

MEETING MINUTES

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY GROUP (SWAG)

July 16, 2026

ATTENDANCE

SWAG Members:

Present: Stephanie Babcock, Sidney "ST" Billingsley, Mark Bonner, Robert Boyt, Bradley Kelly, Keisha Strand, Jane Wyman

Public Works Staff: Luke Hisghman, Amarjit Riat, Khattab Shammout, Renad Uri

Absent: James Gestrich, Joel Becker, Lynn Meadows, Arshdeep Pannu, Amritpal Singh, Tom Smith, Tammy Gambita

Guests: None

OPENING

Khattab Shammout called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. He introduced himself as the Director of Public Works and turned the meeting over to Renad Uri. Note: SWAG Members became engaged in informal conversations about various Solid Waste-related items before the official start.

AGENDA TOPICS

Introductions and Agenda Overview – Renad Uri

Amarjit Riat, the new Assistant Director of Public Works for Solid Waste introduced himself and share his Solid Waste experience with Fairfax County and his experience in Prince William County with Parks and Tourism Department. The SWAG members also introduced themselves and their relevant experience and a chart with the member list and their respective term dates was displayed. The chart highlighted the new appointment of Stephanie Babcock representing the Woodbridge District.

A motion to approve the April 2026 minutes was signaled by S.T. Billingsly and second by Robert Boyt. Renad asked the SWAG members to mark their calendars for the October 8th annual landfill tour and dinner meeting. She provided an overview of the agenda, including an overview of FY 2026 operations and project updates.

Operational Updates – Renad Uri

FY26 – Landfill Operations

For FY26, at the landfill processed over 423,000 customer transactions and accepted 330,000 tons of material, 305,000 tons were landfilled and the remainder was diverted. Also, \$10 million in tipping fees were collected.

FY26 – Landfill CIP Projects

The new cell 3B is currently being filled and sequence 5 capping system is complete. Thirteen additional gas wells were installed to capture landfill gas, control odor and fugitive discharge.

FY26 – Compost Facility Operations

For FY 26, more than 133,000 customer transactions were processed, more than 68,000 tons of material were accepted and almost \$2 million in tipping fees were collected. A recent aerial photo of the Compost Facility was displayed,

FY26 – Administration

One hundred nineteen (119) purchase orders (PO) were issued in FY 26. Eight hundred and sixty-one (861) invoices were paid via the all-electronic processing method, eliminating paper statements and invoices from our end and from contractors. This was a challenge, but the results have increased efficiencies and minimized errors –no invoices missed and no checks getting lost.

The Division currently has three open recruitments and a couple of job descriptions are being rewritten to meet the needs of the division that have not been posted yet. Open recruitment positions include Assistant Superintendent, Scalehouse Operator, Maintenance Worker.

Recycling Program Update – Renad Uri

The FY25 Recycling Programs included America Recycles Day outreach, the Compost Awareness Day event, Waste and Recycling Workers Week Proclamation and observance at the landfill and compost facility.

For America Recycles Day, the division supports the “I Recycle Pledge” contest coordinated the MWCOG. For the 12th time in 13 years, a PWC resident has won the \$300 REI gift prize. For Waste and Recycling Workers week we distributed cooling, safety reminder messaging “Five to Arrive Alive” from SWANA, cold beverages and snacks. Photo collage of Waste and Recycling Workers Week activities was displayed.

The annual Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) Recycling Report. Our recycling rate submission is 47.2%. The minimum required by the state is 25%. Big box stores and franchise restaurants are really doing great, with waste diversion versus landfilling.

The Division also offers the Dumpster Days program twice a year in cooperation with the Supervisor’s. Each district gets a fall date and a spring date in their locality for residents to bring their unwanted bulky items and trash. This program collected an additional 26.62 tons of waste in FY 26.

Solid Waste also hosted two shred events. In November 2025 306 residents participated, and May 2026 356 residents participated.

Litter Crew Update – Renad Uri

The litter crew was busy: Lane miles waked, 1508 miles, 82 tons of litter removed from the roadways and 1179 illegal signs collected.

Renad also noted the Division has purchased a mobile litter fence. The idea was sparked by Loudoun County’s purchase of one. The fencing can be moved as needed on the workface with a dozer.

