

**Town of La Pointe  
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Work Group  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
9:00 a.m. at Town Hall  
Minutes**

Members present: Michael Brenna, Gwen Smith Patterson and Michael Childers  
Members present via speakerphone: Norm Castle and Chuck Irvine  
Members absent: Joe Scarry and Michael Collins  
Staff present:  
Public present: Jim Peters

**1. Introductions/Roll Call**

The MRF Work Group meeting was called to order by M. Childers on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

A quorum of the committee is present as shown by members listed above.

**2. Public Comment**

Jim Peters said thank you to everyone who volunteered for this work group.

**3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Motion by M. Brenna, second by G. Smith Patterson to nominate Michael Childers as chair.  
No discussion. All in favor, all aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by G. Smith Patterson, second by M. Childers to nominate Michael Brenna as vice-chair.  
No discussion. All in favor, all aye. Motion Carried.

**4. Review and discuss a general approach to the Materials Recovery Facility Work Group purpose – including the objectives and outcomes envisioned by the Work Group’s members**

- M. Childers read a passage from the Report from the Town Hall, November 2, 2019 by Lisa Potswald from the November 10, 2019 Gazette:
  - The charges of the Work Group include a financial analysis of MRF operations, research and recommendations about the results of the Work Group’s research.
  - The Work Group is charged with providing a report to the Town Board within six months after they first meet.
- M. Childers noted Joe Scarry has a background in financial analysis and C. Irvine has connections at Mid-America Recycling in Des Moines, IA who as offered to help in any way they can with their experience in recycling.
- General discussion on members thoughts and ideas.
  - Status quo seems to be the most environmentally friendly but there is always room for improvement
  - Ted and Carey’s input is needed in this analysis
  - Address financial burden put on by visitors
    - Possible wheel tax w/educating public as to why
  - Need to reduce transportation costs

- Landfill options
- Automobile recycling
- Madeline Island Ferry Line (MIFL) contributions
- Collaboration with city of Bayfield
- M. Childers proposed a 3-tier process:
  - Financial Analysis – Joe Scarry
    - Current Marketplace Economic Understanding – Chuck Irvine
  - Community Values/Input – Gwen Smith Patterson
  - Regional Recycling Facilities practices – Michael Brenna

**5. Initial discussion regarding Cornerstone Environmental Group’s 2019 Solid Waste and Recycling operations Analysis.**

No discussion

**6. Public Comment**

- Jim was disappointed there was no representation from the MRF.  
*Clerical Assistant Note: Committee was notified at 8:28 this morning via e-mail that there would not be any MRF Staff at this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.*
- Jim would like this committee to look at the environmental impact of the current facility and possibly enlarging the exchange to reduce waste.
- Norm would like the committee to investigate automobile recycling.

**7. Set Next Meeting Agenda and Date**

Meetings to be bi-weekly on Tuesday mornings initially with more meetings scheduled as needed.

Michael will look into group text notification of meetings.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 9 a.m.

**8. Adjourn**

Motion by M. Brenna, second by G. Smith Patterson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant.  
Minutes approved as presented December 17, 2019. Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant