

**Branch-St. Joe Counties
2025 Materials Management Work Program**

County Approval Agencies (CAAs)	
CAA Name: Branch County Board of Commissioners CAA Contact: Frank Walsh, County Administrator fwalsh@branchcounty.gov	CAA Name: St. Joe County Board of Commissioners CAA Contact: Erin Goff, Assistant to the County Administrator Goffe@stjosephcountymi.gov
Designated Planning Agency (DPA)	
DPA Name: Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) DPA Contact: Lee Adams, Southcentral Michigan Planning Council Consultant	
Branch MMP Grant Manager	St. Joe MMP Grant Manager
Name: Steve Rutz, County Treasurer Contact: srutz@branchcounty.gov	Name: Angie Steinman, Finance Director Contact: steinmana@stjosephcountymi.gov

Work Program was approved by the Southcentral Materials Management Planning Committee on March 18th, 2025.

Southcentral Materials Management Planning Committee (SMMMPC) Members

Listed Alphabetically

County Elected Official	Regional Planning Agency
Name: Terry Conklin Title: County Commissioner for St. Joseph County and SMMMPC Chair	Name: Randall Hazelbaker Title: Vice Chair, Southcentral Michigan Planning Council and SMMMPC Secretary
Environmental Interest Group	Solid Waste Disposal Facility I
Name: Carol Higgins Title: Board Member, St. Joseph County Conservation District and SMMMPC Vice Chair	Name: Michael O'Rourke Title: Manager, Westside Landfill (WM)
Solid Waste Disposal Facility II	Compost Facility
Name: Eric Shafer Title: Former Manager, Westside Landfill (WM)	Name: Tom Sikorski Title: Director of Public Services, City of Sturgis
Township Elected Official	City or Village Elected Official
Name: Steve Wolf Title: Sherman Township Supervisor	Name: Randall Hazelbaker Title: Mayor Pro Tem, City of Coldwater

Section 1: Timetable and Tasks in Year 1

Task 1: MMP Work Program

Task 1.1: Drafting MMP Work Program

- DPA develops a draft Year 1 MMP Work Program and adjusts the Work Program based on feedback from all approving groups
- DPA distributes the draft Year 1 Work Program to the SMMMPC on February 19, 2025, for their review and comment

Task 1.2: MMP Work Program Approvals

- The Year 1 MMP Work Program is approved by the SMMMPC at their March 18, 2025, meeting
- The Year 1 MMP Work Program is approved by the Branch CAA at their April 11, 2025, meeting
- The Year 1 MMP Work Program is approved by the St. Joseph CAA at their April 15, 2025, meeting
- DPA assists CAAs with submitting the Year 1 MMP Work Program to EGLE

Task 2: Materials Management Planning Grant Application

- The DPA will assist the CAAs with preparing all required information and documentation mandated by EGLE by the Materials Management Planning Grant Request for Work Programs
- The DPA will assist the CAAs with submitting the final Grant Application to EGLE

Task 3: Public Participation and Outreach

Task 3.1: Regular Meetings and Information

- The SMMMPC will hold quarterly public meetings, with time reserved for public comment, at a time convenient to attend for the general public
- The DPA will maintain one central repository where all plan documents may be viewed by the public - <https://smpcregion3.org/materialsmanagement/>
- The DPA will alert the chief elected official of each municipality and interested individuals in advance of public meetings pursuant to section 324.11574(d)
- See Section 2 for further details

Task 3.2: Active Outreach

- The DPA will determine the best methods of communication with stakeholder groups listed below, such as surveys, questionnaires, or meetings
 - Elected Officials
 - Business Community
 - Materials Management Professionals
 - General Public
- The DPA will conduct a consultation of that group as determined, and results will be synthesized to create final products from Task 4 and Task 5

Task 4: Planning Area Profile

Task 4.1: Data Collection

- The DPA will complete an initial assessment of the Managed Materials ecosystem in the planning area, including, but not limited to:
 - Current and projected populations
 - Current types, sources, and quantities of managed materials generated in the planning area
 - Inventory of existing materials management facilities and capacities of those facilities

Task 4.2: Evaluation and Summary

- Evaluating results from communications with stakeholders and initial assessments, the DPA will
 - Calculate the current municipal solid waste recycling rate for the planning area
 - Note existing areas of strength and areas for improvement

Task 5: Plan Goals

Task 5.1: Materials Management Goals

- Under the direction of the SMMMPC, the DPA will develop measurable, specific, and objective goals to include in the Materials Management Plan for solid waste diversion from disposal areas under section 324.1158(1). These goals will include, but are not limited to:
 - Municipal solid waste recycling rate
 - Benchmark recycling standards
 - Material utilization and reduction activities
 - Recycling access expansion activities

Task 5.2: Implementation Goals

- Under the direction of the SMMMPC, the DPA will identify implementation strategies for the planning area to progress towards or meet the Materials Management Goals under section 324.11578(1). The strategies shall include but are not limited to:
 - Organic material reduction progress
 - Recyclable material reduction progress
 - Recycling access progress
 - Resource needs or facility enhancement/development
 - Education and outreach

Section 2: Public Participation in Year 1

The SMMMPC will hold regular public meetings quarterly. Public comment periods are included in each meeting. A schedule of the meetings can be found at <https://smpcregion3.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-SCMMPC-Public-Notice-1-15-25.pdf> and is also listed below. The SMMMPC will also hold monthly non-business meetings via a virtual platform. These meetings are open to the public as well.

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Date: March 18, 2025 Time: 9:00 am Location: Branch County Administrative Offices Annex Building 23 East Pearl Street Coldwater, MI 49036	Date: June 17, 2025 Time: 9:00 am Location: St. Joseph County Administrative Offices History Room (3 rd Floor) 125 West Main Street Centreville, MI 49032	Date: September 16, 2025 Time: 9:00 am Location: Branch County Administrative Offices Annex Building 23 East Pearl Street Coldwater, MI 49036	Date: December 16, 2025 Time: 9:00 am Location: St. Joseph County Administrative Offices History Room (3 rd Floor) 125 West Main Street Centreville, MI 49032

Minutes from these meetings will be made available to the public at <https://smpcregion3.org/materialsmanagement/>, which will also serve as a central repository for all documents related to Materials Management Planning in the planning region.

Moreover, as described in Section 1, Task 3.2, the DPA will determine the most effective way of communicating with stakeholder groups, including the general public. The general public may be surveyed, given questionnaires, or invited to further meetings.

Section 3: Costs in Year 1

Table

County	2020 Census Population
Branch	44,862
St. Joseph	60,939

Table

County	Base Sum	Multicounty Plan Bonus	Population Funding
Branch	\$60,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 22,431.00
St. Joseph	\$60,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 30,469.50
Annual Total			\$192,900.50

Section 4: Staffing

Please describe staffing needs and responsibilities for plan preparation in Year 1. Full-time equivalent is abbreviated below to “FTE.”

Position	FTE	Responsibilities
Branch County MMP Administration	0.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with DPA • Planning implementation • Administrative tasks
Branch County MMP Grant Manager	0.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with DPA and EGLE • Documentation of invoicing and payments • Regular submission of MMP Grant Funding expenditures
St. Joe County MMP Administration	0.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with DPA • Planning implementation • Administrative tasks
St. Joe County MMP Grant Manager	0.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with DPA and EGLE • Documentation of invoicing and payments • Regular submission of MMP Grant Funding expenditures