Recycling Program FY 27 Work Plan – Renad Uri

Operational Plans – Improvements (High Priority)

Plans are underway to reposition and consolidate signage at the landfill and compost facilities. Updates include --Authorized Personnel Only, better stop and yield signs, large 12-foot-long signs on the convenience pad that identify what material goes where, using pictures, large letters and colors to help staff direct and customers navigate.

Budget includes \$250,000 for mattress recycling, which provides a real challenge. Because of the expense, Renad is assessing the types of mattresses that are the biggest nuisances and determining the best mattresses to recycle. The project will be set out for bid at some point in the future to obtain a mattress recycler.

Operational Plans – Community Engagement & Education (Ongoing Priority)

Expanding our community engagement and education is an ongoing priority with a goal of increased recycling and reduced contamination. Attendance at community events, classroom, senior centers and HOA presentations opportunities are welcomed. “Trashy” the Raccoon advertisements will be used to support litter prevention.

Operational Plans – Customer Support (Responsive Priority)

The Division provides staff with training tools focused on customer service and effective communication with difficult customers. Renad asked the group to share any training recommendations they may have.

Robert Boyt noted that a Fairfax County police car is conspicuously parked at their facility and this tends to migrate customer misbehavior. Renad will investigate this for the landfill.

The Solid Waste Division currently employs an attended police car on sight on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Operational Plans – Food Waste Composting

Food waste collection for composting is planned for a late August/ early September launch, at the landfill and upgrade at the compost facility. The details on containers, etc. are still being finalized. A promotional campaign is planned to get the word out and “Trashy” will be a part of this new food waste campaign. The program is for residents and not commercial establishments.

Operational Plans – Foam-Free PWC (Styrofoam Ban)

On July 1, 2026, restaurants and food services operations are no longer allowed to use Styrofoam in Virginia. Oversight and enforcement on the local level was moved from the Health Department to Solid Waste. The Recycling Office is working to spread awareness of the ban, and develop processes to take complaints, issue limited waivers and develop ordinances and work with restaurants to switch to more eco-friendly options. Promoting a compostable option was discussed. Currently, this is not a dictate of the state and compostable options can be more costly than other plastic alternatives.

Battery Recycling Campaign

New campaign to educate residents not to place battery powered items in the metal container at the pad or metal pile. A large banner that features Trashy the Raccoon has been placed at the metal pile. We also purchased large metal bins and placed them next to the scrap metal bays on the pad and added signage. Placement of battery-operated items in the metal pile has caused fires at the landfill and at the metal contractor Joseph Smith and Sons, resulting in fines for Solid Waste. To further increase awareness and behavior modification, a paid social media campaign on proper disposal of batteries and the availability of disposal is seven days a week, not just on HHW days. A slide with Trashy and the campaign talking points: Keep Batteries Out of the Metal Pile, Fire Hazard, Protect Employees and Equipment and Environmental Impact was shown.

FY 27 Events

Events for FY 27 include Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 paper shreds; Fall 2026 Dumpster Days from September to October; 2027 Spring Dumpster Days dates and locations TBD; November 2026 America Recycles (Month) Day; Compost Awareness Day May 2027; and

National Waste and Recycling Workers Week in June 2027. The Recycling Office is also open to suggestions from SWAG members about event tabling opportunities.

Landfill Tour Bus

Through the Joint Environmental Task Force partnership between Price William County Government and Prince William County Schools, the Solid Waste Division acquired an out of service school bus with air conditioning to use for landfill tours. The bus was wrapped with Trashy the Raccoon and is ready for tourists.

Questions and Comments

ST Billingsly noted a trend of complaints about glass recycling on social media platforms. Renad noted that glass may be included in curbside recycling in the future because of a new relationship between Cap Glas and Waste Management. Pros and cons of glass in single stream, a potential increase in glass because the PFAS and plastic issues were discussed.

A discussion about recycling efficacy, apathy, and contamination as well as the importance of educating young people about recycling and the community about the assets and workings of the landfill. Recycling markets' effect on recycling was also discussed. Brad Kelley offered to share a presentation on what recycling materials 100% of what the market wants to take.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting, October 1, 2026 – Cookout and Landfill Tour