MARQUETTE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

May 20, 2026

DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

PLACE: Landfill Administration Complex
600 County Road NP
Marquette, MI 49855

MEMBERS PRESENT: In Person: Randall Yelle, Glenn Adams, David Campana, Amy Manning, Robert Anttila, Joe Minelli and Helen Wilson (Alternate Board Member)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Honch (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Stannard, Landfill Director, and Chris Magnuson, Director of Finance and Benefits

OTHERS: In Person: William T. Nordeen, Attorney; Beth Bonanni, Recording Secretary; Gary Wommer, Negaunee Township; Jim Belpedio, Champion Township; Benjamin Koepp, MCSWMA; Matt Anderson, Miller-Bradford; Clayton Hillier, Miller-Bradford; and Jo Foley, Michigan League of Women Voters. By Microsoft Teams: Lyn Durant, Marquette Township; and, Scott Cambensy, City of Marquette

1. Call to Order: R. Yelle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. R. Yelle stated that he had received permission to speak on behalf of Board Member Dennis Honch. Mr. Honch has been placed in Trillium House and will no longer be serving on the Board.

   Pledge of Allegiance recited.

2. Approval of Agenda: J. Minelli made a motion to approve the Agenda. D. Campana supported. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Approval of Minutes
    a. 4/15/26 – Regular Meeting
    b. 4/15/26 – Stockholder's Meeting

G. Adams made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and Stockholder's Meeting of April 15, 2026. H. Wilson supported. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda
    a. Statistics – April 2026
    b. Accounts Payable

R. Anttila made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. G. Adams supported. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Business
    a. Banking – D. Campana made a motion to approve the banking report. J. Minelli supported the motion.
    D. Campana asked C. Magnuson why the General Fund Banking balance dropped from approximately $800,000.00 to $200,000.00. C. Magnuson explained that the decrease was due to the annual bond payment of approximately $584,000.00 for the wastewater treatment facility, which is paid once per year.
    D. Campana then asked about the Share Accounts, noting that the Recycling Fund balance was $640,345.86 the prior month and $130,150.22 in April, and questioned the significant decrease. D. Campana also asked about the Accounts Receivable balance of $606,057.60. C. Magnuson explained that the Recycling Fund is the fund to which the tipping fee was allocated to pay the bond obligation. C. Magnuson further stated that the Accounts Receivable balance represents the total accounts receivable at the end of the month. Motion approved unanimously.
    b. Financials – A. Manning made a motion to approve the Financials. R. Anttila supported the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
    c. Recycling Financials – D. Campana made a motion to approve the Recycling Financials. G. Adams supported the motion.
    D. Campana noted that Fiber Revenue reflected the same total in both March and April and asked why the amounts were identical. C. Magnuson explained that although the tonnage differed between the two months, there was a $5.00 per ton increase in the OCC price, which offset the difference in tonnage, resulting in the same revenue amount by coincidence. Motion approved unanimously.
    d. Reimbursements – J. Minelli made a motion to approve the Reimbursements. R. Anttila supported. Motion approved unanimously.
    e. R. Yelle stated that, if approved, the tipping fee increase would become effective July 1, 2026, increasing from $87.00 per ton to $98.00 per ton.

C. Magnuson stated that the proposed figures are consistent with the **s**even-year plan submitted to the State. M. Stannard noted that the unknown factor is the cost to operate the wastewater treatment plant.

D. Campana made a motion to approve the tipping fee increase to $98.00 per ton effective July 1, 2026. G. Adams supported the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

f. 2026 Bomag – M. Stannard stated that approximately two years ago, MCSWMA purchased a new Bomag and informed the Board that the unit traded in at that time experienced an engine failure less than a year later. He explained that staff is seeking to avoid a similar situation by replacing the second Bomag prior to it being significantly and evaluated as a trade-in.

M. Stannard stated that the proposed purchase is at approximately the same price as the prior purchase, with a similar interest rate, and that the Landfill would receive a trade-in value of $150,000.00, approximately two and one-half times greater than the previous trade-in value. He further stated that staff believes it is a good deal and that the Landfill needs the equipment. M. Stannard added that the newer Bomag significantly outperforms the existing unit, and staff is recommending purchase of the new equipment.

R. Yelle noted that when the Board approved the previous purchase, it was discussed that MCSWMA would pursue replacing the equipment approximately every five years due to retained value and the amount of money spent on repairs and maintenance over the prior six to seven years.

M. Stannard stated that when bids were solicited previously, the CAT proposal was higher in cost, while the Aljon proposal was lower; however, Aljon's service department is located near Grand Rapids, whereas service for the Bomag is available locally through Miller-Bradford.

J. Minelli asked what the requirements are for making a purchase of this magnitude with respect to obtaining bids. B. Nordeen stated that purchases of this size are generally required to be competitively bid unless staff can justify the purchase as a sole-source procurement, meaning only one vendor is available. B. Nordeen further stated that, if staff intends to proceed on a sole-source basis, a written sole-source justification should be prepared. B. Nordeen further stated that the Board must ensure the arrangement is structured as a lease-to-own agreement. B. Nordeen explained that MCSWMA is not permitted to purchase equipment through a financing arrangement in which the Authority buys an item and repays the seller using its full faith and credit, stating that such financing is not permitted. J. Minelli made a motion to postpone consideration of this item until the June Board meeting. A. Manning supported the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

g. Coviana Quotes – R. Yelle stated that Coviana provided a quote for flow meters and clarified that the Authority requires two flow meters. R. Yelle noted that the quoted price includes installation and that the pricing listed on the back of the quote reflects the materials needed for the project.

