

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 23, 2022, 5:30 – 7:30pm

## MEETING NOTES

### SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Carol Jones, Chair Robin Barr (MML rep.), Vice Chair Adam Diamond, Secretary	Paula Jenson Fred Kranz Heidi Lovett	Ellen Ryan Candy Schimming Mark Symborski, (MD NCPPC rep, non- voting member)
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**SWAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sara Bixby

### COUNTY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Willie Wainer, Director, Recycling and Resource Management Division (RRMD)

Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Aide, RRMD

David Frank, Recycling Planning, Policy, Regulation, and Compliance, RRMD

Jeff Camera, Section Chief, Resource Conversion Section, RRMD

Eileen Kao, Section Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling, RRMD

Scott McClure, Management and Budget Specialist III, DEP

Chris McGough, Deputy Chief, RRMD

Alan Pultyniewicz, Recycling Coordinator, RRMD

Dave Rosenbaum Program Manager II, Materials Management Section, RRMD

Anthony Skinner, Section Chief, Business Operations, DEP

Vicki Wan, Section Chief, Strategic Services, DEP

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Susan Eisendrath, Amy Maron

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:30 PM on March 23, 2022.

### Review of Proposed Changes in FY 23 Budget

#### Overview, Willie Wainer

- **Total Budget** for FY 23—up 5.3% from FY FY22, from \$135 million (m) to \$142m, FTEs increased 1.55 to 113.61 FTE
- **Solid waste system charge** is Increasing for households, largely because of 100% increase in costs for new collection contracts for recycling in areas 9-14. These costs were partially offset by savings elsewhere.
  - Single family rate will see solid waste fee increase 17.7%.
  - Lower increases for multi-family, leaf vacuuming and non-residential charges.
  - All sectors contribute to basic waste processing infrastructure maintained by county.
  - Single families pay \$34.50/month for refuse collection, yard waste, bulk and recycling collection, as well as drop-off as transfer station. Is a competitive rate.

- **Residential recycling collection budget** up 24% to \$39.2 million.

**Waste Reduction & Recycling Programs, Eileen Kao**

- Budget: FY23 budget held steady from FY 22; food scraps recycling—decrease (9%) to \$1.8 million because less commercial food scraps being collected in partnership program, leading to lower transportation expenses and tipping fees.
- Ongoing initiatives identified in Strategic Plan on Food Scraps include: single family residential curbside collections pilot; commercial food waste recycling partnership; backyard composting food scraps with rodent proof compost bins (testing & evaluation); community composting; technical assistance and education for all on food scraps recycling.

**Transfer Station, Jeff Camera**

- MRF upgrade (in approved CIP budget) is in design phase.
- They have identified future opportunities for ability to absorb single stream material coming from places outside the County doing single-stream collection collections, and will leave room for this to be added to facility in the future.
- 24% increase in transfer station budget because of capital equipment purchases for handling of tires, electronic waste. Increase recycling capacity.

**Automation, Vicky Wan,**

- Disposal fund budget up 26% up to \$988K, collection fund budget up 23% to \$165K
- At transfer station, added safety measures including loudspeaker warnings when unsafe actions being taken by residents dropping off or collecting materials.

**RRF & out of county haul, Jeff Camera**

- Decrease of 14% because of lower capital expenditures, and more revenue from electricity (\$3.6 million increase) and less ash.

**Questions about budget doc performance measures:**

- Big decrease in total food scraps collected county-wide between FY20 and FY21. Why is that?  
*RRMD:* not disappointed in progress made, given pandemic.  
Last waste composition study was completed in 2016. RRMD staff have started on new, countywide waste composition study. Will expect to see big shift in food scraps recycling collections.
- Last year SWAC commented that performance measure outcomes don't reflect zero waste goals/progress: we should see solid waste going down, and recyclables going up.  
*RRMD:* Aggregating commercial and residential in MSW and recycling obscures the progress in the residential sector, where trash is down, recycling is up. County has little influence over commercial recycling, which is not progressing at the same rate.

