

**Carroll County
Solid Waste
Advisory Council**



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Solid Waste Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes, Thursday Sept. 3, 2015

Members Present: Don West, Jim Marcinko, Bruce Holstein, Charles Hughes, Karen Leatherwood

Staff present: Jeff Topper, Dusty Hilbert and Sheree Lima

Guests: Dan Andrews & Patrice Gallagher

Our meeting began at 4 PM in Room 105. Minutes from the prior meeting on July 21, 2015 were approved and accepted.

Don West advised that Senator Casey in Penn. wants to charge higher tip fees for trash delivered to Penn. Landfills. Don mentioned www.wastedive.com as a place to get articles on solid waste. He identified 10 trends in the industry mentioned in one of the articles:

- 1) Compressed natural gas being used in trucks.
- 2) Cities adopting zero waste policies.
- 3) Problems about landfills seeking expansion. Currently in Md. expansions are prohibited.
- 4) Mergers and Acquisitions in the industry.
- 5) Municipalities reducing food waste.
- 6) Bans on Styrofoam.
- 7) Waste to energy plants.
- 8) Interstate Waste Transportation.
- 9) Low levels of commodity recycling.
- 10) Companies producing advanced trash containers e.g. moving trash cans in Disneyland.

http://www.wastedive.com/news/10-trends-defining-the-waste-industry-and-why-they-matter/404810/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202015-09-03%20Waste%20Dive%20Newsletter&utm_term=Waste%20Dive

Don mentioned that Boonsboro will be discussing PAYT on Sept. 8, 2015 and invited members to attend to observe the meeting. He passed out a paper identifying objections from citizens opposed to PAYT. Don mentioned composting is being done in PG and Howard Counties.

http://m.heraldmillmedia.com/news/local/opponents-lining-up-against-boonsboro-pay-as-you-throw-trash/article_b0f9357e-51c3-11e5-8edd-6f68e4f415a7.html?mode=iqm

<http://www.your4state.com/news/news/boonsboro-considering-pay-as-you-throw-program>

Don also said he thought we should have our plan developed in 6 months. Jeff Topper said 6 months is not a long time to get a plan developed. He suggested we meet more frequently. He said the plan should identify short term and long term actions. Jeff said staff will look at several short term actions. He said the Board of Commissioners likes frequent briefings possibly every month for the near future. He said the Commissioners receive input from industry representatives about gasification etc. and want to hear from us.

Jeff continued with items that he thought should be included in our plan; SBC charge shown separately on real estate tax bills (not a new tax or fee but identifying the solid waste costs being funded by the transfer from the general fund); tax and/or tip fee increases; purchase land surrounding the Northern Landfill; preserving the landfill which is a significant asset; charging for haulers licenses and requiring haulers who dispose of recycle pay a fee unless they also dispose of trash.

When the county received revenue from single stream recycling, it made sense to accept all recycle. Now that the County must pay \$25/ton to dispose of recycle, it does not make economic sense to accept recycle for free. Dusty said they would need a person to enforce any new requirement for haulers who drop off recycle must also dump their trash and pay the tip fee. This staff person could be the one mentioned below in the comments on Harvest Power and processing yard waste. (not discussed at meeting but I think a possible alternative is to charge everybody a tip fee for recycle which eliminates the need to monitor who dumps recycle only but not trash).

Don described his encounter at the Northern Landfill with a person having out of state tags trying to back up a trailer for about 20 minutes. The person threw away items many of which could have been recycled.

Dusty Hilbert reported that the new recycle contract was costing about \$24.25 per ton which is in line with projections. He informed that a contract for processing yard waste has been signed with Harvest Power. The County will stop providing free mulch for residents at the end of Sept. 2015. Harvest Power will provide a better product and sell it from the Hoods Mill landfill. This change will save about 1 and 1/2 staff years. Jeff said he could look into reprogramming that staff year to new enforcement activities at the landfill e.g. making sure haulers delivering recycle also dump trash and pay the tip fee. The contractor will pay about \$26,000 in taxes annually.

Dusty and Jeff reported on their Pay as You Throw field trip to Penn Township which has about 10,000 residents. The government has been running their own bag program for the past 10 years. Their program is similar to Waste Zero's bag program. They sell one size bag for \$3.50. The low bid hauler is contracted to pick up trash. They said the program is working and people participate. No significant problems were reported with residents participation and no illegal dumping of trash. Residents must haul cardboard and paper to collections points.

Under old business, Don reported that the Board of Commissioners has implemented 2 of our 4 recommendations. They sent a letter to Governor Hogan asking that the moratorium on new landfills be revoked and they signed a contract to improve the processing of yard waste. The other two recommendations dealing with Resource Recovery Parks and Diversion are both works in process.

Next up was reports from Don, Karen and Bruce about feedback from the Commissioners. The purpose of the meetings was to find out if there were any actions so objectionable that the Commissioners did not want them presented.

Don met with Commissioners Weaver and Frazier in one meeting on July 29th. He said both were amenable to adjusting user fees and other increases; liked the idea to increase regulation of haulers; expressed some interest in establishing hauler districts; willing to enforce existing rules; some interest in capping the landfill; liked idea of increasing the value of recycle material by doing away with single stream; interested in local use of diverted materials (Don provided information about plastic roads); interested in diverting more organics from the waste stream; both were aware of the Solid Waste Workgroup Report dated Nov. 2012 and stated many answers were included in that report; both want definitive long term actions and incremental steps as soon as possible; did not look favorably on Waste Zero's PAYT bag program because citizens would not like to pay for bags.

Bruce met with Commissioner Rothschild on two occasions. First meeting was requested by Bruce and the second meeting was requested by Commissioner Rothschild. Commissioner Rothschild said: would support incremental increases of tip fees; would support a tip fee for recycle; would NOT support a system benefit fee but would support breaking out the amount included in the existing subsidy from the general fund on the real estate tax bill; is willing to listen with an open mind to staff presentation of the Waste Zero pay as you throw bag program; would NOT support increasing real estate taxes; would NOT support capping cell 3 in the landfill because it may be needed in an emergency situation; would NOT support charging haulers a fee for operating in the County; would be willing to listen to establishing hauler districts provided a version could be found where haulers would cooperate. His final comment was he knows the financial model for solid waste does not work and is willing to consider things out of the box.

Karen met with Commissioners Howard and Wantz. She said she met with them individually after they returned from MACO where they had received sales pitches from waste contractors.

Commissioner Howard said the County is delivering more than what people pay for saying something has to give. He would support requiring haulers who dump recycle must also dump trash; would consider using the landfill to generate cash by reducing the long haul costs; will support increasing rates incrementally; commented that the County must be in control of its destiny. In summary, he said nothing is off the table and would like to see our goals and objectives identified.

Commissioner Wantz said he was open to capping the landfill; would support temporary use of landfill to generate cash; believed more regulations were needed. In summary, he said he knows the Commissioners have issues they must deal with and he is open to suggestions.

Action Item – Don asked Council members to submit their own plans so we can start the process of preparing a plan along the lines Jeff Topper requested.

It was decided to increase the frequency of our meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 1, 2015 and the subsequent meeting is scheduled for Nov. 5, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Holstein