

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**  
**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY GROUP (SWAG) MEETING**  
**September 16, 2021**

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**OPENING:**

Mr. Scott MacDonald called the meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Group to order at 4:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

**ATTENDENCE:**

**SWCAG Members:**

**Present:** Mr. James Gestrich, Mr. Joseph Chisholm, Ms. Jane Wyman, Mr. Will Lintner, Ms. Tiziana Bottino, Mr. Harry Glasgow, and Ms. Virginia Douglas

**Absent:** Mr. Mark Bonner, Ms. Keisha Strand, Mr. David Watjen, Mr. Ned Greene, Mr. Richard Arvin

**Solid Waste Staff:** Mr. Thomas Smith, Mr. Jason Pauley, Ms. Monica Gorman, Mr. Scott Kleinfeld, Ms. Iobel Seyoum, Mr. Bernie Osilka, Mr. Scott MacDonald, Mr. Sadhu Sandhu, Ms. Deborah Campbell, Ms. Polly Flory, Mr. Trent Magill

**Guest:** Mr. Fouad Arbid

**AGENDA TOPICS**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed which members were in attendance. No visitors were present. However, the County's consultant and invited guest, Mr. Fouad Arbid of Solid Waste Services LLC, was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A quorum was not present, so the draft minutes of the July 15, 2021 SWAG meeting could not be voted on for approval.

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**GENERAL PROJECT UPDATES**

**Yard Waste Update**

The Countywide yard waste collection program is set to begin on October 1, 2021. The program was approved by the Board of County Supervisors in December of 2020. The Solid Waste Division continues to receive questions about the program, most of which are coming from Homeowner's Associations (HOAs) with homes on large lots of up to five acres that manage yard waste on site. Staff also received questions from townhome communities that do not generate much yard waste. Many have a third-party landscaping contractor maintaining the property that removes most of the community's yard waste. Staff is addressing questions as they come up and has continued to engage the community concerning the new yard waste program. Incoming questions are being reviewed and added to the FAQs on the website.

Solid Waste has conducted several meetings with the private haulers to discuss collection of yard waste. The next meeting with the haulers will take place in November 2021. Solid Waste staff has received inquiries from private subscription customers about costs charged by hauling companies for the yard waste service.

**LANDFILL OPERATIONS**

Mr. Kleinfeld informed the committee that a final walkaround was conducted for the new cell (Phase III, Cell A), and the construction project is now completed. Minor issues still need to be corrected by the contractor. Staff are now waiting on approval for use of the new cell from the state.

Mr. Kleinfeld is working with the management team on the changes to operating hours at the landfill and Ball Ford Road Compost Facility (BFR) locations. The new hours will take effect at BFR on October 4th. At BFR, the new operational hours will now be Monday – Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. This will significantly increase BFR's hours of operation, which will help support the new yard waste collection program.

A Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) inspection was conducted at the landfill three weeks prior to this SWAG meeting, and everything went well. No violations or concerns were found. Even with several staff vacancies, the landfill is operating at full capacity.

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Ms. Gorman elaborated further on the operational changes. A new yard waste collection program in the County is due to begin on October 1st. The hauling companies stated that the hours at BFR were not sufficient to support their collection operations. In other words, BFR was not opening early enough and was closing too early. To support the new collection program, the County is extending the hours at BFR by 2.5 hours per day on Monday through Friday, which will coincide with the landfill's hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. These extended hours will be covered with existing staff. There are a lot of overtime hours accumulating due to difficulties in hiring, so with sensitivity for that, we will be shortening the hours on Saturdays at BFR and the landfill. Saturday hours at the landfill and BFR will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., which is the same as our current Sunday hours. These changes will align operating hours for both facilities to help eliminate the public's confusion about different hours at the facilities. To accommodate the number of hours that we are gaining at BFR and reduce overtime, both facilities will have the same hours. The change of hours at BFR will take effect on October 4, 2021. The proposed landfill Saturday hours take effect on October 30, 2021. This will give the Solid Waste staff time to conduct some outreach with the public.

**BALLS FORD ROAD OPERATIONS**

The composting facility is now taking material from Arlington County. Arlington County started a new food scraps collection program, and because they added food to their existing yard waste collection program, they are now using the BFR facility. Fairfax County recently discontinued yard waste collection for a few months due to labor shortages. By the end of the year, we are expected to function at full capacity with current contracts and jurisdictions.

We have a new program, a grant with USDA, to collect food waste from certain schools in the County, which will be processed at BFR. It's a pilot program and we are grateful to have the grant and opportunity.

**LANDFILL PHASE IV CONCEPTUAL DESIGN**

Ms. Gorman stated in order to continue to manage solid waste at the landfill for Prince William County residents into the future, we started the planning process for development of the northern landfill property. Our consultant, Mr. Arbid, has done landfill design for Prince William County for a very long time, and has also worked at other local jurisdictions, including Fairfax and Loudoun County. For background information about Mr. Arbid, he started working on solid

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waste issues and landfills in 1986. He did his master's thesis on life cycle costs in landfills in North Carolina. For the past 35 years, he has been involved in solid waste planning, solid waste facility design, permitting, construction, monitoring, and landfill capping throughout the U.S. He also worked for international clients. He served on the technical advisory committee for Virginia's current Solid Waste Management regulations, and he served as a board member and President of the Virginia Chapter of Solid Waste Association of North America, (SWANA) which is a trade group for government and private professionals involved in solid waste.