**Review of RRMD Programs**

**Commercial food scraps recycling:** RRMD is doing outreach to 1,620 businesses potentially impacted by statewide food scrap composting requirement.

**Food scrap diversion in MCPS:** Currently MCPS headquarters and preparation facility for entire school district are diverting food scraps.

**Food waste reduction education campaign:** RRMD is finalizing a rejuvenated expanded campaign to reduce wasted food, will launch in spring. Currently our efforts to provide education around food waste reduction includes work on edible food recovery.

**Community composting:** Working with partners to create demonstration sites, as well as working with community gardens on composting.

**Food recovery:** Taking a deep look at CA implementation of recovery provisions in California’s SB1383 bill (requiring recovery of 20% of currently disposed edible food for human consumption by 2025): are there lessons for the County? Will make recommendations to CE on what can be done regarding food recovery.

**Single family residential food scrap recycling collection:**

- Participation rates in food scraps collection vary by area.
- Need most representative data to plan effectively for countywide program (1.1 million residents spread over 540 sq. miles): aiming for 3400 households .
- Good participation rate among households to other US local jurisdictions.
- In the next several months will know if need to expand pilot to cover 3400 households to test various features, or go countywide (subdistrict A & B).

**Curbside recycling contamination project:** Initiative started in FY2021. Will continue following recycling trucks and tagging improperly sorted containers, indicating they cannot be picked up this week because of contamination. Have seen less contamination because of outreach, education and “OOPS tags.”

**Backyard Composting:** A very robust program, with almost 500 volunteers. The conduct extensive data collection: weighing food scraps, taking temperature of compost, noting pests, odors, moisture content. RRMD staff person trains people, troubleshoots with volunteers, and provides additional technical assistance/support. Preparing to bring in new group of people for backyard composting.

**Public comments**

- What community composting is happening in County under DEP auspices? How will you address the fact that people do not like the dual chamber composting containers?  
RRMD: we have a continuing conversation with Koiner farm, and MNCPPC and its community garden program to develop community composting sites. We will probably move away from dual chamber container, because they are too small, not durable enough.
- There are 6-8 forested acres next to Transfer Station—this property could be used for MRF and to provide a buffer between MRF and residential developments.  
RRMD: Discussions are continuing.

## SWAC updates

- **Nominations Subcommittee:** They have concluded interviews. Recommendations have been sent to CE office. CE must send to CC for final approval of appointments.
- **Strategic Planning and Budget Subcommittee:**
  - **Action:** following this (March 23) budget presentation, subcommittee will prepare a draft budget letter for discussion and approval at April 6 meeting (and review before meeting)
- **Ad Hoc Consolidation Subcommittee:**
  - **Action:** Subcommittee will develop proposals for how to support forward movement on consolidation for discussion (tentatively) at May meeting.

## Plans for March and April meetings

- **April 6:** Keith Levchenko, Senior Legislative Analyst, Environment, County Council will brief SWAC on county council priorities, and implementation of Aiming for Zero Waste TF recommendations; SWAC will discuss budget letter draft.
- **May 4:** (tentative) Continuation of RRMD programmatic spreadsheet discussion; discussion of Ad Hoc Consolidation Subcommittee recommendations.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

## ACRONYMS

C&D	Construction and Demolition	MML	Maryland Municipal League
CC	County Council	OLO	Office of Legislative Oversight
CE	County Executive	PAYT	Pay As You Throw
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
CPI	Consumer Price Index	RRMD	Recycling & Resource Management Division
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group	SA	Service Area for County collection
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection	SAYT	Save As You Throw
FTE	Full Time Employee	SCA	Sugarloaf Community Association
FY	Fiscal Year	SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment	SWMP	Solid Waste Management Plan
MC	Montgomery County	T&E	Transportation and Environment Committee
MES	Maryland Environmental Services	TPD	Tons per Day
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility	ZWTF	Zero Waste Task Force