

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 5, 2022 – 5:30 – 7:30pm

## MEETING NOTES

### SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Carol Jones, Chair Robin Barr (MML rep.), Vice Chair Adam Diamond, Secretary Sara Bixby	Troy Cavell Paula Jenson Fred Kranz Heidi Lovett Amy Maron	Chaz Miller Ellen Ryan Candy Schimming Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep, non- voting)
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**SWAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jasim Ahmed, Shaun Kiviat

### RRMD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

David Frank, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section  
Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Aide  
Marilu Enciso, Senior Planning Specialist, Material Management Section

**GUESTS:** Melissa Filiaggi, MES (SERA contract officer)

**Invited speakers:** Lisa Skumatz, President, SERA; Ann Gibbs, Consultant, SERA; Sara Nichols, Consultant, RRS; David Stead, Vice President, RRS

**Members of the Public:** Mike Ewall, Energy Justice; Carrie Maslan, Resident of Potomac; Glen Tobiason, InnoWacon

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:32pm November 2, 2022.

### **Featured Presentation: Overview of Unit Based Pricing for County-Provided Residential Solid Waste Collection Services Study**

**Speakers:** Lisa Skumatz, SERA; Sara Nichols and David Stead, RRS

- Project has two phases: (1) Planning level feasibility study and (2) detailed analysis of financial impact of various options and pilot planning
- Current status: phase 1 has been completed, RRMD is deciding on which options to pass on to phase 2 for more detailed analysis
- Contractor backgrounds and roles:
  - SERA has conducted SAYT consulting since 1986. Staff are mostly economists, with some trash collection experts. SERA has worked for towns, counties, states, and U.S. EPA.
  - RRS (formerly Resource Recycling Systems, founded in 1986), sub-contractor, has decades of SAYT experience for cities and towns across the US. Staff includes engineers. They work on facilities, outreach, planning.
  - Roles: SERA focuses on feasibility of options in Phase 1, and financial analysis in Phase 2; RRS focuses on engineering/technical aspects, primarily in Phase 2.

- Approach Summary: A data-driven and modeling analysis will be conducted to project how recycling will increase and trash decline, and how payments and revenues will change with implementation of unit-based pricing for trash collection (Save-as-you-Throw, or SAYT).
- Current situation: MoCo has 2 subdistricts – Subdistrict A has 92,000 households that receive County trash, dual-stream recycling, and yard waste collections, with a curbside organics collection pilot also underway; all payments are made to the county through a fee on the property tax bill. Subdistrict B has 126,000 households that contract for their own trash collection and receive County dual-stream recycling and yard waste collections, with a curbside organics collection pilot also underway. Payments for trash are made to private haulers, payments for other services are made to the county.
- Data collection: they have conducted set-out surveys, web surveys, and waste composition analysis. Purpose is to determine:
  - How many gallons on average of trash is set out per household in each subdistrict: how many cans set out, can size, how often set out, and how full they are.
  - How much and which kinds of yard trim materials are set out
  - Which materials recycled regularly, how often
  - How much recyclable material is currently going in trash,
  - How satisfied residents are with service; how likely they are to switch to a lower level of trash service (in subdistrict B, where some haulers offer twice weekly services)
- What they found: trash quantities (median and distribution) are similar in A&B. Subdistrict B reports lower satisfaction with recycling and trash collection. Reception to unit-based pricing: many respondents interested in SAYT in both subdistricts.
- MoCo 2017 Waste Composition study shows that recyclable materials set out in trash include: twice as much recoverable paper (13%) as there are commingled materials (plastic, glass, aluminum, 6%); very little yard trim (3%, atypical relative to other communities); and “a great deal of food” (about 20%, including food-soiled paper).
- Program options they considered:
  - Five collection options: sized carts semi-automated, bags on street, bags in cart, bags with stickers, sized carts collected with fully automated collection.
  - Two hauler options for trash collection: [Baseline is county contracts in A, and private hauler market in B]; county contracts in A, and private hauler market with hauler ordinance in B; county contracts in A and B.  
*Note:* hauler ordinances typically cover: containerization; price differential percentage; outreach requirements; ability to check records for compliance; general safety
- Key design choice will be the relative size of fixed and variable component of the fees—generally there is more revenue stability but lower recycling as fixed fee component increases.
- Modeling tonnage and subscription impacts from SAYT: the model projects that each scenario will result in reduced tonnage to trash and incinerator ash (range for reduction is 30K-36K tons), where the components are: reduced trash and ash generation (up to 13K tons per year) and increased recycling (5K+ more tons per year to commingled facility; 13K+ more tons per year to paper facility).
  - There will be some increase in “compaction,” which is when people stomp on their trash to make it fit into the bag or container, increasing the weight per unit volume.
- Facility impacts—more material going into Materials Recycling Facility (MRF); less material going from transfer station to RRF; as food scrap collection expands, there will be more food scraps going to processing.
- Each of the program options has pros and cons.

- Outreach, education and enforcement will be needed to address potential challenges, such as illegal dumping, vermin, contamination, injuries, nonpayment; all problems are solvable, but are easier to mitigate with the hauler contract option relative to the ordinance option for subdistrict B

#### Q & A

--Will this cover multi-family residences? No, only for single family and small multi-unit households (for which County supplies trash services in Subdistrict A and recycling services in Subdistricts A and B).

--What are implications of ordinance and contract options for revenue stability and diversion rate? More diversion and more predictable revenue with contract option.

#### **Discussion of Budget Memo to RRMD (Willie Wainer): Chaz Miller**

All SWAC members were provided a copy of the draft budget memo to RRMD (Willie Wainer). The draft memo was approved with minor modifications.

#### **Election of SWAC Officers**

The following officer nominations were approved by a vote of 11 to 0: Carol Jones, Chair; Robin Barr, Vice Chair; Adam Diamond and Amy Maron, Co-Secretaries.

#### **Updates from RRMD**

- David Frank—Phase 2 of the residential food scraps curbside collection pilot has begun. The two new areas are in North Bethesda and Germantown (which has multiple townhouses). The county has issued a collections RFP and is hoping to award a food scrap collections contract soon and start new pilot collections by the end of the year. Only one proposal was received. The county shortened the contract to get under the value limit and avoid labor-peace agreement. This is a 9-month contract. Only 2 bids were received on a first phase.
- Phase 1 of food scrap collections has about 1,000 participants in the two areas combined—Silver Spring (665) and Potomac (337).
  - In Silver Spring, 32% of the eligible homes have signed up; in Potomac, only 18% have done so.
  - Silver Spring has much higher weekly rate for putting out carts (95%) relative to Potomac (75%), though the Potomac rate has been increasing.

#### **Updates from SWAC**

- Sara Bixby: Trash Collection Districts Consolidation Committee: We are working towards a shared understanding of the implications of subdistrict consolidation. In one meeting we discussed the application of an area in B to receive County trash services. In another meeting, Troy Cavell (SWAC member) presented a haulers' perspective on consolidation. He has volunteered to create a GIS map of subdistrict B identifying the location of homes in homeowner associations (HOA), which contract with a single hauler for all solid waste services. He believes it is a large share of the SF homes in B. He anticipates finishing by the SWAC January meeting. To address how small hauler competitiveness concerns can be addressed, we will be inviting speakers from communities that have gone through the consolidation process, including PG County and Baltimore County.
- Carol Jones: This is our last official meeting of SWAC for 2022. Future topics could include C&D, the final SAYT report, labor peace agreements, and the systems benefit charge. Carol will talk to Willie about what topic(s) make the most sense for our January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

## **ACRONYMS**

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