

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – 5:30 – 7:30pm**  
**MEETING NOTES**

**SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Carol Jones, Chair Robin Barr, Vice Chair Adam Diamond, Secretary Amy Maron, Secretary	Troy Cavell Fred Kranz Heidi Lovett	Chaz Miller Ellen Ryan Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep, non-voting)
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**RRMD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

David Frank, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, Division of Recycling and Resource Management

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:32pm.

SWAC approved the draft minutes from the February and March SWAC meetings.

**SWAC Recommendations to County Council re CE’s Recommended FY2024 Budget**

SWAC discussed the draft letter distributed by the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, from SWAC to the County Council, with recommendations regarding the County Executive's Recommended FY2024 budget for RRM/DEP. After some revisions were accepted, SWAC approved the letter with a unanimous vote.

**Maryland 2023 Legislative Update: Chaz Miller**

Carol made the point that SWAC’s role in advising the County includes recommending local AND state legislation necessary to accomplish effective solid waste management. She raised the question for consideration as we listen to the outcomes from 2023: do we want to write an advisory to the County Office of Intergovernmental Relations about what we think next year’s legislative priorities should be? There was a general sense that SWAC should weigh in on appropriate legislation.

**A. Bills that passed include:**

**Two compost-related bills reaching the finish line (Both awaiting signature)**

1. (HB0253/SB0262) Requires MDE to adopt regulations to exempt an on-farm composting facility from the requirement to obtain a permit if
  - the on-farm composting facility uses 10,000 SF of area or less for active food scrap composting,
  - composts only certain materials, and
  - meets various record keeping stipulations.
2. (HB0586/SB0782) Requires each unit of State government to include certain specifications for certain products produced from recycled or organic materials when establishing procurement specifications for compost, mulch, or other soil amendments or recycled aggregate.

- The Maryland Green Purchasing Committee is tasked with establishing specifications for purchasing of compost, mulch, or other soil amendments.

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** very slimmed-down version of the EPR for Packaging bill, which adds a requirement for a needs assessment study (SB0222).

**Electric truck bills:**

1. **Clean Transportation and Energy Act (HB550)** provides financial incentives for businesses and individuals to purchase electric trucks and install EV charging equipment and
2. **Clean Trucks Act of 2023 (HB 230)** sets requirements for vehicle manufacturers to sell a rising annual percentage of zero-emission vehicles like electric trucks, delivery vans and school buses in the state beginning in model year 2027.

**Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Sunset Act) HB161 - Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority - Evaluation, Termination of Bond Authority, and Assumption of Functions, Employees, and Contracts**

Would prohibit the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority from issuing bonds beginning June 1, 2023; requiring the Department of Legislative Services to evaluate the Authority providing enough detail for the General Assembly to determine whether the Authority should continue in its current form; etc. Would allow MES to assume responsibilities until a decision is made about where responsibilities should be placed.

**Income Tax Credit - Food Donations by Qualified Farms - Sunset Repeal and Alterations (Farmers Feeding Families Act) HB0584**

Would repeal sunset provisions for a tax credit against the State income tax for fresh farm and organic fresh farm food donations; alter the amounts of the tax credit from 50% to 100% of the value of an eligible food donation and from 75% to 100% of the value of the donated certified organic produce a qualified farm is eligible to receive under certain circumstances; apply the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022; etc.

**B. Bills (highlighted by MRN, its position is in the parentheses) that did not pass include:**

- HB0342 Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program (Support with amendments)
- HB0031 Products and Packaging – Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising for Recycling (Support)
- HB0284 Reducing Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility (Support with amendments)
- HB0255/SB0260 Maryland Paint Stewardship (Support)
- HB0847/SB0447 Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup (Support)
- HB1089 Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (Do not support)
- HB0930 Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment
- HB1139 Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use (grant program)
- HB0517 Drug Manufacturers - Drug Take-Back Programs (Take It Back Maryland Act)

**RRMD/DEP updates:**

- Willie Wainer is now acting DEP director; Adriana Hochberg has left County government to serve as Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy at USEPA.
- Jason Mathias, the legislative manager for DEP, left at the end of the year and the position is being rewritten.
- Organics contract: EA Consulting project is underway.
- PAYT study is nearly complete.
- Residential food scraps pilot - 3rd neighborhood pilot underway. Montgomery Village is 4th one. More than 700 signed up in Silver Spring; Potomac Area 9 is around 350.

**Future meetings and tours**

**May 3 (next week):** Featured presentation will be a briefing by Anthony Skinner on “Understanding the Solid Waste Services Charge.” SWAC is seeking to understand: How are the various components determined? What is the basis of the proposed increases for FY 2024 (are they driven by financial accountability standards or by policy goals?) And what aspect of this fee structure poses challenges to setting up a variable-rate pricing system for trash collection (aka SAYT or PAYT)?

**June 7:** SWAC supported the proposal to ask Eileen Kao to talk about ongoing education campaigns on food waste and zero waste more broadly.

**Facility tours:** Carol inquired about interest among members in touring various facilities. The facility with the greatest interest is the Dickerson Yard Trim Compost Facility. She will inquire about scheduling options and will then send out a Doodle poll. Other facilities of interest include the Prince George’s Compost Facility and the Resource Recovery Facility.

SWAC has no official meetings scheduled for July or August, but we have reserved July 12 as a potential date in July, if a meeting is deemed necessary for important SWAC business.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

**ACRONYMS**

C&D	Construction and Demolition	MML	Maryland Municipal League
CC	County Council	MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
CE	County Executive	OLO	Office of Legislative Oversight
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	PAYT	Pay-As-You-Throw
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
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility	TPD	Tons per Day
		ZWTF	Zero Waste Task Force