

Monday, December 18, 2023, 5:30 – 7:30pm
MEETING NOTES

SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Carol Jones, Chair Adam Diamond, co-Secretary Amy Maron, co-Secretary Chaz Miller Ellen Ryan	Troy Cavell Fred Kranz Heidi Lovett	Ellen Ryan Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep, non-voting)
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SWAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Barr, Vice Chair, Heidi Lovett

DEP STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Willie Wainer, RRMD, Director
Eileen Kao, RRMD, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section
David Frank, RRMD Waste Reduction and Recycling Section
Lisa Shine, RRMD Executive Administrative Aide

GUEST: Jon Monger, Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

SWAC Perspective on Current RRMD Priorities

Before Jon Monger spoke, Carol provided SWAC’s perspective on current priorities.

County ongoing analysis of alternatives to incineration:

- SWAC has no formal position on alternatives to incinerator, but we believe both landfills and incinerators pose substantial risks. RRMD needs to conduct careful analysis and seek public comment, comparing incinerator against all alternatives, accounting for environmental, public, and economic considerations, and including distributional analysis for all stakeholders.
- SWAC strongly supports implementation of Zero Waste programs. Need to emphasize source reduction and reuse before recovery/recycling, and disposal.
- Food scraps should be highest priority for removing from the waste stream.
- For food waste, global warming reduction potential is 10x greater per ton of source reduction than per ton of recycling, according to ReFED

Consolidation of Subdistrict B trash collection under public contracting.

Carol provided an overview of SWAC’s report, [Consolidating Subdistrict B Trash Collection: Lessons Learned from Other Communities to Address Hauler Concerns, A First Look](#), which reviews obstacles to consolidation and paths to overcome them.

Featured Discussion: Jon Monger, Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Topic: Montgomery County Zero Waste Priorities.

Jon joined DEP in August 2023 from USEPA, where he was Assistant Deputy Administrator under Biden. A big reason for joining DEP was because of its active and engaged citizenry. He is grateful to SWAC for doing research into what’s working around the country.

Overview of current efforts to improve waste management in county

- We have an opportunity to make progress with our materials management system.
- We are reviewing different technologies to replace the incinerator.
- RRMD is looking at solid waste processing technologies that have a proven long-term track record of serving communities and can be adapted to the system we have.
- We've asked our contractors to recommend a suite of technologies that can work for MC, evaluating environmental, economic, EJ, policy considerations.
- We need to be a leader. Get highest and best use of the materials. We sell some of our materials and make money.
- Our goal for the next 20-30 years goal is to continue to provide exceptional solid waste service.
- We are developing a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan throughout the county.
- We would be interested in SWAC's ideas about funding sources and for innovative technologies for waste processing.

Q&A from SWAC members

Q: How will you reach out to the stakeholders in the community?

A: I have been doing listening tours around the county in equity communities at their invitation. They haven't been focused on zero waste. I don't know the answer yet.

Q: How do policies to promote behavioral change fit into the alternatives analysis?

A: This is under Eileen Kao's section. It will definitely be included into the program implementation.

Q: What do you see as community point of entry?

A: I keep in mind business owners (like my brother) who have a lot of responsibilities. Need to meet people where they are, need to do more thinking about how to reach people.

Q: What role will waste management projects (e.g. food waste reduction) play in the County's participation in the planning for Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, via MWCOG for the DMV planning process and MDE for the State of Maryland planning process?

A: Through the Implementation Grants (applications due April 1), EPA will distribute \$4.3B - but the projects need to be in the Priority Climate Action Plans due March 1. We are very aware of this and are assessing the opportunity to apply. We may join other jurisdictions in applying as consortia.

RRMD updates. Willie Wainer.

CPRG: We have a representative on the grants committee to help us apply for the CPRG Implementation grant program (Marilu Enciso). We proposed a number of projects and have meetings scheduled, mostly related to food scraps/organics and upgrade of MRF.

