



Mid Michigan Waste Authority
 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
 9:30 am – April 13, 2026
 Thomas Township Public Safety Building

The following are the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mid Michigan Waste Authority (Authority), a Michigan Municipal Corporation, located in Saginaw County, Michigan, held Monday, April 13, 2026, at Thomas Township Public Safety Building, Saginaw, Michigan, pursuant to written notice served on the members of the Authority and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

I. Call to Order

Chair Karwat called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Member Attendance Roll

24 present – Quorum Achieved

Members Present

Albee Twp/J. Wasmiller		Jonesfield Twp/K. Nock
Bethany Twp/B. Devine		Kochville Twp/K. Stevens
Blumfield Twp/K. Huber		Lakefield Twp/J. Schmidt
Brady Twp/P. Goodrich		Maple Grove Twp/W. Peterman
Bridgeport Twp/ C. Shannon		Richland Twp/R. Grose
Buena Vista Twp/C. Darrough	Alt	City of Saginaw/P. Karwat
Carrollton Twp/D. Sumption		Saginaw Twp/M. Comstock
Chapin Twp/B. Radabaugh		Village of St. Charles/H. Aue
City of Frankenmuth/R. Jimenez	Alt	Spaulding Twp/E. Masters
Frankenmuth Twp/J. Frahm		Swan Creek Twp/I. Krzeszewski
Fremont Twp/M. Sobieski		Thomas Twp/C. Watt
James Twp/C. Mackley		City of Zilwaukee/M. Bourbina
		Alt

Members Absent

Village of Birch Run/P. Moore		Marion Twp/T. Strasel
Birch Run Twp/R. Letterman		Village of Merrill/J Wazny
Brant Twp/R. Fowler		St. Charles Twp/D. Ackerman
Village of Breckenridge/C. Seeley		Tittabawassee Twp/T. Metiva
Chesaning Twp/D. Himstedt		Wheeler Twp/N. Jenkins

Staff / Guests / Public

Staff: K. Tessin/Administrative Director; S. Thayer/Assistant Administrative Director; B. London/City of Saginaw; B. Quitiquit/Priority Waste; J. Rowley/WM

IV. Public Comment

Public comment solicited – No public comment.

V. Review Minutes and Other Information

A. Approve Feb 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Richland Twp/Grose, seconded by Bethany Twp/Devine, to approve February 9, 2026, meeting minutes as presented.

Passed unanimously.

VI. Financial Information review and/or Approval

A. 2026 YTD Financial Information

Tessin reported that YTD financials are on target.

Motion by Lakefield Twp/Schmidt, seconded by Maple Grove Twp/Peterman, to approve the 2026 YTD Financials as presented.

Passed unanimously.

B. MMWA 2025 Audit Update

Tessin reported that the 2025 Audit has been completed. It will be reviewed at the May Executive Committee meeting and formally presented at the June Board of Trustees meeting, at which time Berthiaume will walk the Board through the Audit. It was noted that approximately 94% of funds go directly to solid waste services, and that the Audit process remains straightforward. The continuation of the accrual of rebates was discussed. Wasmiller/Albee Twp asked whether Board members would receive a copy of the Audit. Tessin confirmed that, per the Bylaws, two paper copies are provided to each member community, and all Board members will receive an electronic version of the Audit as part of the meeting packet.

VII. Organizational/Administrative Items: Information &/or Approval

A. Update City of Saginaw Curbside Services

Tessin reported that the City of Saginaw is looking to transition some services from internal to external with Priority Waste. Over the years, the City of Saginaw has transitioned services in and out of the Authority and is now considering transitioning every other week recycling and seasonal yard waste collection to Priority Waste. Tessin consulted with MMWA's attorney who provided a recommendation to amend MMWA's current service contract. As a result, the City of Saginaw would also have to amend its Member Agreement with MMWA.