Mr. Arbid explained the process and where we are in the conceptual design process for Phase IV of the landfill as well as why we are starting now. In the current landfill, we have 10 to 12 years of capacity remaining. Phase IV will maximize the life of the landfill property as a disposal facility for the residents of the County. Several design scenarios were explored, and two meet the basic criteria for use of the site and long-term disposal capacity for County residents. Staff is requesting feedback from the SWAG members on these scenarios. Mr. Arbid proceeded to show the two design scenarios currently being considered. Scenario 2 shows an engineered channel where there are currently a stream and wetlands along the northern boundary of the current landfill and what would be the southern portion of Phase IV. In this design scenario, the landfill would essentially be two separate mounds, one to the south of the engineered channel and one to the north of the channel. This design scenario is estimated to provide 50 million cubic yards of disposal capacity and just about 48 years of landfill life. There would be approximately 35 acres of wetlands impacted under this design scenario.

In design Scenario 3, the stream running east-west to the north of the existing landfill, is rerouted to the west and north sides of Phase IV. Rerouting the stream would allow Phase IV to overlay, or piggyback, the existing landfill to form a single mound. This scenario maximizes use of the property with an estimated disposal capacity of 105 million cubic yards and a useful life of about 84 years. There would be approximately 38 acres of wetlands impacted under this design scenario, but the rerouted stream would result in some on-site compensation.

For purposes of comparison, Mr. Arbid discussed design scenario 1, which does not impact any on-site stream or wetlands. He stated this scenario is not preferred because it does not provide sufficient life span or disposal capacity to meet future needs. Mr. Arbid recommended Scenario 3 as the most advantageous design because it is the least costly and maximizes landfill life and disposal capacity for County residents.

Mr. Arbid stated the landfill property is the County's largest asset. Therefore, preserving and extending the landfill's life and maximizing use of the site is of value to the County. For comparison, the gross estimated asset values of each design scenario based on a cost for waste

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disposal of about \$50/ton is \$660 million for Scenario 1, \$1.65 billion for Scenario 2, and \$3.465 billion for Scenario 3. Mr. Arbid estimated the costs to construct each scenario to include stream/wetland compensation in 2021 dollars would be about \$138 million for Scenario 1, \$232 million for Scenario 2, and \$247 million for Scenario 3. In looking at the estimated cost per cubic yard (cy) of disposal capacity, Scenario 1 is the highest cost at \$6.90 per cy, Scenario 2 would cost about \$4.64 per cy, and Scenario 3 is much less at \$2.35 per cy. Mr. Arbid recommends Scenario 3 because of the longer life at lower cost per cy to develop. Finally, the County may not require 84 years of estimated landfill life under Scenario 3 if new technology was introduced that could take the place of landfill disposal. However, there are currently no other viable large-scale technologic alternatives for the County aside from landfilling.

Mr. Arbid stated the current landfill disposal capacity will be consumed in about 12 years, so we are proceeding with permitting and design of Phase IV. That process will require about four to five years to get all the permit approvals and several additional years for construction.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

Mr. Gestrich presented two concerns. In the past week and a half, he has smelled methane gas in the evenings, and halfway through the night, the smell is strong enough that he has to close the windows. He is uncertain of the cause. His second concern is about the presence of European Wasps in the area, which attack honeybees present in the woods. He indicated we might want to look into this because of the honeybees at the landfill.

Ms. Gorman addressed the first concern by stating staff will look into a cause for the odor and will address at the October meeting. With respect to the second concern, Ms. Gorman asked for Mr. Gestrich's thoughts on addressing the European Wasps. Mr. Gestrich stated he would be contacting a pest control company for the wasps near him. He also indicted the wasps do not attack humans unless threatened; they look like big yellow jackets; they love to eat the sap of the trees; and are known to attack honeybee colonies.

Mr. Smith and Mr. MacDonald offered Forest Pests and or Cooperative Extension as the two options of County agencies with pest control knowledge.

Mr. Magill mentioned he thought these wasps feed-off cicadas, which may have caused a recent population increase, but with this food source mostly gone, the wasp population will likely taper off in the near future.

Ms. Gorman stated staff will follow up with the landfill's beekeeper.

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Ms. Douglas requested the start of the SWAG meeting be pushed to a later time of 6:30 p.m. or after to accommodate schedules for those members who work during the day.

Ms. Bottino mentioned there is a newly created Office of Sustainability in the County, and the job recruitment for a manager of that office has been posted.

**FINAL COMMENTS**

Mr. McDonald reminded the committee that discussion will continue regarding the Phase IV conceptual design options at the October SWAG meeting, and staff is requesting member comments. Staff has received a second draft of the Solid Waste Management Plan and is currently reviewing. Staff would like the SWAG to review the Plan during the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Ms. Campbell stated there will be a paper shredding event on October 23, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Phips Stadium. On October 9, 2021, there will be a Fix-IT Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will be at the event to repair items brought by the public, and she invited others to sign up on the Keep Prince William Beautiful website, [www.kpwb.org/events](http://www.kpwb.org/events) if they would like to volunteer.

Mr. Gorman stated that staff would add recycling program updates to future agendas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Scott MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m. The next SWAG meeting will be on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.