

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
NON-MEETING MINUTES  
February 3, 2016**

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**SWAC MEMBERS**

Paula Jenson; Chair  
Sara Bixby  
Mark Freedman  
Vacancies: 6

Sara Ducey; Vice Chair  
Craig Simoneau  
Mark Symborski

Jessica Weiss  
Steve Sprague  
Nicolette deVore

Absent: Robert Brown

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**COUNTY STAFF - DSWs**

Robin Ennis

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**GUESTS**

Brian Flores  
Cheryl Kollin

Ryan Walter  
Susan Eisendrath

Sue Bumpous

Mark Chester  
Susan Wrexler

Heather Bruskin  
Linda Bilsens

Jackie DeCarlo  
Lea Rosenblum

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:40 PM on February 3, 2016, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room at the Executive Office Building (EOB). Introductions were then made. NO QUORUM at that time.

**MAJOR PROGRAM PRESENTATION – Food Waste Recovery**

County Briefing from Robin E.: Food waste, scraps, what should or can be done? MDE rules on food composting have been issued so we now have guidance. Step 1 taken. Now the County is having internal discussions. It is a big effort - ~200,000 tons of food and compostable paper available for this new program. Goal to get to 70% recycling by 2020. Food scraps can get us there. With this volume we need to modify the collection method, not buckets and pick-ups. NO DECISIONS made at this time. Just starting – looking at available technologies:

- AD
- Static pile

Because food needs carbon amendment (food is N<sub>2</sub> rich) we have a dilemma. Again chicken and egg question. Process dictates collection or collection dictates process. Transportation issues. Composts site restrictions. Expansion limitations. Forces a look at other options. County's decision options:

- Do nothing and let the private sector fill the void.
- Develop a County owned facility. ie: RRF, TS.
- Private sector hires. ie: Collections
- A Regional Facility – partner with other jurisdictions. The Authority, A single County (Howard and PG both have pilots)

Just looking right now. What, where, who, how, ? ? ?

Timing for implementation is down the road. Collection contracts need to be reviewed. Is yard/food under the exclusive language? Carts or containers ? ? ? What will be the interest level in participating in a program? A "YUK" factor. If food and yard – big. If just food – small. Locks, carts, color, size, wheels, (provide or not) . . . At \$25 container - \$5.7M to outfit the County.

Do we run a Pilot program? Compulsory or by subscription? What participation will we get? Numbers? Timing? Costs? How does pilot material get processed?

SWAC feedback? What thoughts do we have?

By what metrics do we measure “success”? Reduce Solid Waste to the RRF. Environmental Protection does enter into the decision process.

Takoma Park – 50% opt in, 75-80% set out rate.

County has contacted multiple other jurisdictions on methods, results, costs. Learning what questions to ask. Comments: participation is higher when mixed with yard waste. Combined changes process.

Freestate Farms project in Va. Another place to look for a potential pilot outlet.

What policy drivers are being considered? ?? Pay as you throw ?? Issues with management of the process. System Benefits charge is reflective of a responsive cost structure.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Cheryl Kollin – Food Recovery Council. Community Food Rescue. Pamphlet.

Jackie DeCarlo – Manna – Food reuse hierarchy. Is there a sense of reuse quality of the food in the waste stream? Not possible as it is through a truck.

Susan Eisendrath – Compostable containers will provide Carbon into the waste stream. Unfortunately this may lead to a contamination problem. Don't go down the compostable bag path. ie: forks It will be difficult to differentiate between compostable and non. End up contaminating the process.

Susan Wrexler – Change the compost bins to a food scrap compatible design? This will allow a better product. Folks are currently using the non-rodent proof design for food.

Susan Eisendrath – any compost market studies yet? Way in the weeds. Need to establish MS4 co-benefits. Quality, certification.

Heather Bruskin – How else to stay involved? Welcome to attend these meetings – potentially join.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Approve Past Minutes: November 5, minutes not approved as written.

Scribe: Mark is now recording secretary.

Subcommittee Reports:

Planning: no report

Recycling: no report

Budget: no report

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Nominations and Elections for 2016 (Chair and Vice): Sara and Jessica – president and vice.

Boards and Commissions Recruiting Process: Sara needs data for the letter. Sara D will be writing the letter and has our approval to send the letter.

ISWA: September 2017 in Baltimore. Tours, support, a chance to be involved.

SWAC Member Open Discussion: SWAC's desire to be involved in the food scrap decision making process was once again passed along to Robin. The briefing we received was appreciated but the membership wants to be able to provide input to the process. We are an advisory board. We do not want to see a decision made and presented without an opportunity for our input prior to a direction being pursued.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:23.

## **ACRONYMS**

CC	County Council	CE	County Executive
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	CPI	Consumer Price Index
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group	DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection	FY	Fiscal Year
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning	HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
MES	Maryland Environmental Services	MC	Montgomery County
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee	RRF	Resource Recovery Facility