

FINAL MINUTES
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY GROUP (SWAG) MEETING
January 21, 2021

OPENING:

Mr. Scott MacDonald called the meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Group to order at 4:10pm via Cisco Webex.

ATTENDANCE:

SWCAG Members:

Present: Mr. Joseph Chisholm, Ms. Jane Wyman, Ms. Keisha Strand, Mr. Richard Arvin, Ms. Tiziana Bottino, Mr. Will Lintner, and Mr. Ned Greene.

Absent: Mr. Mark Bonner, Ms. Joan Moon, Mr. James Huisenga, Mr. Albert E. Brooks, Ms. Virginia Douglas, Mr. James Gestrich, Mr. David Watjen, and Mr. Harry Glasgow.

Guests: Ms. Stacey Demers from SCS Engineers

Solid Waste Staff: Mr. Tom Smith, Mr. Jason Pauley, Mr. Scott Kleinfeld, Ms. Anne Albuquerque, Mr. Scott MacDonald, and Mr. Trent Magill.

AGENDA TOPICS

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting via Cisco Webex and proceeded to confirm which members were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A quorum was not valid, so the draft minutes of the December 17, 2020 SWAG meeting could not be approved.

GENERAL PROJECTS UPDATES

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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN POLICY DISCUSSION

Mr. Scott MacDonald introduced Ms. Stacey Demers from SCS Engineers. Ms. Demers greeted the committee and jumped right into her presentation and more detailed discussions about the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Ms. Demers started her presentation by focusing on the service plan. Currently, the county provides service to residents through the convenience centers at the landfill and the Balls Ford Road facilities, two park-out locations (Evergreen Fire Station and The Nokesville Elementary), and 16 recycling trailers located throughout the county. About 28,000 patrons used the two park-out locations yearly. In FY20, these patrons brought in about 143 tons of recycling. The cost of the program equates out to \$6 per trip.. The county has a budget of \$175,000 to maintain these programs. These park-outs were created and located for those in Prince William who did not have many options for trash collection. However, since that time, the county has grown and developed significantly. About 600 households utilize the park-out program each week, many of which have options for trash and recycling collection. Ms. Demers went on to state that the Solid Waste Division might want to look into possibly establishing a user fee for residents who wish to use the park-outs. Another option would be to discontinue the programs all together, but that would create a lot of push back from the citizens. \$175,000 could be greater spent on public education to reduce recycling contamination, or to expand the glass recycling in the county. Ms. Tiziana Bottino asked if the park-outs were removed, where could citizens drop off trash and recycling? Ms. Demers answered that the park-outs are located nearby to two recycling trailers. These locations could accept recycling, but all trash would have to be taken to either the Balls Ford Road or landfill facilities. If citizens do not wish to bring their trash themselves, they would need to contract with a trash hauler. This can be done directly, or through a HOA. Ms. Tiziana Bottino also asked if anything was planned to let residents know of this change. Ms. Demers answered that yes, there would be a plan to let the 600 households know if the service was discontinued and there would be a transition period. Mr. Lintner was in agreement that these programs should either be “pay to use” or phased out as everyone else in the county is paying for trash pickup. He continued by stating that the park-outs could stop entirely, or the purple glass recycling bins could be placed in the park-out locations and trash pickup would need to be conducted by a hauler. Ms. Jane Wyman asked if there were blue recycling trailers located at the park-out locations. Mr. Tom Smith answered and stated that at the park-out locations, they

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have two rear-loaded trash trucks. One will take trash and come to the landfill, the other will take recycling and transport the material directly to American Recycling in Manassas.

Ms. Tiziana Bottino asked if there was anything that can be done to encourage recycling and discourage waste. Ms. Demers answered that unfortunately, not much. However, if the park-outs were discontinued, the money budgeted for those programs could be better used towards more education and community outreach. Mr. Lintner asked Mr. MacDonald if he had any idea how many people were using the purple bins, vs just throwing glass in with the regular trash. Mr. MacDonald answered no, but a survey could be conducted, and numbers could be extrapolated. Mr. Smith interjected that the money could also be used to expand the convenience center at the Balls Ford Road facility to handle more customers. Ms. Tiziana Bottino asked if more work has been done with the schools to educate about recycling and waste reduction. Mr. MacDonald stated that Ms. Deborah Campbell (Solid Waste Communication Specialist) has been in contact with the schools for many years, as well as having an agreement with Keep Prince William Beautiful to educate school aged children on recycling and litter prevention initiatives. The Solid Waste Division, Prince William County Public Schools, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension have partnered on a grant with the USDA to compost food waste at 6 schools within the county. This is slated to begin in the fall of 2021 but could be impacted by the coronavirus. Ms. Tiziana Bottino also mentioned a new climate resolution that was passed in regard to the schools. She will send the information to Mr. MacDonald. More discussion is eminent, but Ms. Demers feels that most to the committee is leaning towards ending the park-out program.

