

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

9/15/2026, 10:00 AM

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

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Committee Updates
3. MMP Draft Review & Committee Feedback
4. Public Comment
5. Adjourn Meeting

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

Guests: None Noted

Resource Recycling Staff Present: Elisa Seltzer (Virtual), Stephanie Robinson (Virtual), Jake Jansen (Virtual)

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by D. Fuller.

Roll Call

- a. Lindsey Walker - Present
- b. Kevin Donner – Present (virtual)
- c. Garrett Muir - Present
- d. Doug Fuller - Present
- e. Allen Elya III - Present
- f. Jayna Steffel - Present
- g. Caroline Moellering - Present
- h. Stephanie Marchbanks - Present
- i. Chris Gee - Absent
- j. Don Mapes - Present
- k. Darcy Wright - Absent

June Meeting Minutes Approval

The committee reviewed the June 9, 2026 MMPC Meeting Minutes. Motion was made by L. Walker to approve the June MMPC Meeting Minutes. S. Marchbanks seconded. Meeting minutes approved.

2. Committee Updates

G. Muir introduced himself as the Bear Creek Township Supervisor and stated he was happy to be joining the committee.

RRS introduced Jake Jansen, who has supported drafting of the Emmet County MMP and brings experience with municipal solid waste operations and other Michigan MMP planning processes.

A. McMurry noted no new committee member submissions had been received through the Committee Input Form as of the meeting.

3. MMP Draft Review and Committee Feedback

RRS provided a high-level walkthrough of the first full draft of the MMP, organized around Section 1 (county overview, existing system, and recycling access), Section 2 (materials management goals), Section 3 (funding mechanisms, facility siting), Section 4 (administration), and the approval/public comment timeline. The goal is to incorporate the committee's feedback into a revised draft by the end of September and position the committee for a possible vote to release the draft for public comment on October 13.

Section 1- County Overview and Existing System

RRS presented an overview of the county's materials management landscape, including population and seasonal population figures, the enterprise-fund and flow-control structure, the hub-and-spoke system centered on the Pleasantview Road site, existing recycling and drop-off access, current disposal rate and waste composition, benchmark recycling standard compliance, and the current recycling rate with modeled improvement scenarios.

Committee Feedback:

- L. Walker raised concern that the draft's construction and demolition (C&D) estimate likely understates actual generation, since it relies on state landfill

reporting that can mis-categorize C&D loads as municipal/commercial waste.

- A. McMurry offered to provide more detailed county data (2022-2024) to help refine both the C&D and per-capita disposal figures.

Section 2 - Materials Management Goals

RRS reviewed the plan's nine primary goals, along with a newly proposed overarching goal to set a numeric recycling-rate target above the state's 30% baseline. RRS also outlined a potential state advocacy goal section for inclusion in the MMP.

Committee Feedback:

- L. Walker noted that Objective 6.5 conflates finished-compost market development with food rescue, which should be treated as separate strategies given food rescue's higher-and-better-use status. On finished compost, the county should explore expanding markets, including use by municipalities and townships whose yard waste is processed for local applications.
- G. Muir raised concern that the implementation schedule is heavily front-loaded in 2027-2029 relative to later years, given known DPW staff capacity constraints.
- G. Muir also noted that many objectives lack clear success measures or checkpoints. The committee discussed strengthening accountability by ensuring objectives have appropriate performance measures or review points.
- State Advocacy goals
 - The committee discussed a potential new section on state advocacy goals (not required by EGLE), covering topics such as EPR, state infrastructure funding, tipping-fee surcharges, and statewide hauler licensing.
 - A. Elya expressed reservations about supporting all associated policies, citing concerns about taxes and fees and fluctuating commodity prices.
 - Members were generally supportive of a broad advocacy goal but wanted specific policy mechanisms framed as examples rather than commitments, preserving the MMPC's ability to weigh in case-by-case as policies come up.

Section 3 & 4 - Funding Mechanisms, Facility Siting, and Plan Administration

Funding Mechanisms

RRS reviewed the plan's summary of the county's existing enterprise-fund revenue structure and the additional tools (grants, bonding, program-specific financing) that may be needed to support future goals. The committee did not raise concerns with this section.

Facility Siting Process

RRS presented the plan's three-pathway siting approach: Pathway A for existing/licensed facilities, Pathway B for facilities meeting local zoning, and Pathway C's full MMPC review for new landfills, transfer stations, or relocations. Pathway C largely carries forward the county's existing process while updating it to current Part 115 terminology.

Committee Feedback:

- G. Muir recommended modifying the Pathway C notice language requiring newspaper publication to specify publication in a locally circulated newspaper rather than a newspaper that technically satisfies the requirement.
- G. Muir identified ambiguity in the siting section's reconsideration provision, which allows reconsideration "within 30 days" without clearly identifying what event starts the clock.

Plan Administration

RRS reviewed the plan's administrative structure. Specifically, noting the Board of Commissioners holding ultimate statutory authority, DPW handling day-to-day administration, and the MMPC continuing in an oversight role with roughly a five-year plan review cycle. The committee had no concerns with this section.

Draft Approval and Public Comment Timeline

RRS walked through the proposed schedule: committee feedback by September 22nd, a revised draft by September 30, a potential MMPC vote to release the draft for public comment on October 13, a minimum 60-day comment period beginning around October 20, a public hearing tentatively planned alongside a Board of Commissioners meeting in December, revisions and MMPC/Board action in early 2027, municipal approval (120 days, requiring 67% approval) from roughly March-July 2027, and submission to EGLE around July 2027.

Committee Feedback:

- The committee discussed folding the public hearing into a regular Board meeting rather than a standalone event, and confirmed EGLE extensions are available if needed but not currently anticipated.
- A. McMurry confirmed that DPW is glad to present the plan to the Board, noting other counties' MMPs have been presented to their boards before public release, and that there is no reason the presentation couldn't occur after the MMPC's October 13 vote.
- A. McMurry noted other counties have already submitted their draft plans to EGLE, and the committee raised the question of whether EGLE might review and offer feedback on the draft during the public comment period itself.

Municipal and Public Outreach

The committee discussed avenues for building awareness ahead of the municipal approval period, including Michigan Township Association and presentations to individual municipalities and the Board of Commissioners. Members noted that municipalities will need lead time to get onto their own agendas and indicated willingness to help present the plan locally once it reaches the approval phase.

Additional Draft Feedback Requested

Committee members were encouraged to continue reviewing the complete draft after the meeting. Committee members indicated further edits may include grammar corrections, mapping improvements (S. Marchbanks requested more maps and noted using "seasonal population" rather than "average"), data questions, seasonal population methodology, C&D estimates, goal timelines, and other revisions.

Multiple members indicated they have additional written comments to submit. The working deadline for committee feedback is Tuesday, September 22, 2026, to allow RRS sufficient time to make revisions before the October meeting.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment during this meeting.

5. Next Steps

The committee will meet again on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at EMS Eppler Station, 1201 Eppler Road, Petoskey, MI 49770, with the intent of potentially voting to release the draft MMP for public comment.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am by D. Fuller.

Approved by: *Douglas Fuller*

TO BE APPROVED AT FUTURE MEETING