



TO: Ways & Means Committee/Board of Commissioners

FROM: Mary Catherine Hannah, Alpena County Administrator

DATE: March 02, 2022

RE: Alpena County MERF Development & Current Resource Recovery Operations

Since its inception the Alpena County Resource Recovery Center/Transfer Station has been operated under the auspices of an Interlocal Agreement with the municipal jurisdictions within Alpena County, which authorizes a fee to be collected which funds operations. The Interlocal Agreement created a board – comprised of 2 members from the City of Alpena, 2 members from the Township of Alpena and 2 members representing the other Townships as a governing board. Additionally, the County executed an agreement with NEMCOG to act as the fiduciary and management agent to support the governing board and to oversee day to day operations, hire and supervise staff and handle financial reporting. Really, this is a de facto department of county that we have contracted out for management.

The contract for services with NEMCOG was last executed in 2017 – but all parties have continued to operate under its terms. An updated contract is attached for approval. This contract would run for 18 months – during which time NEMCOG and the Alpena Resource Recovery Board will be continuing to plan for the development and construction of a new regional MeRF (Material Resource Facility) which would handle materials from 5 counties as feedstock for local and regional manufacturing companies (glass, paper, plastics, etc.).

In addition to renewing the contract with NEMOG for operational oversight and compliance, NEMCOG has applied for and received over \$1 million in grants to support the new MeRF. The attached grant is to the EDA (Economic Development Agency) for additional funding for the \$6 million dollar project. NEMCOG believes that the application will be stronger if Alpena County is a co-applicant. Additionally, NEMCOG and the Alpena Resource Recovery Board are seeking a commitment for \$550,000 as matching funds from Alpena County for the project.