Q: Will you emphasize public education?

A: Not sure yet. Please send me information on this.

Upgrades at the Shady Grove Transfer Station: (slide show) Over the last 6 months we have:

- Changed entry way for commercial vehicles—intended to reduce congestion and lines outside station—expand another line, 120 more vehicles can be in line—taking pressure off incoming road.
- Added new dedicated public access lane to the public unloading facility.
- Added separate Scrap Metal Load Out Lane—now separate from where residents were unloading waste

- Expanded electronics recycling area; also created area for textiles and bicycles. Have area for cars to park, and then drop off electronics—solves a safety problem that existed before with stopped cars stopping through traffic.
- Built sheds for textiles. Created bicycle donation unloading area (bikes go to nonprofits).
- There will be a free construction equipment pickup area.
- Replaced fuel tank. Has canopy to protect against elements. Added lights as well. Safer and more efficient for fueling of trucks.
- Added 2 new services—1) durable medical equipment—has been huge success—since start of program—recycled 1,000 pieces of durable medical equipment. About 25,000 lbs. with a value of \$170,000. 2) mattress and box spring recycling—so far recycled about 230 tons of mattresses and box springs- doing in coordination with Turbo Haul out of Baltimore
- Added new side-loader for loading containers onto rail cars. Widened lanes and access points to rail yard.
- Added new radiation detectors in upper lot—making site safer
- Installed Tipping Floor Lane Laser Bays – on tipping floor itself—piloting this program—Using lasers instead of blocks to separate each bay—can have more trucks unloading at the same time. Use lasers to mark unloading stations. Will go from 8 to 14 unloading stations. Will be up and running in the beginning of 2024.
- Trying to consolidate all of the grinding area activities together.

Other updates:

- Outlook of Casey property for a possible resource recovery park: the asking price is “out of reach.”
- B&L (contractor) is taking the lead to develop the implementation plan for a SAYT pilot, which will produce it more quickly than if done by staff with other responsibilities.
- Grade 27 position opening. Eileen received the initial eligibility list on Thursday and said that they are scheduling interviews to be completed after the new year. Open until filled.

SWAC Updates

Budget letter recommendations

- 1) implement policies and programs to promote zero waste-oriented behavior change
 - Subdistrict consolidation
 - Enact PAYT
 - Expand education and outreach promoting source reduction
- 2) establish performance goals, monitoring
- 3) launch intensive public education campaigns
- 4) hire more staff to implement zero waste programs

SWAC will vote on January 10, 2024, on the new letter. Chaz will get the letter out this week to the budget committee; comments provided by December 27 will be incorporated into the draft he sends out to all of SWAC.

SWAC Accomplishments 2022-2023: Carol outlined SWAC accomplishments during her two-year tenure as Chair: Consolidation report, annual budget letters, input on improving the RRMD website which

Eileen says is slated to be up by January, added Zero Waste actions to Climate Action Plan reporting, and conducted a survey of MC municipalities' food scrap collection/drop-off programs.

Appointment of new SWAC members: The interview committee is currently conducting interviews of applications received from the MC Office for Boards, Committees and Commissions. Carol and Heidi's terms expire at the end of the year; they can stay on SWAC until their positions are filled.

SWAC elections:

The slate of candidates running for 2024 is:

- Chair: Amy Maron
- Vice Chair: Robin Barr
- Secretary: Adam Diamond

The new slate was approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:23 pm.

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
DEP Department of Environmental Protection
EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FTE Full Time Employee
FY Fiscal Year
MDE Maryland Department of the Environment
MC Montgomery County
MES Maryland Environmental Services
MRF Materials Recovery Facility
MML Maryland Municipal League
MCPS Montgomery County Public Schools
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
SF Single family
SWAC Solid Waste Advisory Committee
SWMP Solid Waste Management Plan

T&E Transportation and Environment Committee
TPD Tons per Day
TPW Tons per Week
ZWTF Zero Waste Task Force