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TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Cresson S. Sloten, P.E., Systems Planning Manager

DATE: June 22, 2017

SUBJECT: Solid Waste/Recycling Program Area Status Updates

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**PURPOSE:** This memo provides information and status updates on various projects and program efforts of the City in the Solid Waste Fund program areas.

#### **Solid Waste Fund**

Following the transmittal of last month's status update memo, a question was raised as to whether there is a possibility of spreading the \$5.2M OPEB liability over multiple years rather than "taking a hit all at once." The City must adhere to GASB (General Accounts Standards Board) requirements which establish the methodology for this accounting, so the booking of this liability cannot be adjusted.

#### **Transition of Contracted Services**

Beginning on July 1, 2017, Advanced Disposal Services Solid Waste Midwest, LLC (Advanced Disposal) will become the service provider for solid waste transfer operations, transport and disposal services for the City. As noted previously, the contract for these services has a five-year term, with an option to extend the contract for up to two additional five-year periods. In preparation for this switch in contractors, the City is making some of the small repairs to the transfer station that were identified in the City's transfer station condition assessment/evaluation.

Also on July 1, 2017, Recycle Ann Arbor (RAA) will become the interim operator of the City's Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The first material composition audit of RAA's hybrid operation will be performed on July 14, 2017. The results of this audit will be shared with the Environmental Commission and City Council.

At their June 19, 2017 regular meeting, City Council approved a contract with RAA for Student Move-In/Move-Out services in handling and managing bulky waste and reuse items. The contract is a three-year contract, with an option to extend the agreement for one additional two-year period is expected to be presented to City Council.

### **New Scalehouse Software**

The City has procured software from Paradigm Software to manage the data at the scalehouse located at the MRF facility. This aspect of the facility is vital to all of the program areas of the solid waste/resource recovery area as all material entering or leaving the Wheeler Center is to be weighed at the scalehouse. Until this procurement, the scalehouse software has been provided by the contractor operating the MRF. This has proven to be problematic for staff to obtain and fully utilize the data from the scale for reporting as well as invoice control. By having the software and the full data under the City's ownership, reporting will become more consistent and supportive.

### **RFPs**

City staff and the City's consultant on the recent Organics Management Plan, CB&I, has begun to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new multi-year contract for compost center operations as the current contract with Denali (formerly known as WeCare) will expire in January, 2018. The scope of work for this RFP is currently being developed. The RFP is targeted to be released by late summer.

Following the release of the Compost Center Operations RFP, staff will then begin to develop the scope of work for the City Solid Waste Plan RFP. This RFP is currently targeted for a fall release.

### **July Environmental Commission Meeting**

The July 27, 2017 Environmental Commission will include presentations by Washtenaw County on the County's Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment and the Waste Diversion Site Feasibility Study undertaken by the County with the City as a partner.

The County's draft Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment is still open for public review and comment. The draft document was released for a minimum ninety (90) day public comment period on April 21, 2017 and is available on the County's website at [www.ewashtenaw.org/swp](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/swp). The County is strongly encouraging comments during this review period, as this is the only opportunity to integrate feedback from the public, municipalities and other interested parties into the final plan amendment.

### **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)**

Public Services staff are continuing initial discussions with Washtenaw County staff on the potential of moving the MRF to a more regional service model. Information regarding these discussions will be shared with the Commission at the point in time when they are developed enough so as to allow information to be shared.

CB&I is performing an examination to gain an understanding of the payback period on an accelerated MRF repair, given the increased costs of recycling under new interim operations contract compared to costs to the City under the prior contract with ReCommunity. Their draft Preliminary Review of MRF Options technical memo was submitted to staff last week and is currently under review by staff. When it is finalized, its findings will be shared with the Commission.

**Solid Waste FTE**

In light of the initiation of discussions with County staff regarding a regional approach to the MRF, as well as other current needs in the solid waste area, staff is currently re-evaluating the role and approach for this position. This resource could be used to support the regional approach.

cc:     Howard Lazarus, City Administrator  
       Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator  
       Molly Maciejewski, Public Works Manager  
       Christina Gomes, Solid Waste and Recycling Program Coordinator  
       Marti Praschan, Financial Manager – Public Services Area