Call to Order – 5:39 p.m.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved via email.

Introductions; a quorum is present.
ADMINISTRATIVE

Solicitation for SWAC nominations will be out in the next month. We have one vacancy and several terms expiring. Bill will send to Sara D. for distribution. For those whose appointments end December 2017 (Sara D., Brenda, Aaron, Carol) who want to continue must reapply in response to that solicitation. (Send a short letter: “I’m a current member, my term ends in December, and I’d like to reapply.”) Let Bill and Sara D. know if you are NOT resubmitting.

Lisa Feldt, director of DEP since January 2015, is leaving the county on November 3. No announcement has been made about who will replace her as an acting director. It is a political appointment position. The County Executive term ends December 2018; the new appointment of Lisa’s replacement will be fairly short term of one year.

Budget is due November 9. The Deputy Director will take the lead on financial issues.

Program Presentation

Collections – Robin Ennis

Overview of services of the division

- Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Collections
- Transfer Station and MRF
- Resource Recovery and Compost Facility

All collections provided by contractors to service 217,000 customers each week. 13 collection services contracts competitively bid – the County is going through bids now for 2018 for 5 new contracts. It is a complex system that has evolved over time in bits and pieces.

Contracts: the winning contractor must purchase new equipment meeting EPA emission standards. Contract terms are 5 years plus two one-year renewals with an annual CPI increase. They can have a fuel increase if exceeds fuel cost exceeds $5 a gallon.

It takes about 8 months to a year from awarding of contract to when vehicles have to be available. The winner must get new trucks even if they are a prior contractor, because they got the prior bid 5-7 years earlier and trucks are now NOT most up to date with EPA standards.

See map: Subdistrict A and B.

Subdistrict A – 92,000 homes – once a week all services on the same day, customers provide their own cans. $70 a year on tax bill for collection.

Bulk waste collection – call 311 or schedule online; pick up on regular trash day

Subdistrict B – 125,000 homes – 1-2 times a week. Some collectors provide carts. Customer selects and pays collector for collection only.

Separate fee for recycling paid by both A and B. All single family and townhomes (217,000) once a week. County provides containers for paper and co-mingled. Truck has two sides, one for each.
Yard trim— all single family and townhomes (217,000). Once a week. No plastic bags. Bundle loose trim.

Scrap metal— all single family and townhomes (217,000). Call 311 or schedule online. Large metal items. Appliances, desks. Small stuff (a key) goes in the trash and then gets pulled out in the WTE facility with magnets. Not all “bulk” pick up by the County contractors in Area B, just metal.

105 trucks in the fleet make 398,000 refuse stops every day, yesterday only 4 missed

Field staff – 13, one for each area. Supervise contractors, code enforcement, customer service, outreach and education. Average 350 calls a day.

4-5 people deliver and repair bins and carts.

Touch a truck days for outreach.

Asceptic containers – go in paper recycling, even with plastic spouts.

Styrofoam – not if contaminated. Expensive to transport.

Leaf vacuum is provided by a different department. Dept of Transportation. Leaves come to the transfer station for processing. Separate fee on tax bill.

None of this applies to incorporated areas independent of county system – i.e., Rockville. They have their own services. Leads to lots of confusion about what can be recycled where in the county.

Central Operations – Don Birnesser

Paper prices going down due to “China Sword” but cardboard goes to domestic markets. China wants contamination rate under 1 percent. China trying to get recycling going in their own country.

Montgomery County has fewer contaminants in paper products. Under 2 percent contaminants.

FY 2017 totals

- Total commingled tonnage received approx. 31,000 tons
- Total paper tonnage 50,000 tons
- FY 2017 revenue $1.8 million from materials
- Surplus material that can’t be processed in a 40 hour week is exported to other facilities. Approx. 12,000 tons exported in FY 2017. Goes to a facility in Pennsylvania.

Montgomery County center received SWANA Gold Excellence Awards twice.

Started a paper processing facility in May. People don’t have to flatten boxes but cardboard is supposed to be in the cart. Collectors will still pick it up.

Have about 50 employees in the co-mingled facility and 9 in the paper processing facility.

Have done some innovative marketing of commodities including mixing green and amber (“gramber”) because there was no value of green alone.

Special commodities recycled: Latex paint, textiles, bicycles – pulled out of recycling and sent to specific markets.
Permanent HHW facility for chemical waste – oil based paint included

Food waste pilot project in food waste plan would send food scraps to the MRF and then go “somewhere” to be determined in the plan. Current plan is by rail to Dickerson to compost.

Recycling Center – 59 employees and contractors (Maryland Environmental Service). Opened 1991. $9 million to design, build and purchase equipment.

New paper processing center at MRF: $3,339,422 to design, build and purchase equipment in 2017. 9 employees and contractors. 16,700 sq feet to receive/store/process paper. 170 tons of material collected and processed daily.

Tours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday during working hours

Transfer station – receives about 1,000 trucks per day through Shady Grove truck entrance and 1,000 – 2,000 smaller vehicles per day through public unloading entrance.

Facility handles 550,000 – 625,000 tons per year of burnable trash. 40,000-60,000 per year of nonburnable waste; about 75,000 tons of wood and yard waste; 8,000 tons per year of scrap metal, electronics and other recyclables.

Yard waste received and ground at transfer station before going to Dickerson.

45 car train goes to Dickerson daily except Sunday

Energy projects – constructing a solar array at Oaks Landfill, have a landfill gas to energy facility at Oaks. Solar panels on top of transfer station building.


Soil from Purple Line construction may be used in the cap; possible cost savings for the county in partnership with Maryland Transportation Authority and their contractor. 90,000 out of half a million cubic yards needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations and Election of 2018 Chair and Vice Chair
  Jessica stepping down as vice chair. Sara D. willing to run for chair. Kelly interested in vice chair.
  Nomination of both by Sara B. Robert seconded. Vote - all yes.
OLD BUSINESS

- Council Bill 2816- Food Waste Strategic Plan update
  Groups met today and gave presentations. People are passionate about what they are working on, but hard to see the big picture because it was done in pieces. Still a work in progress. Lots still to do about how pieces fit together to reduce food waste and how that ties in to the 70% reduction goal. Still needs more of a strategy format with objectives and milestones. Elaine Kao said next draft will be done by January 2018 to submit to county executive and county council. Which recommendations will be included will depend on what the staff sees when they put it all together.

- Subcommittee Reports – Budget to get together next week to set a meeting.
  Recycling and Planning committees have not met. New members need to pick committees.

- Leads on New Members from Industry/Business – Sara B. has some ideas.

- Next meeting January 3.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public attended.

Brenda Pulley reminder: November 15 is America Recycles Day. Keep America Beautiful has resources to help educate the public: Buy recycled content. “10 in the bin.”

Bill Broglie: No defined agenda for January yet. No calendar for each month in 2018. Planning committee needs to meet to determine the calendar and get it to Bill to post. No rate increase in FY 2019 is anticipated, impacts operations – keeps services the same but costs are going up. Staff will be proposing some things about increasing the recycling rate and looking at food waste inclusion; looking at increasing enforcement of waste haulers and what they are bringing to the transfer station. Using existing staff to do more work “can’t be done.” SWAC could weigh in but if there is a mandate to keep budget the same, there is not a lot of room for influence.

ADJOURN at 7:41 p.m.