

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 7, 2018

SWAC MEMBERS

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Sara Ducey, Chair  
Mark Freedman  
David Winstead  
Linda Andrews

Robert Brown  
Mark Symborski  
Carol Jones  
Heidi Lovett

Aaron Hill  
Sara Bixby  
Sue Bumpous  
Jamie Andrews

Absent: Kelly Doordan, Vice Chair    Jessica Weiss

Vacancies: 2

COUNTY STAFF - DSWS

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Bill Broglie – Acting Division Chief, Liaison  
Eileen Kao – Chief, Recycling

Don Birnesser – Chief, Central Operations  
Jeff Camera – Program Manager

GUESTS

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none

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:30 PM on February 7, 2018 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room at the Executive Office Building (EOB).  
Introductions – around the table.

**MAJOR PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

Material Recycling Facility (Don Birnesser / Jeff Camera):

Don and Jeff provided an overview of the MRF, new paper processing operation, impact of China's new import rules and recent revenue results. Highlights are bulleted below. Full details in the presentation.

- Input 120 – 130 tpd comingled
- Input 170 – 200 tpd paper
- There is a surplus of incoming comingled material. The plant is designed to process 8-10 tph. Now running at 8.5 tph. Can't process all in a single shift. Remaining material is shipped to an out of state processor. Less costly than in-house. Low transport costs (avoid deadhead). Secondary site material gets treated twice – better recovery. Noise restrictions prevent operation before 7AM and after 9PM. Costs 2.5 times more expensive that sending out.
- MRF residue rate 8.5 to 12% (could be 20%). Running redundant lines. Spring cleaning creates a higher residue rate.
- Glass 40-56% of weight.
- New paper line opened on May 1, 2017. Capital expense, \$3.3M. 140 to 170 tpd. Mixed paper and OCC split. 9 employees to manage facility. County owned, MES staffed. Maximized footprint.
- Future plan to handle material? No decision made at this point. As part of FY19 budget an analysis on options and costs given current facility's life and capacity. Analysis of employment, size, shutdown, contract out, no glass in, and other issues will be undertaken.
- CHINA background. ~30% of recycled material is exported, 37M tons. 13.2M tons mixed fiber. Prior to current ban, 2% prohibitives (off spec material). Now 0.3% target. Current operation at

our facility is 1.5%. Plant not capable of meeting new targets. MES markets the materials monthly. Sept mixed paper for two weeks – stopped because it couldn't get shipped. Flooded market. Last summer set a guaranteed movement contract – long term (lower price). 1 year with 2, 1 year extensions. Lost revenue.

- Beyond China, County paper going to Vietnam, Mideast. Moving at a lower price.
- System running at 1.5% contamination. Still moving. Better than neighbors. OCC all stays domestic. Truck and trailer. 70% mixed paper is out of county. FOB delivery point. County takes quality and quantity losses.
- Plastic side – no impact from China. Comingled material stays domestic. Incoming comingled ~18,000 tons – FY18 YTD
- ~26K incoming paper FY18 YTD. 6K – OCC, 17K – mixed paper, 3K – loose mixed paper.

(slides coming)

Discussion of recycling as a commodity. Producer responsibility. Recyclers tracking down stream use. Creative uses and effort to influence design. Example: McDonalds cup (paper and plastic) not recyclable. New cane cups – no market at this point. Solid waste handlers are in a reactionary position.

**NOTE: March 7<sup>th</sup> 2PM for a MRF visit.**

#### Food Waste Strategic Plan – History and Current Activity (Eileen Kao):

Council bill 28-16 was passed which required DEP to develop a strategic plan in cooperation with multiple groups and representatives from around the county. The Bill had many stakeholders listed and a healthy list of issues to consider. List of involved parties grew to over 300.

Embarked on the process under the 6 working group method. Spent the summer developing the framework. Fall the working groups reviewed, commented, re-wrote. Nov 1 deliver, with a Nov 8 drop dead. 407 comments were delivered. DEP is in the review and update process at this point. A task order to build the document with writing and engineering support was issued on Dec 7. Work is progressing to develop a comprehensive overall plan. Initial DRAFT is completed with ~100 pages to review. The division is looking to create a briefing document on each subject area to include a summary of key issues, recommendations.

Steps to go: on 2/20 present brief docs along with transmittal to key County folks for feedback. Will also 1 on 1 discussions with these key individuals. OMB review will be concurrent. Plan to reach out to Regional Service Center Directors as well. Additional comments to be incorporated. Then the document will be sent off to the CAO. Final presentation to CE and CC – target April 1.

#### General Discussion FY19 Budget initiatives:

##### Recycling Initiatives

- Commercial food
- Residential food
- Bin size – look at totes for co-mingled to improve collection rates.
- Enforcement – increase the focus on improper source separation.

RRF CSX rail movement – changes in CSX billing practices are forcing an unscheduled capital expenditure for a rail car mover. Financially justified but unplanned.

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority is working with DSWS staff on a long-term master plan for MC Solid Waste Program. Recycling changes, current capacities, costs, time frames, results, RRF impacts. Must have community input. Industry and technology experts to help with future planning. Need to cobble dollars in FY18 and 19.

Update on the Compost Facility site and use, prior (bagging increase) and potential (food scrap) pilot plans. Focusing on food concerns, truck traffic, litter, food input contamination (batteries, fire). Good positive discussion. OMB will be reviewing \$/ton for commercial vs residential food waste handling (collection, transport, processing). The rate structure impacts of each will need to be considered as part of the ultimate decision.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Subcommittee Membership Assignments: Reviewing the responses to date. Filling in holes. Final will be distributed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Potential Legislative Concern: Sara B and Carol to look into potential speakers on LF v EfW. Heidi will be tracking activity in Annapolis.

Subcommittee Reports: None reporting out.

Membership Status: We have 2 openings. 3 folks have applied. We need to get info from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. We need to schedule a new member orientation for SWAC folks (still open for discussion).

Approve Past Minutes: approved via electronic circulation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None offered.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35. The next meeting is set for March 21, 5:30 PM, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room at the Executive Office Building (EOB).

## **ACRONYMS**

CC	County Council	CE	County Executive
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	CPI	Consumer Price Index
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group	DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection	FY	Fiscal Year
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning	HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
MES	Maryland Environmental Services	MC	Montgomery County
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee	RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
MML	Maryland Municipal League	TPD	Tons per Day
OCC	Old Corrugated Containers (cardboard)	LF	Landfill
EfW	Energy from Waste		