

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022 – 5:30 – 7:30pm

MEETING NOTES

SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

RRMD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Aide, RRMD

Alan Pultyniewicz, Recycling Coordinator, RRMD

GUEST: Keith Levchenko—Montgomery County Council Senior Legislative Analyst, Environment

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.

Briefing by Keith Levchenko—Montgomery County Council

Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force Recommendations: Montgomery County Council Priorities

Key Activities for Aiming for Zero Waste include the following:

- Potential for replacing RRF
- Upgrade/expansion of MRF will increase processing capacity and be cheaper to run; project is funded and moving forward
- Organics—commercial and residential collection—DEP has several ongoing programs in this area related to commercial, backyard, residential collection/composting
 - Residential food scraps collection pilot will continue
 - Food waste (recycling) processing- “all of the above” needed, from backyard composting to on-farm composting, to centralized composting and anaerobic digestion.
 - Need to increase anaerobic digestion and composting capacity—Western Branch is not enough. Consider upgrading Dickerson yard trim facility to accept food waste.
 - Council wants DEP to propose options that are ready to be considered for funding by the County Council. Want receiving capacity to be adequate for expansion of pilot in timely manner.
- Source reduction & recycling efforts:
 - Continued funding education & outreach

- Development of Resource Recovery Park concept
- Increased collection and recycling of cardboard boxes; prices at \$180/ton
- Increasing Recycling Rates of Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris
- Expanding Recycling Education and Enforcement
- Policy/program frameworks:
 - Subdistrict A&B consolidation. OLO Report suggested implementing policies to encourage small hauler participation.
 - Adopting PAYT in County's Solid Waste Charges to incentivize household waste reduction.
 - Implementation issues with proposed pilot PAYT program—large families will pay more, even if recycling a lot; need consolidation of subdistricts A&B for it to work countywide.
- Addressing Potential RRF Closure
 - DEP has issued RFI for how handle waste once RRF is closed.
 - Increased food waste diversion, by reducing methane emissions, would make landfilling a better option than it is now.
 - Now is time to decide whether to shut down RRF or invest in upgrading it for continued operation. Need to compare cost of upgrading to out-of-county landfilling? Can't close RRF without first changing 10 Year Plan.

Questions and Answers

Q: With new CE and CC how soon might issue of RRF come to fore?

A: Need to walk through with them all the analysis referenced in the Solid Waste Plan.

Q: Very supportive of closing RRF, but don't want to landfill out of county. How can this happen?

A: We do have Site 2 reserved at Dickerson. Would have to look at this option if RRF is to be closed.

What can SWAC do to help move issues forward?

- Annual letter on CE's recommended operating budget is helpful. Shouldn't limit SWAC correspondence to the Budget letter, comments on other issues are also helpful.
- SWAC can point to areas that need more research—recommend Council to engage in further study through OLO or funding a consultant managed by DEP.

Ongoing challenges & opportunities regarding developing new solid waste and recycling facilities

- Site 2, which has been reserved for a possible landfill, is located over an aquifer;
- Council as a whole has not weighed in on using Dickerson Compost Facility for food waste, although individual members have weighed in on this issue.
- Agreement with Sugarloaf Citizen's Association limits options at Dickerson; currently Sugarloaf Citizens Association links RRF closure to use of Dickerson for food waste composting.
- Council could support a zero-waste campaign with money or its own public information staff.

Discussion of SWAC letter to County Council on CE Proposed FY2023 Budget.

- Support Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force recommendations
- Support consolidation of subdistricts A & B, will reduce emissions and facilitate PAYT

- Support increased funding for DEP to support various recycling/waste reduction initiatives. Willie Wainer indicated DEP needs 3-4 new program specialists for new programs.

Motion made and approved to approve the current version of the letter, with a few editorial and non-substantive changes.

Action: Letter will be copy-edited and sent to Lisa Shine by Monday, April 11.

Plan for May and June meetings

- **May 4:** Continuation of presentation and discussion of RRMD programmatic spreadsheet; discussion of Ad Hoc Consolidation Subcommittee recommendations.
- **June 1:** (tentative) Food waste prevention, recovery, and recycling, MCPS.
Action: Invite Lynne Zárate, Director, Division of Sustainability and Compliance, Montgomery County Public Schools

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

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