M. Stannard explained that the flow meters are necessary to calculate the total amount of leachate being treated by the Landfill. He stated that under the Authority's previous treatment system, treated discharge flowed from the lagoons into the river through a conveyance ditch and only a single flow required monitoring. With the new reverse osmosis (RO) system, the Authority is set up to monitor clean water output but must also monitor the concentrate stream that is returned to the Landfill. M. Stannard explained that two flow meters are needed for this purpose, one to monitor the clean water output and one to monitor the concentrate being returned to the top of the Landfill.

M. Stannard recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the two flow meters. G. Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of two flow meters from Coviana in the amount of $30,130.00. R. Anttila supported the motion. J. Minelli asked why the flow meters were not included in the original bid. M. Stannard responded that when the original bid was received, the project cost was approximately $2 million over budget, and the flow meters may have been one of the items removed to reduce costs. M. Stannard further stated that the engineer did not provide an explanation as to why the flow meters were not included in the original bid. Motion approved unanimously.

M. Stannard stated that the second page of the quote from Coviana includes a price list for consumable items that the Landfill will need to purchase on an ongoing basis in the future. He explained that the consumables are currently being provided at no cost because the system remains in the testing phase.

M. Stannard stated that he wanted to provide the pricing information to the Board in advance so that staff would not need to seek Board approval each time consumable items are purchased, unless the Board prefers to review and approve each purchase individually. He further noted that these purchases will be ongoing, although the rate of consumption is not yet known until the treatment plant becomes fully operational. J. Minelli asked whether the consumables constitute basic operational expenses, noting that staff does not seek Board approval for routine purchases such as gasoline and suggesting that these items appear to be part of normal operations. M. Stannard responded that this was correct but noted that the cost of the consumables is more significant, with purchases potentially totaling approximately $16,000.00. J. Minelli made a motion to authorize the Director to purchase consumable items for the wastewater treatment plant as needed, in an amount not to exceed $20,000.00. D. Campana supported. Motion passed unanimously.

h. CAT 325 Undercarriage – Ben Koepp, mechanic at the Landfill, reported that the CAT 325 excavator is approximately six years old and operates exclusively within the Landfill under harsh conditions, resulting in accelerated wear. He stated that the machine's undercarriage now needs to be rebuilt in order to continue operating the equipment. M. Stannard commented that the excavator is used extensively for winter dig-outs when material freezes inside hauler trucks. He explained that the machine is equipped with a

butter bar on the bucket, allowing staff to remove frozen material without damaging the haulers' trucks, making it the only piece of equipment capable of performing this function. M. Stannard stated that, for this reason, staff is proposing to invest $12,577.00 in replacing the undercarriage rather than facing the need to purchase a replacement machine in the near future. A. Manning made a motion to approve the quote from Fabick Cat for materials to rebuild the undercarriage in the amount of $12,577.37. R. Anttila supported. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Reports

a. Director Report – The Director reported that no grievances or recordable injuries were reported since the previous Board meeting. MCSWMA remains compliant with all EGLE regulations, and grant results for the proposed Curbtender truck remain pending.

Construction of the wastewater treatment plant is nearing completion, with system testing and permeate sampling continuing. Waste placement activities continue at the North end of Cell 4.

At the Regional Recycling Facility, prices for plastics, excluding PET, and mixed paper have remained stable, while OCC prices have increased. Staff reported that the current outlet is not accepting PET at this time, reflecting a nationwide issue rather than one unique to MCSWMA, and staff continue to seek alternative outlets for PET materials.

Committee members continue reviewing the initial draft of the Materials Management Plan, with a draft expected to be available for County and municipal review in July.

R. Anttila made a motion approving the Director's report. G. Adams supported. Motion approved unanimously.

b. Attorney Report – B. Nordeen indicated that he did not have a written report prepared for this month and stated that one would be provided for the next Board meeting. B. Nordeen further reported that there had not been significant activity since the previous meeting.

B. Nordeen also stated that J. Minelli's appointment to the Board is coming up for renewal and will be addressed with the County.

8. Public Comment: None.

9. Trustee Comments: D. Campana asked whether there would be a discussion regarding compost. M. Stannard stated that information on compost would be provided at the June meeting.

   J. Minelli asked whether it would be possible to compare MCSWMA's recycling operations with those of other landfills in the area and expressed interest in understanding whether other landfills are also operating recycling programs at a loss similar to MCSWMA.
   J. Minelli also asked whether, given the Authority's substantial fund balance, it would make more financial sense to use those funds to pay off large equipment purchases rather than keep the money in a low-interest-bearing account. J. Minelli stated that, if the Authority has excess funds available, he would prefer to use those funds to pay off equipment purchases in order to help keep tipping fees down.

10. Adjournment: R. Yelle adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

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Randall L. Yelle, Chairperson Dennis Honch, Secretary