

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 3, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
MEETING NOTES

SWAC MEMBERS

Heidi Lovett, Chair Adam Diamond, Vice Chair Linda Andrews Gina Angiola Robin Barr (MML representative - pending Council confirmation)	Sudhir Bastola Sara Bixby Kelly Doordan Paula Jenson Carol Jones Fred Kranz	Jelena Krstic Mohan Narayanan Ellen Ryan Candy Schimming Mark Symborski (non-voting member)
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COUNTY STAFF

Willie Wainer, Director, Recycling and Resource Management Division (RRMD)
David Frank, Recycling Planning, Policy, Regulation, and Compliance; Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD
Lisa Shine, Executive Assistant, RRMD
Eileen Kao, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD

PUBLIC

Amy Maron, Sierra Club

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:43 PM on February 3, 2021, as a Zoom on-line meeting. Acronyms are posted at the bottom of this report.

OLD BUSINESS

Approved December minutes

- Paula Jensen moved; Candy Schimming seconded to adopt January meeting minutes with date correction for next meeting date. Carried, all voting aye, no abstentions.

Update on SWAC comments on the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Public Hearing Draft Plan

- After a SWAC member noticed that SWAC's comments on the Draft Plan were not in the online summary of comments received, the Chair confirmed that the comments had been received and asked the Planning Board for an explanation as to why the SWAC comments weren't listed in the compiled comments. The Planning Board confirmed that SWAC's comments were received and stated that it was an oversight that they were not included in the packet; the Planning Board confirmed that SWAC's comments are being included in the record.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of New Members confirmed by County Council on January 12, 2021

New members were appointed and confirmed by the Council on January 12, 2021. New and continuing members and county staff introduced themselves.

Overview of the Recycling and Resource Management Division (RRMD)

- Reminder to channel SWAC communications to the Division and DEP through Lisa Shine.
- There are four sections in the RRMD.
 - Collections: Oversees implementation of trash and recycling collections from ~92,000 single family homes in Subdistrict A (“downcounty areas”) and recycling collections from another ~130,000 single family homes in Subdistrict B (“upcounty”).
 - Materials Management: Oversees the Material Recovery Facility (“MRF” or “recycling center”) and Dickerson Yard Trim Composting Facility (DYTCF) operations. The DYTCF processes 65,000 tons of yard trim and produces bagged and bulk LeafGro. The County sells the LeafGro and, due to demand, the County sells out of LeafGro every year. The Division is developing a proposal for a needed MRF upgrade.
 - Resource Conservation: Oversees the Shady Grove Transfer Station and the Dickerson Resource Recovery Facility (RRF). Close to 650,000 tons of material goes through the transfer station with 600,000 tons going to the RRF by rail to produce electricity (and the ash is then sent by rail to a landfill in Virginia). ~50,000 tons of nonprocessible construction and demolition (“C&D”) goes to landfill. The Transfer Station also receives yard waste and sends some to the DYTCF as well as handles woody material to be shredded and sold as mulch. In the Upper Lot, residents can bring recyclables that aren’t acceptable curbside.
 - Sidenote on Batteries (from laptops, etc.), which have been increasing in the waste stream and are responsible for causing fires. Batteries need to be handled separately from waste and the contacts need to be taped or otherwise prevented from igniting fires in the waste stream. To capture more batteries for recycling and to help prevent battery fires, the Division is currently evaluating a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Areas 9-13 in Subdistrict B to include curbside collection of batteries and other electronics in a manner similar to how bulk metals are currently collected (i.e., residents could call the county for a special battery pickup on their regular recycling set out day).
 - The Division also oversees the closure and post-closure care for the Gude and Oaks Landfills, including monitoring methane and gas collection systems. The County will be starting a \$61 million closure of Gude beginning ~July of this year.
 - Waste Reduction and Recycling: Oversees recycling programs in government, single family, multifamily, and commercial sectors. Focuses on reducing, reusing, recycling, grasscycling, composting, and policies for buying recycled. 17 FTE in the section; a dedicated core group of recycling volunteers help extend the outreach. Responsible for recycling-related regulations and legislation, including the 1993 recycling mandate. The County is hoping to resume popular public tours of the recycling center post-COVID.

