMurry. Meeting adjourned at 12:03p.m.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE APPROVED AT FUTURE MEETING