

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 5:30 – 7:30pm**

**MEETING NOTES**

**SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Carol Jones, Chair Robin Barr (MML rep.), Vice Chair Adam Diamond, Secretary Amy Maron, Secretary	Troy Cavell Fred Kranz Heidi Lovett	Chaz Miller Ellen Ryan Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep, non- voting)
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**SWAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Paula Jenson, Candy Schimming

**RRMD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Willie Wainer, Director, Resource Recycling and Waste Management Division  
David Frank, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section  
Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Aide

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Carrie Maslen, Resident of Potomac; Dan Knapp, Urban Ore (Berkeley, CA)

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:32pm.

**RRMD Briefing: Willie Wainer**

**1. Reuse and recycling initiatives: current and pending**

- a. Durable medical equipment. RRMD has created a site in the upper lot of the Transfer Station and installed a 40’ trailer to collect equipment for a new Maryland Department of Aging program, [Maryland Durable Medical Equipment ReUse](#), which is providing both basic and complex durable medical equipment (DME) to Marylanders with any illness, injury, or disability, regardless of age, at no cost. All equipment is collected via donation in sites throughout the state and is sanitized and repaired at a facility in Prince George’s County, and redistributed to Marylanders in need.

Collections started on Monday January 9, following a soft media announcement, and they have already received a lot of equipment in the first few days. Dept of Aging will do the outreach to inform residents that the equipment is available.

- b. Mattress recycling. The NMWDA signed a Master Agreement for mattress recycling. Montgomery County, and other member counties, are working on setting up the secondary agreements. Residents will be able to call 311 and request a pickup, and the recycling company will be able to pick it up.
- c. Textiles. NMWDA also signed a Master Agreement with a textile recycling company. However, the company is seeking to renegotiate the contract for higher compensation.

- d. Resource Recovery Park. The county would like to open a resource recovery park with drop-offs for used goods, fix-it/repair stations, and an education center for reuse and recycling, as well as to hold conferences. They are going to engage one of the on-call engineering firms available through the NMWDA to develop a “15%” concept plan.
- e. C&D (which includes land clearing waste; Construction, renovation, Demolition waste). The county would like to limit C&D at the TS as much as possible and redirect it to private facilities that have capacity to recycle the various C&D waste streams. Last year RRM banned all roofing materials (about 25,000 tons) and raised the tipping fee from \$70/ton to \$76/ton. A recent survey of C&D disposal sites in the area including Frederick (\$84/ton), Fort Totten and Benning Road in DC, and Clarksburg indicated their prices were higher. Consequently, Willie recommends we increase the tipping fee to \$84/ton starting July 1.

## 2. **Advancing alternatives to the RRF**

Willie’s team met with the CE a few weeks ago and provided a timeline for closing the RRF and identified the tasks that must be completed to do so, including finding a new site to send the waste, notifying the County Council, preparing a Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for handling the waste, holding public meetings, and getting approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment for a “material change” to the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan.

## **SWAC Discussion and Approval of Budget Letter to the County Executive**

Budget and Strategic Priorities Subcommittee chair Chaz Miller presented the draft FY 2024 budget letter to the Committee. We discussed the main recommendations in the budget letter and approved it. The main recommendations are to (1) prioritize intensive public education campaigns that use evidence-based strategies to promote waste reduction among all sectors in the county, building on current education programs; (2) expand the scope and expedite the implementation of programs that reduce food scraps, following the hierarchy of prevention, recovery of edible food, and recycling; and (3) add five new positions in DEP’s Recycling and Resource Management Division to expedite achieving all zero waste goals.

## **SWAC Subcommittee Updates**

**Subdistrict A&B Consolidation Subcommittee:** Paula Jenson has agreed to serve as Chair, following the resignation from SWAC of Sara Bixby, the previous Chair. Willie told us that Keith Levchencko, staff member to the Council Transportation and Environment Committee, would like to bring this up to the new T&E members of the County Council. DEP will be briefing T&E on the SAYT proposal and anticipate that consolidation will come up. We need to move quickly on this. Paula and Carol will convene a meeting early next week of the subcommittee.

**Budget and Strategic Priorities Subcommittee:** A small subgroup is looking at how to evaluate performance with the zero waste goals of waste reduction and increased recycling. In a prior budget briefing, it was noted that the waste aggregates reported in the county budget documents don’t reflect variations in performance across the different classes of waste generators. They are working with David Frank to identify what data are available to quantify different waste and recycling streams generated by different classes of generators (SF, MF, and commercial) and collection systems (Subdistrict A, Subdistrict B, independent municipalities, private).

**Organics Subcommittee:** Chair Robin Barr, the representative to SWAC from the Maryland Municipal League, is working with David Frank to survey the independent municipalities that have had residential food scrap collection programs in place for many years (including Takoma Park and Chevy Chase) to collect data on the collection programs performance. The goal is to provide longer-term information than the current MoCo pilots will provide, to assist with designing the continuing expansion of the program.

**Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee:** Amy is collecting ideas on how to improve the website, including how to reflect the aiming for zero waste mission of the agency. David said that the entire MC website, including the DEP website, is being redone on a fairly fast track, so we need to move quickly. As a follow-on to guidance from SWAC in September on the inclusion of zero waste actions in the MoCo CAP accomplishment reporting (which started with [Q1/FY2023](#)), Carol will work on recommending additional information to report in order to highlight this inclusion and explain the significant contribution that zero waste actions can make to reduce GHG emissions on a national scale.

**Other news:**

- The member bios have been posted on the SWAC [webpage](#).
- Changes in membership as of Dec. 31, 2022: Sara Bixby resigned (her term ended Dec 31, 2021, but she has been graciously continuing to serve as we are waiting for a new recruitment notice, but resigned citing new work commitments); we are very grateful for her many years of service on SWAC. Also, Jasim Ahmed resigned due to work commitments, and Shaun Kiviat’s term ended.

**Future meetings:**

- We have invited the CE Marc Elrich to the February meeting to discuss our budget recommendations.
- We will reschedule the rest of Willie’s update including new contract innovations, which was postponed to move on to the budget letter discussion. Part of the contract discussion will be a discussion of the Labor Peace Agreement, which has implications for competitiveness of trash and recycling contracts in current areas of service as well as for future food scrap collections and consolidation of subdistrict B trash collection.
- We will schedule a briefing on the SAYT report from SERA when the report is available. It is expected within the next month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**ACRONYMS**

C&D	Construction and Demolition	FY	Fiscal Year
CC	County Council	MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment
CAP	Climate Action Plan	MC	Montgomery County
CE	County Executive	MES	Maryland Environmental Services
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
CPI	Consumer Price Index	MML	Maryland Municipal League
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group	MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection	OLO	Office of Legislative Oversight
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
FTE	Full Time Employee	RRMD	Recycling & Resource Management Division
		SA	Service Area for County collection

SAYT Save-As-You-Throw  
SCA Sugarloaf Community Association  
SF Single family  
SWAC Solid Waste Advisory Committee

SWMP Solid Waste Management Plan  
T&E Transportation and Environment Committee  
TPD Tons per Day  
ZWTF Zero Waste Task Force