The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 PM on March 18, 2014, in the 6th Floor Conference Room at the Executive Office Building (EOB). Introductions were made.

**MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC**

**FY 15 Budget – DSWS Staff**

Key changes in the FY 15 budget submitted by the County Executive were summarized by DSWS Staff:

- Overall budget increased by 8 million (8.1%). Staff member increase of 0.8 FTEs.
- Less money budgeted for multi-media campaign to familiarize the public with the new recycling target ($507K) of 70% by 2020. Adding $310K to education programs. Adding staff in the recycling group. Adding $62K for food scrap composting education.
- No increase in refuse collection rates. Systems Benefit Charges remains the same.
- There is a 3% increase in collection costs – CPI. Number of single family homes served is rising. Recycling containers are 10-plus years old and are showing their age. Providing more replacements than in prior years.
- 27% decrease in funding for the Gude Landfill to continue current operations while MDE considers recommendations for remediation. Increase of 4.4% to $1.5MM for Oaks Landfill maintenance. Small improvement to gas collection system is needed to correct some groundwater contamination and migrating gas issues.
- Slight increase in Waste System Planning funding, no major change in direction.
- Compost Facility – Increase of $1.06MM for deferred equipment replacement (loader and windrow turner), grinder maintenance.
- RRF and Transfer Station– Total expense up 9.7% to $45M.
- Dickerson Site II – maintenance budget, no changes.
- Dickerson Master Plan – No changes.
**Recycling Section Update – Eileen Kao**

Steady increase in diversion rate to 59.8% last year, highest in the State for 2nd year in a row.

Engaging in multi-media effort to familiarize residents/businesses with the new goal of 70% recycling by 2020. Hired one newly created Commercial Recycling Education Specialist. Goal to make 2,000 visits per specialist each year. With new staff, this would be added to current collective goal of 10,000 visits allowing DSWS to help more businesses. Focus on building services providers so they can be certified on Recycling Programs (County Certification). Continuing the Food Scrap Pilot. Tool kit is almost ready for distribution. Enforcement: Focused on commercial organizations and multi-family properties, using an escalating approach. Goal is to achieve full compliance with county law.

Question raised: Is the food that has been “saved” from entering the waste system counted in the diversion rate? Recycling or other? Is there a way to capture the quantities?

Update on Food Scrap Pilot – from start in November 2011 to December 2013, 35 tons of material collected. Working with businesses one-on-one at this point to educate. Choke point is on the processing side: not enough facilities/capacity to serve region. MDE considers comments received on Composting Regulations before taking final action. Anaerobic Digestion was not addressed in the proposed rules, but staff understands may need to be.

Multi-family recycling: 3-4 site visits/year/property. Continue working w/ managers to get infrastructure in place. Increased focus on working directly w/ residents to educate them on the process, get them recycling more.

Yard Waste Reduction – grass-cycle and compost on-site focus.

Volunteer Program – FY13 $45K value donated by volunteers (~1800 hrs of service).

**Gude Landfill Remediation – Peter Karasik**

Need to prevent: Groundwater contamination, methane migration, surface water leachate discharge. Gude was built prior to the enactment of modern landfill regulations. Consequently, it was over-filled, has no buffer, no liner system, and very steep side slopes. Many options were reviewed on potential corrective options. Recommendation to MDE is primarily bioremediation (feed existing bacteria through a series of injection wells, thus encouraging them to break down Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) causing groundwater contamination). MDE is considering recommendation.

Summary of recommendations to MDE: $9M to establish wells and infrastructure to support the clean-up. Operating costs of about $2M/year. Bioremediation, cover improvements, more gas collection.

If approved, there will be a pilot period to determine optimal spacing, depth, and food mix. Project should have a relatively low impact on the community.

Long term use of site – Community recommendations include low impact uses, such as parks. Final decisions on future land use will not be made until there is confirmation that the remediation measures, once in place, are effective.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Minutes: June 2014 Minutes - Approved.

April 8 Scribe: Nicolette deVore appointed.

Subcommittee Reports: Planning Committee met w/ Bill Davidson to review 10 Year plan and submitted comments. Commend Staff for job well done. Committee is drafting a letter to County Council / County Executive on potential improvements and future opportunities.
Report on Annual Meeting w/ Mr. Leggett. Paula Jenson attended and reported that the County Attorney spoke to the group about avoiding “mission creep.” The County Ethics Counsel spoke about committee members’ ethical obligations. Mr. Leggett stated that he sees increased recycling by multi-family homes and businesses as critical to meeting the 70% recycling goal. He also stated that the staff needs to seek markets for additional materials to be recycled.

Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair: Paula Jenson was re-elected Chair and Sara Ducey was elected Vice-Chair. Both votes were unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter on the FY 15 budget – The letter will express support for additional recycling education in the multi-family and business sectors. It will also include support for the additional staffing that is in the current budget. The Chair has SWAC’s approval to draft and send the letter.

Ash Recycling Discussion – SWAC would like to gather more information on potential uses for ash, other than as daily cover in landfills. We will look to add technical presentations to the meetings over the next few months.

DEP New Logo – SWAC members expressed interest in participating in the vetting process.

Next meeting moved from April 1 to April 8.

Support from County Staff – The Committee expressed concern that it needs additional county support, and in particular a person to take the meeting minutes and to handle other clerical aspects of the meetings. Robin Ennis, our liaison, will ask to see if there is a county employee who is willing to volunteer.

County Communication to SWAC – The Committee discussed whether there is additional information that could help it be more effective. Among other things, the Committee was interested in notifications of upcoming meetings that relate to SWAC’s mission. The Committee also discussed having more fulsome periodic discussions with Section Heads about major issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

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