

Thursday, March 24th, 2016

Lambert Industries Inc.

69 Enterprise Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

[VIEW MAP HERE](#)



WCCSWM Meeting

MARCH 2016 PACKET

TOUR

~5:00PM

MEETING

~5:30PM

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of January 28th, 2016 Minutes**
- 3. Approval of March 24th, 2016 Agenda**
- 4. Task Force Updates**
 - a. Product Stewardship Initiatives
 - b. Master Composter Certification Course
 - c. Washtenaw Food Policy Council
- 5. Legislative Updates**
 - a. SWPC Amendment
- 6. Local Community Updates**
- 7. Adjournment**

Meeting Minutes

HopCat Ann Arbor

Thursday, January 28th, 2016

Attendance:

1. Amelia Brown, Washtenaw County
2. Bruce Bawkon, Scio Township
3. Noelle Bowman, Washtenaw County
4. Jeff Krcmarik, Washtenaw County
5. Meghan Bonfiglio, Washtenaw County
6. Yousef Rabhi, Washtenaw County
7. Chris Simmons, City of Ypsilanti
8. Alex Williams, Superior Township



1. Call to Order and Introductions (5:28 pm)

2. Approval of December 10th, 2015 Minutes

- a. Minutes approved as written.

3. Approval of January 28th, 2016 Agenda

- a. Agenda approved as written.

4. Task Force Updates

a. Product Stewardship Initiatives

- i. Jeff: Wal-Mart Canada recently adopted policy requiring a plastic bag charge of five cents per bag in effort to cut down on the amount of plastic bags being landfilled. See [Article](#) for further details.
- ii. Jeff: The County's Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program is still active. County in the process of conducting interviews for a new hire that will be overseeing the program. One of our biggest concerns right now is making sure that materials are sent to the correct facilities for final disposal, and the new hire will allow us to put more effort into this.
 1. Regarding the question on whether or not we can do Pharmaceutical Take-Back at public events, we would need to have a law enforcement officer on-site to collect materials; logistically and legally this may be a little difficult, but we are looking into it.

- iii. Jeff: Also, County Solid Waste Division has been working with the Project Lazarus WHI Opioid Project for increased pharmaceutical diversion.
- b. Master Composter Program
 - i. Chris: We had 33 students enrolled in the Master Composter class in Fall 2015. Project Grow has informed us that because the registration was so high, it offset the costs of the class for 2015 and will not need to submit for reimbursement for that year.
 - ii. Jeff: Typically Project Grow facilitates the dispersal of Solid Waste funds to support the Master Composter Program, generally amounting to about \$1,500 per year.
 - iii. Chris: We had recently been considering only offering the program every other year because interest had not been high enough, but our registration rates seem to be growing again. The Master Composter Planning Group (consisting of: Nancy Stone, Lisa Perschke, Jesse Raudenbush, Joet Reoma, Kirk Jones, and Chris) recently met and will be discussing this further in the coming months leading up to graduation and class in Fall 2016.
- c. Washtenaw Food Policy Council
 - i. Noelle: A background refresher, in Fall 2015, the WFPC provided an important Letter of Support in favor of the County's efforts to find a policy solution to reduce plastic bag waste found in our community and MRFs. Plastic bags are a common form of food packaging waste found. Efforts at the County-level are currently underway and we are in draft phase. Updates to come as they arise.

5. Legislative Updates

- a. Jeff: The Washtenaw County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee met two weeks ago for January meeting. Among many things discussed was adopting better tracking mechanisms to gauge current recycling rates and to set goals.
- b. Meghan: Transparency is extremely important throughout the amendment process of the Solid Waste Management Plan. Promoting public engagement is something we are trying to focus on, and we could use any additional help getting info out to township or municipality websites, newspapers, newsletters, etc.
 - i. Alex: The municipal clerks may be a good resource for tools to promote public engagement.

6. Local Community Updates

- a. Noelle: The Annual Waste Knot Awards Ceremony has been planned for Thursday, April 14th. This year and coming years, the formerly known "Waste Knot Ceremony" will be called the Environmental Excellence Ceremony, recognizing members of the Waste Knot Program and its sister

program, Community Partners for Clean Streams. A “save the date” and invitation will be shared with WCCSWM in coming weeks so please keep an eye out and mark your calendars! This will, as always, be in lieu of WCCSWM’s monthly meeting for April.

- b. Noelle: I will be speaking at the City of Ann Arbor’s Sustainability Forum to discuss plastic bag waste in Washtenaw County, its role in our recycling economy and the County’s efforts to adopt a bag ordinance to address the problem. Event hosted Thursdasy, February 4th, at Ann Arbor Public Library from 7:00-8:30 PM. The event will also be filmed and accessible online on Ann Arbor City website after the event.
- c. Alex: Superior Township would like a summary report for the 2015 EMU Collection.
 - i. Noelle: I will share full report of all 2015 Collections at next meeting.
- d. Noelle: As a step toward drafting a Washtenaw County Carryout Bag Ordinance, we’ve partnered with the City of Ann Arbor, the Ecology Center and the Washtenaw Food Policy Council to create a Workgroup. The Carryout Bag Workgroup has met a handful of times since late last year, and has been invaluable in the drafting of the Ordinance thus far.
 - i. Meghan: The Ordinance will likely go through the Board of Public Works first, and then the Board of Commissioners. We also have a meeting with Muskegon County to discuss their progress on a similar effort, which will hopefully provide further insight into the policy path our ordinance will take.
- e. Chris: Vintage Tech Recyclers breached their contract with the City of Ypsilanti recently, and would not collect the TVs we had collected. We had to spend \$2,000 to contract with another company for the TVs, but luckily the public has been reasonably understanding. Vintage Tech closed their Canton location after being acquired by a European Company, and is now officially out of business in Michigan. Our new contractor is Great Lakes Electronics out of Warren, Michigan. The cost difference for TV collection between the two contractors is an increase of about 4-6 cents per pound.
- f. Chris: We had a resident try to drop off a load of furniture at our collection site the other day – **let it be known that furniture collection is not a service we currently provide.**

7. Adjournment (6:00 pm)