Tessin stated that information regarding the proposed changes was forwarded to the Executive Committee. Board of Trustees approval is required for updates affecting service contracts and the City of Saginaw will need to approve an amended Membership Agreement. Richland Twp/Grose asked why an amended Membership Agreement was needed. Tessin explained that the amendment would reflect the updated services. City of Saginaw/Karwat noted that the City of Saginaw currently provides its own recycling and yard waste collection services due to low participation rates; however, since COVID, staffing challenges have made continuation difficult. Karwat stated that currently they have four vacant packer operator positions and have been using other staff to assist with collection. Increasing vehicle and maintenance costs, along with downtime for repairs, were also noted as contributing factors. Tessin stated

the City of Saginaw is evaluating implementation timing, potentially around July 1, 2026, however Karwat noted that it would be more likely for January 1, 2027. Tessin further explained that given the City's low participation rate, and proximity to the MRF and the City's compost facility, MMWA proposed billing based on a reduced house count. Priority Waste ultimately agreed to bill at 70% of the City's house count.

Richland Twp/Grose expressed concern that if these services had been included in the original contract, the Authority may have benefited from lower pricing. It was clarified that trash collection pricing is based on zones, while recycling and yard waste collection pricing is the same per unit across all zones. Grose stated that attorney fees related to the contract amendments should be the responsibility of the City of Saginaw.

Tessin explained that WM operates under a 10-year contract through 2032, and Priority Waste operates under a 5-year contract with a 5-year extension option. The City of Saginaw would be adding services during the initial term. Tessin noted that the Board will need to vote early next year on extending the Priority Waste contract through 2032. The five year contract with an option to extend for an additional five years was originally established as Priority Waste was a new company.

B. Updated WM

Tessin reported operations are running smoothly. Tessin noted that there was a tragic accident that occurred last week involving a resident and a commercial truck. It was confirmed that the WM driver followed proper procedures and exercised appropriate care in the situation.

Bethany Twp/Devine raised concerns regarding service issues related to tipped carts, particularly in areas with limited wind breaks. Several resident complaints were received after carts that were tipped were not serviced and some were tagged with orange notices indicating pickup would occur the following week. It was discussed that drivers should not exit the vehicle and place the tag directly on the cart to reduce resident frustration.

Tessin discussed current tagging and non-tagging practices, including how tipped carts are handled and the language used on tags. Emphasis was placed on consistent and clear communication with residents when carts are not serviced due to inclement weather.

C. Update Priority Waste

Tessin stated operations are running smoothly. A shout-out was given to a Priority Waste driver in the City of Frankenmuth for conducting a wellness check while on route.

An update was provided regarding Priority Waste and a change in equity ownership. Tessin emailed to members a copy of the letter MMWA received from Priority earlier that morning informing MMWA that it had entered into a transaction whereby TPG will acquire a controlling equity interest in Priority. Concerns were raised regarding Priority's privately held status, and uncertainty surrounding long-term business stability and operational practices. Discussion focused on how to best protect the Authority under these circumstances. It was noted that language in the current contract includes a provision stating that any agreement such as this could trigger Section L (Assignment). The matter has been forwarded to MMWA's counsel Robert Davis for legal review.

Richland Twp/Grose asked about a timeline for changes related to Priority Waste. Tessin responded that there is no established timeline at this point. Quitiquit/Priority Waste stated that to his knowledge there will

be no name changes, staffing changes, or operational changes at this time, though he indicated the matter is not at his level. Caramagno, Vice President of Municipal Sales, confirmed that updates will be shared as changes move forward. It was also reported that Caramagno has assumed Kruse's former position. Caramagno has previous experience with WM and GFL before joining Priority Waste and brings significant industry expertise. Caramagno stated he will be focused on improving consistency and operational efficiency.

D. Update Materials Management Planning Committee

Tessin reported that there were no updates. Karwat stated that the meeting that was scheduled for today was cancelled because they had no quorum.

VIII. Program Items:

A. 2026 HSW Drop Off Schedule

Thayer stated there are five hazardous waste events and two shred events planned for 2026. The first event is April 25th and MMWA is already full for that event.

IX. Closed Session

None

X. Other

A. Member/Staff Other

City of Saginaw/Karwat announced that Beth London will be retiring in May and expressed appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

XI. Next Scheduled MMWA Meetings

A. **Next Executive Committee Meeting:** Next regularly scheduled Executive Committee Mtg: 9:30 am, Thursday, May 21, 2026 @ Thomas Twp Public Safety Building

B. **Next Board Meeting:** Next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Mtg: 9:30 am, Monday, June 8, 2026 @ Thomas Twp Public Safety Building

XII. Adjourn

Motion by Bethany Twp/Devine, seconded by Lakefield Twp/Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 am.

Passed unanimously.

Submitted by: Katharine Tessin/Administrative Director _____