Single-Family Residential Curbside Food Scraps Recycling Pilot Program

The County issued a shortened scope of service for the residential curbside pilot food scraps collection program through the Office of Procurement’s Local Small Business Reserve Program solicitation process. No eligible businesses met the Feb. 2nd deadline for expression of interest. The County is developing/finalizing the full RFP for this pilot.

Eileen Kao described the extensive benchmarking of best practices and research the County has completed into how other jurisdictions have implemented food scraps collection programs. The goal of

the pilot is to look at the data and observe what actually happens here in our county and to use that to inform the county-wide rollout.

Carol: Are there separate contracts for recycling and trash collection in each area that receive both services from the County, or does the same contract cover both recycling and trash collection in a given area?

Discussion: We believe that the services are currently covered by two separate contracts. Issuing an RFP that is open to haulers beyond the haulers currently providing recycling services to the County - ie not bundling organics hauling with traditional recycling hauling - enables the County to open the solicitation to a broader set of companies.

Discussion on draft SWAC letter on the food scraps pilot program (prepared by ad-hoc subcommittee).

Opportunities for a potential future food scraps ban were discussed.

- Comment: Any time you discuss a ban, you have to talk about ways to enforce.
- When the County implemented mandates on recycling, the County first specifically listed out materials that were included in the mandate and the County ensured that strong markets, demand, and recycling capacity were in place to accept and manage those materials. Group agreed to remove mention of the food scraps ban from the letter.

Committee discussed implementation of a survey of pilot participants. Group agreed to remove the general call for survey from the letter because DEP is committed to carrying out a survey, but did make a specific suggestion to ask pilot participants mid-way through the pilot if they favored switching to trash collection every two weeks in conjunction with food waste collection.

Adam moved and Ellen seconded a motion to agree to the remaining principal points of the letter. Adam will clean up the letter for readability (but will not make any substantive changes to the draft) and then will send it to SWAC members for final review and approval/disapproval before sending to the Division. Ayes carried the motion with one Nay (Sara) and one abstention (Heidi).

Discuss upcoming meetings and schedule

- Proposal to meet at the beginning of March instead of waiting until the previously scheduled meeting on March 17 (first Wednesday after County Executive's proposed budget is released).
 - Comment: A subcommittee can plan to meet and be briefed by the Division on the proposed budget and then the subcommittee can review the budget and prepare recommendations for the full SWAC to consider at the April meeting.
- Proposal to review and make recommendations on pending Maryland state legislation.
 - Insufficient interest among SWAC members in focusing March meeting on state bills.
- Proposal to review table of RRMD priorities and identify initiatives for SWAC focus.
 - Comment from RRMD: this discussion and analysis might be more timely after the CE's proposed operating budget is released because we can see and react to division and County-identified funding priorities and use that for our planning..
- Suggestion from RRMD to develop a six- to twelve-month schedule to help Division plan presentations and attendance accordingly.

- Note that the Committee needs to be led by staff priorities; can the Division present topics to the Committee for debate/recommendation?
- Heidi to send out a Subcommittee Description and signup list. The subcommittee list will include a “Calendar” committee to help flesh out meeting topics and speaker requests in advance.

Next meeting is March 3, 2021. Topic TBD

Motion to adjourn was made by Gina and seconded by Adam. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

ACRONYMS

C&D	Construction and Demolition	MRF	Materials Recycling Facility
CC	County Council	MML	Maryland Municipal League
CE	County Executive	NTR	Nothing to Report
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	OCC	Old Corrugated Cardboard
CPI	Consumer Price Index	OLO	Office of Legislative Oversight
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group	PAYT	Pay As You Throw
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services	RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection	RRMD	Recycling & Resource Management Division
EfW	Energy from Waste	SA	Service Area for County collection
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning	SAYT	Save As You Throw
FTE	Full Time Employee	SCA	Sugarloaf Community Association
FY	Fiscal Year	SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste	SWMP	Solid Waste Management Plan
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment	T&E	Transportation and Environment Committee
MC	Montgomery County	TPD	Tons per Day
MES	Maryland Environmental Services	ZWTF	Zero Waste Task Force