

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES  
November 4, 2020**

**SWAC MEMBERS**

Kelly Doordan, Chair Heidi Lovett, Vice-Chair Gina Angiola Sara Bixby	Adam Diamond Sara Ducey Paula Jenson Carol Jones	Ellen Ryan Mark Symborski (non voting member)
--	---	--

Absent: Linda Andrews, Jamie Andrews, Mark Freedman, Jelena Krstic, Candy Schimming  
David Winstead

**COUNTY STAFF - DRRM**

---

Lisa Shine, Executive Assistant, Recycling and Resource Management Division (RRMD)  
Willie Wainer, Director, RRMD  
David Frank, Recycling Planning, Policy, Regulation, and Compliance; Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD

**GUESTS**

---

Brendon Clayton, Triple R  
Jennifer Green, DHS

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:36 PM on November 4, 2020 as a Zoom on-line meeting. Introductions were made. Acronyms are posted at the bottom of this report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Approved October minutes**

- Minutes were posted in the shared Google Drive. No corrections were offered.
- Sara Ducey - moved to accept the minutes; Sara Bixby seconded.
- No opposed. Passed by unanimous consent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **New SWAC liaison between SWAC and the division:** Willie Wainer introduced David Frank, Waste Reduction and Recycling, RRMD, who will be the new liaison between SWAC and the division and will attend all SWAC meetings.
2. **Discussion of RRMM Programmatic Options proposed for FY 2021, 2022, 2023**
  - Willie Wainer provided an overview of the programmatic options spreadsheet. (See attachment.) This document is their tool for prioritizing and scheduling the various activities they want to implement over the next three years to strive toward the county zero waste goal. The elements are up for discussion (except for elements that are already in process).
  - Sara Bixby raised the question: for which items will RFPs be issued?  
Willie said it is possible that only item that might use an RFP is the curbside pilot.  
Sara explained that SWAC would like to have a role in RFPs issued before they go final.

- Sara said, similarly, if there are Staff Implementation Plans where items will be implemented in-house rather than by contracting out, it would be good to have SWAC provide a review and comment before they go final.
- Following up on this point, Heidi asked for more direction from the RRMM Decision as to which items were priorities for SWAC.

#### **RRMD priorities for SWAC input for 2021**

- **Residential food scraps recycling program:** Willie said the highest priority now for review and comment is the residential food scraps recycling program: They have a draft plan for the pilot; some decisions will be made soon. He will send SWAC the draft plan shortly. Comments by SWAC by January will be timely (since no scheduled SWAC meeting in December. If a December meeting is scheduled, we may be able to provide comments then.)
  - County has an estimated 65,000 tons of residential food waste comingled with mixed solid waste.
  - Pilot will have 2 routes, of about 850 homes each – one from Subdistrict A (same day pickups as garbage) and one from B (with different days of pickups for garbage), to compare performance in the two areas.
- Gina asked if the assumption is that all households should do curbside source separation, or will the County consider other options, such as backyard composting. Willie said the Zero Waste TF work is the roadmap for our program options. There are other options, including backyard composting which is on the list for 2022 programs, and community composting, which is on the list for 2023 programs.

#### **Other elements for FY 2021**

- **Commercial food waste recycling program.** Initiated last year, it is doing well, a lot of commercial entities want to participate. [see prior meeting notes]
- **Curbside recycling contamination project.** Also initiated last year, they are in the process of hiring new staff to support the program. Area 3 has been completed; starting Area 4 now.
- **C&D acceptance at transfer station.** C&D Recovery, a Clarksburg MD Facility, had a fire about 2 years ago, and 45,000 -50,000 tpy ended up at the MoCo MRF. The facility may reopen by the end of the year. MoCo doesn't necessarily want the C&D waste, since it ends up in landfill. MoCo currently charges \$70/ton – RRMD will be researching how that fits into market, and whether it should be adjusted.
- **E-waste (including batteries). The plan is to incorporate e-waste residential pickup for areas 9-13,** 72,000 homes. Households will call and schedule pickups. This will reduce the incidence of households putting batteries in the trash, which leads to fires.
- **Post-consumer food recycling in MoCo cafeterias.** Delayed because cafeterias are not open.
- **Recycling bins for Wheaton public spaces.** They have been ordered.
- **Feasibility study for marketing plastic bricks and pellets and for FixIt/Repair Clinics.** They have not been started.

