

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solid Waste Advisory Council Update Heard

Westminster, Thursday, February 18, 2016 – The Board of County Commissioners heard a report from the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) and County staff during today's open session. SWAC and staff presented several short and long-term recommendations for diverting and recycling some of the waste stream within the county, and how to effectively implement an integrated system of solid waste management and recycling that allows sufficient flexibility to react to changes in regulations, technology, and market conditions.

The challenge facing the County is how to lessen the dollars needed from the General Fund, preserve the life of the landfill, control costs to keep trash and recycling services affordable, and maximize waste diversion to benefit the environment. The Commissioners requested additional information on recycling options, restructuring of fees to offset costs without dis-incentivizing recycling programs, Pay As You Throw programs, and composting options. Commissioner Rothschild stressed that any recommendation must include a thorough economic analysis.

SWAC and staff underscored the complex nature of solid waste management alternatives and suggested that any final recommendations include an education component to respond to misinformation in the community. Commissioner Wantz praised how well SWAC and County staff are working together, stating "We are ahead of the game due to the hard work of the Solid Waste Advisory Council."

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CARROLL COUNTY

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