Ms. Demers then moved to the next topic which involved the Yorkshire Sanitary District. Currently, the Prince William County Service Authority (PWCSA) manages a contract for waste collection for 1500 households in the Yorkshire Sanitary District. These households are contracted through Patriot Disposal. Refuse is collected in this area two days a week (Monday and Thursday), with recycling collected one day a week. Bulk collection is also offered. The county's recent change to also have a separate yard waste collection will need to be added to the contract. Currently, the price for trash collection is \$13 a month for residents, which will go up to \$14 a month in July. Ms. Demers is proposing the management of the Yorkshire Sanitary District change from the PWCSA to the Solid Waste Division. This change would ensure that residents are getting the highest quality solid waste service, as the Solid Waste Division is in the business of trash, and is more knowledgeable of rules, regulations, and ordinances. She continued by stating that having a dedicated employee monitor collection services would be very beneficial. However, billing residents and guaranteeing payment to the haulers would have to be

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worked out. Mr. Smith stated that as right now, the haulers are receiving a check directly from the service authority and residents are paying as part of the water bill because there is a fear of having discontinued water service if they do not pay. He continued by informing the committee up until recently every home in the Yorkshire Sanitary District had to pay their trash fee and get their trash collected. The service authority has recently removed this requirement. If homeowners decide to not have trash service, that fee will be removed from their bill. A downside to this is that if half the homeowners decide to remove this service, the cost to the other homeowners will increase. Mr. Smith is of the mind to continue letting the service authority manage the Yorkshire Sanitary District unless the service authority states otherwise. He went on to say that under the Virginia Code, there is a Petition option to establish collection districts.. This allows homeowners to petition and work with the county to establish a trash service, having one hauler per area. If the county wants to be proactive, this type of program could be advertised, but unfortunately, the county does not have this program. The communities and board would all to agree on this matter first. This option is not available yet, but it certainly could be. Ms. Demers asked Mr. Smith whether or not it would be possible for the Solid Waste Division to take over the management of the Yorkshire Sanitary District. Mr. Smith said it is possible and it would be a good transition. The county could manage it, and the homeowners could be billed twice a year on their real estate tax. The big question is if this would be for all or nothing. Could homeowners opt out? Mr. Smith feels this option would be a billing nightmare. At this point in time, it was felt that more discussion is needed to make a final decision. Mr. Smith and Mr. MacDonald will reach out to contacts regarding the service authority and report back at a later date.

LANDFILL UPDATES

Mr. Tom Smith stated that the next liner bids came in and construction plans to start in March 2021. Sargent company will be constructing the liner. Mr. Smith would also like to put in more gas wells to help pinpoint odor issues. Fortistar is working on a proposal to convert landfill gas to pipeline quality for Washington Gas. This plan is scheduled to be discussed in February.

BALLS FORD ROAD UPDATES

Mr. Smith stated that Balls Ford Road has been very busy during the fall season. Phase II is currently entering the design phase.

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

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Mr. Scott MacDonald informed the committee that the Solid Waste Division has received three new purple trailers for glass recycling. These trailers will go to Ferlazzo, and James S. Long Park. The extra trailer is for swapping out the full bins. These trailers will be placed in late January or early February. He is currently looking to bid out the glass recycling, as there seem to be better deals within the region.

SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Smith has met with NOVEC to talk about a partnership, with discussions ongoing. Mr. Smith and NOVEC plan to talk with Fortistar about the electric interconnect for the power plant.. This interconnect will help free up and cut the cost of the solar project. While NOVEC is interested, Solid Waste staff still have to explore the economics of the project.

WASTE CONVERSION PROJECT

Mr. Smith stated that this project is still on hold. The plant in Maine has lost their financing and currently have three buyers that all want to restart the plant as soon as possible. They are currently just waiting for the transaction to go through.

COMMITTEE ISSUES/CONCERNS

Mr. Tom Smith plans on meeting with the Board about a few member re-appointments. Ms. Jane Wyman asked how will residents of the county know that more purple bins will be available for use? Mr. MacDonald answered that it will be promoted through outreach, the county website, and HOA contacts. Ms. Wyman suggested contacting Inside NOVA. Mr. MacDonald said he would look into that but for the most part, news outlets will decide whether or not they want to use the information. He stated that the county seems to get more response out of the Prince William Times and Potomac Local. Ms. Wyman also asked if a map detailing the locations of the 16 recycling trailers in the county is available for the public. Mr. MacDonald said no, but he would talk with Ms. Deborah Campbell to see about getting one posted on the website. Ms. Wyman also encouraged that more information be dispersed to the public about plastics recycling, as she has had to educate many of her neighbors about what can and cannot be recycled. Mr. Smith replied that Ms. Wyman had many good suggestions. However, he wanted to point out that all of the county's public outreach/communications staff have been diverted to

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the COVID vaccine call center. So public outreach regarding solid waste issues may take a back seat for the moment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Scott MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm. The next SWAG meeting will be on Thursday February 18, 2021 at 4:00 pm via Cisco Webex.