### **3. Proposed Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-04 to expand on-farm composting in Montgomery County**

- ZTA 20-04 allows an increase from 20% to 50% in the percentage of off-site material that can be used in accessory composting and mulching uses on farms
- Various advantages of the proposal were discussed, including opening up more economic opportunities for farmers, providing multiple locations for haulers to recycle organics potentially reducing hauling costs, increasing local processing capacity, and by spreading out compost reducing the footprint in any on location.

**ACTION ITEM:**

- Adam presented a draft letter supporting the amendment, which the committee approved in principle. We will clean it up and send it forward. Ducey moved the motion, and Paula seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Thrive Montgomery 2050 status report ([Thrive Montgomery 2050](#)) - Mark Symborski (MNCPPC)**

- The [Public Hearing Draft Plan](#) is a very big picture high level document – the details are in subsequent plans (e.g., sector plans, etc.).
  - Last comprehensive update in 1969; core plan has not been updated since then.
  - Priorities are economic health, community equity, environmental resilience.
  - For Healthy and Sustainable Environment, key issues are
    - Climate change: mitigation, adaptation, resilience
    - Environmental equity
- Waste mentions:
- Vision for a healthy and sustainable environment: Reuse, recycling and composting of food and yard waste results in very little municipal solid waste generation.
  - Action 7.4.2.b: Analyze the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, including industrially zoned land, to support an evolving agricultural industry. Identify recommendations for flexibility in accommodating industries and services that support agriculture including food processing, distribution, sale, consumption, and waste management.
  - Current status: public draft plan released Oct. 1

**ACTION ITEM:**

- The committee will have a working meeting the first Wed of December to discuss comments on the **Thrive Montgomery 2050**, and will provide a public notice if we can achieve a quorum. Committee members to review the document and prepare comments/suggestions on specific wording (keeping in mind that the overall document is intended to be high level and visionary)

**ELECTIONS FOR SWAC LEADERSHIP**

Nominations were made and accepted in the October and November meetings:

- Heidi Lovett nominated as chair (Kelly Doordan moved/Sara Ducey seconded)
- Kelly Doordan nominated Adam Diamond as Vice-Chair and Sara Ducey seconded the motion. (Gina Angiola respectfully declined the nomination for Vice-Chair after the October meeting).
- No one was opposed to the nominations, the nominations were approved unanimously.

**Other updates**

Heidi and Paula are interviewing candidates for the forthcoming vacancies on SWAC.

Linda Andrews, Sara Ducey and Mark Freedman are leaving the committee as of the end of December.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- December: no regularly scheduled meeting, we will poll everyone about availability for a meeting to discuss the Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan public review draft and the pending Residential Food Scraps Recycling Program. If one can be scheduled with a quorum, we will provide public notice of the meeting.
- January 6, 2021.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 (Heidi made the motion; Adam seconded).  
The next meeting is set for January 6, 2021 at 5:30 PM, on-line.

## **ACRONYMS**

C&D	Construction and Demolition
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
EfW	Energy from Waste
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
FTE	Full Time Employee
FY	Fiscal Year
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment
MC	Montgomery County
MES	Maryland Environmental Services
MRF	Materials Recycling Facility
MML	Maryland Municipal League
NTR	Nothing to Report
OCC	Old Corrugated Cardboard
OLO	Office of Legislative Oversight
PAYT	Pay As You Throw
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
RRMD	Recycling & Resource Management Division
SA	Service Area for County collection
SAYT	Save As You Throw
SCA	Sugarloaf Community Association
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
SWMP	Solid Waste Management Plan
T&E	Transportation and Environment Committee
TPD	Tons per Day
ZWTF	Zero Waste Task Force