

SWAC Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2021, 6:30 pm, via WebEx

In Attendance: Stephanie Peters, Zach Fleagle, Katherine Esposito, John Kinnard, Peter Blood, Phil Harris, Linda Coyle, Phillip LeBlanc, Deb Moran, Pat Miglio

Recorder of Minutes: Katherine Esposito

Info given for public viewing/comments (Zach Fleagle)

Motion to approve February 3, 2021 minutes: Deb Moran; 2nded: John Kinnard. All in favor.

Addressing Questions Raised by SWAC Members (answered by Phil Harris)

- 1) With the recent organizational split involving the county utilities and solid waste divisions, is there any thought to rebranding/renaming the solid waste part, to be more in line with county sustainability goals? There is some thought this can and should occur in the future, the laser focus this year for all has been on the pandemic, so this particular opportunity has not been a priority. Mr. Harris gave an outline of major division accomplishments: the implementation of revive compost; the transition to a customer friendly, single stream recycling collection, which enabled dramatic expansion of diverted material; the development (and ultimate conclusion of) the gas to energy program; the development of the solar array on the landfill site (which produces the power for 7 county government buildings); support to FCPS with the pilot compost program; significant success with community outreach.
- 2) What happened to the Pay As You Throw program referenced in the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)? This was never adopted; it was opposed in 2010-2012 and again in Brunswick in 2014. This does not seem to be as popular in the mid-Atlantic as it is in the northeastern US.
- 3) Has there been any consideration of compost as landfill cover, both to fill a need and create a market for compost? Compost is not currently approved by the state as daily landfill cover. Its porous nature would introduce many issues involving water - additional leachate, possibility for collapse, it wouldn't pack down as well as other options. There is the possibility of using compost as the vegetative supportive layer once a landfill is capped. It has also been approved for use by the state highway as sediment control but is not utilized as much as it could be. Another area for growth of compost utilization could be in "bioretention" ponds.

Division Update (Stephanie Peters)

Many contracts are coming up for renewal - like those for scrap metal and lead acid batteries. Scale calibration needs to be done. It is also budget season. They are requesting additional staff. They are also requesting multiple pieces of equipment: a loader, 2nd scale replacement in the transfer station, 2 yard waste collection dumpsters, the replacement of 2 older trucks with just one (that can perform both salting and recycling cart haul functions).

Public Comment Announcement (Zach Fleagle) - Reminder that any member of the public who wishes to may comment.

Old Business - none

New Business (Phil Harris) - The staff is working on amendments to the SWMP. Substantive changes involving the composting amendment are nearly complete. Administrative changes to the SWMP that are minor in nature are ongoing. Present plan is to present all substantive and administrative changes simultaneously to SWAC at hopefully the next meeting. Mr. Harris also reminded SWAC members that some terms are ending and if the member wishes to renew, they need to submit appropriate paperwork to the County Executive's office by the deadline.

Check for public comment (there was none)

SWAC comment (Deb Moran) - wanted to make SWAC members aware of two pieces of legislation in process in Annapolis that involve solid waste: 1) one on extended manufacturer responsibility for the life of products (manufacturers to pay municipalities for recycling); 2) one involving turf grass recycling. Phil Harris also shared that the division is also following proposed legislation relating to mattresses and box springs, a compost initiative, and one involving certain MD counties on regional solid waste management (Frederick County is not one of the included counties).

SWAC comment (Pat Miglio) - Is there anywhere that output on the solar array is available? Phil Harris stated that they cannot give us a live data feed on that information for security and other reasons, but stated he could provide some summary data.

Next meeting: April 7, 2021 6:30 pm

Adjournment 7:36 pm/KCE