SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NON-MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2016

SWAC MEMBERS

Paula Jenson; Chair
Sara Ducey: Vice Chair
Sara Bixby
Jessica Weiss
Craig Simoneau
Mark Symborski
Steve Sprague
Mark Freedman
Nicolette deVore
Vacancies: 6

Absent: Robert Brown

COUNTY STAFF - DSWS

Robin Ennis

GUESTS

Brian Flores  Ryan Walter  Sue Bumpous  Mark Chester  Heather Bruskin  Jackie DeCarlo
Cheryl Kollin  Susan Eisendrath  Susan Wrexler  Linda Bilsens  Lea Rosenblum

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:40 PM on February 3, 2016, in the 6th Floor Conference Room at the Executive Office Building (EOB). Introductions were then made. NO QUORUM at that time.

MAJOR PROGRAM PRESENTATION – Food Waste Recovery

County Briefing from Robin E.: Food waste, scraps, what should or can be done? MDE rules on food composting have been issued so we now have guidance. Step 1 taken. Now the County is having internal discussions. It is a big effort - ~200,000 tons of food and compostable paper available for this new program. Goal to get to 70% recycling by 2020. Food scraps can get us there. With this volume we need to modify the collection method, not buckets and pick-ups. NO DECISIONS made at this time. Just starting – looking at available technologies:

- AD
- Static pile

Because food needs carbon amendment (food is N2 rich) we have a dilemma. Again chicken and egg question. Process dictates collection or collection dictates process. Transportation issues. Composts site restrictions. Expansion limitations. Forces a look at other options. County’s decision options:

- Do nothing and let the private sector fill the void.
- Develop a County owned facility. ie: RRF, TS.
- Private sector hires. ie: Collections
- A Regional Facility – partner with other jurisdictions. The Authority, A single County (Howard and PG both have pilots)

Just looking right now. What, where, who, how, ??

Timing for implementation is down the road. Collection contracts need to be reviewed. Is yard/food under the exclusive language? Carts or containers ?? What will be the interest level in participating in a program? A “YUK” factor. If food and yard – big. If just food – small. Locks, carts, color, size, wheels, (provide or not) . . . At $25 container - $5.7M to outfit the County.
Do we run a Pilot program? Compulsory or by subscription? What participation will we get? Numbers? Timing? Costs? How does pilot material get processed?

SWAC feedback? What thoughts do we have?

By what metrics do we measure “success”? Reduce Solid Waste to the RRF. Environmental Protection does enter into the decision process.

Takoma Park – 50% opt in, 75-80% set out rate.

County has contacted multiple other jurisdictions on methods, results, costs. Learning what questions to ask. Comments: participation is higher when mixed with yard waste. Combined changes process.

Freestate Farms project in Va. Another place to look for a potential pilot outlet.

What policy drivers are being considered? ?? Pay as you throw ?? Issues with management of the process. System Benefits charge is reflective of a responsive cost structure.

PUBLIC COMMENTS


Jackie DeCarlo – Manna – Food reuse hierarchy. Is there a sense of reuse quality of the food in the waste stream? Not possible as it is through a truck.

Susan Eisendrath – Compostable containers will provide Carbon into the waste stream. Unfortunately this may lead to a contamination problem. Don’t go down the compostable bag path. ie: forks It will be difficult to differentiate between compostable and non. End up contaminating the process.

Susan Wrexler – Change the compost bins to a food scrap compatible design? This will allow a better product. Folks are currently using the non-rodent proof design for food.


Heather Bruskin – How else to stay involved? Welcome to attend these meetings – potentially join.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Past Minutes: November 5, minutes not approved as written.

Scribe: Mark is now recording secretary.

Subcommittee Reports:

Planning: no report
Recycling: no report
Budget: no report
NEW BUSINESS

Nominations and Elections for 2016 (Chair and Vice): Sara and Jessica – president and vice.

Boards and Commissions Recruiting Process: Sara needs data for the letter. Sara D will be writing the letter and has our approval to send the letter.

ISWA: September 2017 in Baltimore. Tours, support, a chance to be involved.

SWAC Member Open Discussion: SWAC’s desire to be involved in the food scrap decision making process was once again passed along to Robin. The briefing we received was appreciated but the membership wants to be able to provide input to the process. We are an advisory board. We do not want to see a decision made and presented without an opportunity for our input prior to a direction being pursued.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 7:23.

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