

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – 5:30 – 7:30pm**  
**MEETING NOTES**

**SWAC members in attendance:**

Amy Maron, Chair	John Meyer, III
Robin Barr, Vice Chair	Fred Kranz
Kaela Martins, Secretary	Dapo Awe
Chaz Miller	Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep,
Peter Mukerjee	nonvoting)
Michelle Ennis	

**SWAC Members absent:** Barry Shanoff, Lauren Greenberger, Dawn Selis, Andrew Cassilly, Troy Cavell

**DEP Officials in attendance:**

Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Assistant to the RRMD Division Director  
David Frank, Technical Liaison to SWAC  
Kaley Laleker, DEP, Division Director for Zero Waste  
Alan Pultyniewicz, RRMD  
Eileen Kao, RRMD, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section  
Hellen Ojwang, Program Management Specialist  
Lonnie Heflin, Section Chief  
Anthony Skinner, Chief, Business Operations  
Scott McClure, Business Operations

**Guests**

**Members of the public**

David Rosenbaum, Linda Bergofsky, DAFIG

**AGENDA**

Meeting started (approx. 5:32)  
January 2025 Minutes approved (approx. 5:38)

**DEP Recycling and Resource Management Division FY26 Budget Overview** Lonnie Heflin, Alan Pultyniewicz, Eileen Kao, and Anthony Skinner (approx 5:40)

- Refuse collection rates proposed budget increase
  - o Single family – 31% proposed budget increase or \$96.50
  - o Multi-family – proposed budget increase of 104.4% or 19.98

- Disposal fund proposed budget increase of 23.1% due to installation and maintenance of camera system, reallocation of staffing, IT support contract increase, and radio equipment replacement
- Collection fund proposed budget decrease of 41.5% due to reallocation of staffing
- Food scraps and management programs proposed budget increase of 2.7% to \$1.97 million
  - o Continue implementation of recommendations established in strategic plan for advanced composting, compost use, and food scraps diversion
    - Focus on reducing food waste through Food is Too Good to Waste Campaign
  - o Potential pilot/study to increase the amount of edible food recovered in Montgomery County.
  - o Increase backyard composting and on-site composting with food scraps
  - o Education and training to help residents with purchase compost bins and how to successfully backyard compost with food scraps
  - o Increase efforts with business, commercial and multifamily properties in the county to provide assistance and support as they establish and launch food scrap recycling programs
  - o Looking to add food scrap bins to more farmers market's locations
- Residential recycling collection proposed budget increase of 4.9% to \$44.1 million due to contract extensions, increased number of households, and contractor support for delivery/repair or recycling carts
- Refuse collection proposed budget increase 6.9% to \$11.8 million due to contract extensions and increased number of households
- Transfer station proposed budget increase of 6.2% due to contract extensions, expanded processing and recycling programs for materials like mattresses, plastic films, batteries, electronics, and household hazardous waste
- Zero waste strategy implementation decrease of 67% (\$2.04 million) due to project management/support staff augmentation
- Recycling center proposed cost increase of 2.3% due to contract services through B&L and Arcadis for zero waste analysis work.
- Dickerson Master Plan FY26 proposed budget is \$92,460. Supports the Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group (DAFIG)
- Yard Trim Compost Facility FY26 proposed budget of \$78.35 million.
  - o Replacement of bagging equipment, grinding equipment and wheel loader
- Proposed Increase of \$36 million for resource recovery facility related to significant increases in transportation and disposal for ash residue as well as other non-recyclables.
- Site 2 properties (located in Dickerson, MD) proposed budget of \$448,129. County executive has direction to sale a portion of the property but there are ongoing maintenance expenses for those properties.

#### Public Comment/Questions

- Linda Bergofsky, DAFIG

- Background on the Site 2 Properties. One of them has historical significance. So, some of the buildings on it are of historical importance and cannot be torn down. One of them has a house that's kind of falling apart. They used to be on working farms. They used to have families living in them, but that's not the case now. Not worth the county maintaining the properties and they aren't big enough to develop.
- Question to DEP: For the contract extension does the county pay a penalty if they can come up with an alternative to the resource recovery facility before the end of the contract extension is over?
  - Answer from DEP: No, the service agreement includes language on termination on convenience.
- Question to DEP: As far as the increase in refuse collection fees are concerned, does the county have a way to scale the fees based on larger homes or square footage?
  - Answer from DEP: The cost of the fees is based on the average waste generation of how much trash on average across various areas of the county is generated from a particular household. The county is looking at a save as you throw pilot, which would charge based on the amount of waste disposed by a household. We will be conducting a study to test out operationally what a save as you throw program would look like and the feedback from residents. This pilot should be started soon and would be a yearlong project.

**RRMD Update:** (approx. 6:30 pm)

- Updates provided in presentation above
- Next meeting will include update on costs from Arcadis to work on resource recovery facility

**Amy: Vote on Officers for 2025** (approx. 6:40)

- Kaela Martins voted for secretary
- Robin Barr voted for vice president
- Amy Maron voted for chair

**Lisa: Terms for SWAC Members** (approx. 6:45)

- Currently five people whose terms are soon to be up. Advertisements for these terms will be posted in future.

**Amy: SWAC Representative for DAFIG** (approx. 6:50)

- Role open for SWAC representative to sit on DAFIG. Meetings are quarterly. Next meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Amy to continue serving as representative

**Amy: Subcommittee for Comment on County Budget** (approx. 7:00)

- Lisa Miller, Kaela Martins, Chaz Miller, Amy Maron, and Robin Barr

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

**ACRONYMS**

AD	Anaerobic Digestion
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
MRBT	Material Recovery and Biological Treatment
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 Citizens 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