

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 5, 2013  
*Sara Ducey, Scribe*

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SWAC MEMBERS

Paula Jenson, Chair  
Jerald Boyd  
Mark Freedman  
Mark Symborski

Nicolette deVore, Vice-Chair  
Sara Ducey  
Craig Simoneau,

Robert Brown  
Nicolette deVore  
Farrah Saint-Surin

Absent: L. Levine, K. Miller, S. Saint-Surin, S. Sprague, E. Violette

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COUNTY STAFF

Robin Ennis  
COUNTY STAFF - DSWS

Bill Davidson

Ray Liou

Richard Benjamin  
COUNTY STAFF - MCPS

Sean Gallagher

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GUESTS

Lauren Lovicchio, student journalist, UM, College Park

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 PM on February 5, 2013, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room at the Executive Office Building (EOB). The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all attendees introduced themselves.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**January Minutes:** Reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Subcommittee Reports:** The Planning Subcommittee met in the hour before the Feb. 5 meeting, in the same conference room. Sara Ducey gave a brief summary of their work including:

- 1) The *Ten Year Plan* is due to MDE in February. The Planning Subcommittee will receive the Plan via e-mail (estimated date 3/22/13); review it; and meet to discuss it at a Subcommittee meeting planned for Tuesday, March 26. The Subcommittee will report to the SWAC about the Plan at the April 2, 2013 meeting.
- 2) Bill Davidson presented a *draft copy* of "Waste Recycling by Material Type: Achievement and Opportunity." The table he provided cite data indicating that some recyclables are still be disposed of in the garbage. Of particular interest to our Subcommittee were the data on food waste that enters the solid waste stream. These represent "opportunities" to the county to improve our total recycling % by moving more of our food waste into recycling/composting efforts.

DRAFT DATA for Food Waste Recycling "Opportunity"	Single-Family	Multi-Family	Non-Residential	Currently Disposed (tons/ CY)
Food Waste	44,220	14,951	60,100	119,270

- 3) The *Maryland Bottle Bill* has been introduced at the state legislature; SWAC should review and consider impact of this bill on MC. Mark Freedman circulated a copy of the bill to the SWAC membership and associated MSWS staff, via e-mail, after the meeting.

## **MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC**

Major Program Topic: Montgomery County Public Schools Recycling

Presenters:

Mr. Sean Gallagher (Facilities Manager, MCPS)

Mr. Richard Benjamin (Recycling Program Manager, MCPS).

Ms. Hillary Kirchman (Program Manager), originally scheduled to present, was unable to attend; Mr. Benjamin came in her stead.

## **History**

School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program started three years ago.

Since then there has been a major improvement in recycling – most recently achieving

>40% of mandatory recycling (mixed paper, bottles and yard waste)

> 50% of voluntary items (tires, batteries and metal from bus depots)

In 2012, the combined (required + voluntary) recycling was 12,414 tons.

## **Outreach and Promotional Methods**

- "Energy and Recycling" assembly at two schools/month
- Ronald McNair School has n=50 kids on the "Green Team"
- "Let's Do Lunch" – talk about why recycling is important and how to do it; the Green Team demonstrates how to recycle. Lunch bag recycling demonstration (where do items go?)
- "Read Alouds" go to classrooms and read about recycling
- Contests (both electronic and paper)
  - "walk it, talk it" context
  - Northwest H.S. contest ran for the year – effected 20% reduction in observed paper waste at photocopying/recycling area
  - "Got Paper?" contest encourages recycling as students empty lockers at end of school year. *This event gathered 130 tons of paper last June.*
  - Also—gathered unused and re-useable school supplies – pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. to be distributed later
  - Recycling Spirit for athletic teams
  - Recycling game kit with milk bottles and trio of waste and recycling bins
- Tool Kit – demonstrates how plastics are recycled

## Reducing & Re-Using

- refurbishing computer equipment
- Asked Dell Computer Company to switch from polystyrene packaging to recyclable cardboard, which they did.
- Worked to salvage building materials when they demo-ed for renovation e.g. Paint Branch H.S. where they removed generators, chillers, door knobs and wiring.
- Overall paper use by students was 19% less in 2012 as compares with 2007.
- They are monitoring usage data by school to do school to school comparisons.

## Accolades

Francis Scott Key School achieved LEED Gold Status.

Two schools *and* the MCPS School System have been nominated for “Green Ribbon” status by the US Department of Education. The schools are Summit Hall Elementary and Cedar Grove Elementary, both of which have “amazing environmental programs.” The awards will be made on April 22 (Earth Day), 2013. For more information:

[http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/pressrelease\\_details/2013\\_03\\_15.htm](http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/pressrelease_details/2013_03_15.htm)

## Recognizing/ Communicating Success

They employ subtle competition to encourage recycling.

They have n=6 community superintendents, each covering 30-40 schools

Hillary produces a report and scores schools as: pink, yellow or green.

The quarterly newsletter produced by SERT highlights achievements. It’s called the SERT Flash.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/greenschoolsfocus/flash.shtm>

When asked by a SWAC member what they need help with, Sean Gallagher answered, “the meager budget is a challenge.” Infrastructure (bins, for example) need cleaning and/or replacement. There’s a lot of competition for resources.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 1) SWAC made additional revisions and refinements to upcoming calendar:
  - a. May 7, 2013: Request that Dan Locke, Division Chief, DSWS, should address i) the Gude Property in his presentation at this meeting. Should include alternate uses and/or potential for the Gude Property, including potential for selling property, and ii) potential sites for food waste recycling at Gude and/or Dickerson.
  - b. February, 2014 meeting -- Suggest to have Maryland Department for the Environment attend and present on regulations impacting food waste recycling.
  - c. The November 2013 meeting will feature a presentation on food waste hauling by a representative of the Bates Hauling firm.
- 2) SWAC members discussed wanting to follow the proposed recycling legislation (Maryland Senate Bill #799) and its ramifications on MC.  
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=sb0799&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2013RS>  
<http://www.bottlebill.org/legislation/campaigns/marylandc.htm>
- 3) Mark Freedman offered to serve as scribe for the March 19, 2013 meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The guest thanked us but had no additional comments.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

## **ACRONYMS**

DSWS Division of Solid Waste Services  
CY Calendar Year  
MC Montgomery County  
MCPS Montgomery County Public Schools  
MDE Maryland Department of the Environment  
SERT School Energy and Recycling Team  
SWAC Solid Waste Advisory Committee