

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF ALLEGANY COUNTY



Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and In-person

Members Present: John Kirby, Raquel Kettermann, Richard Soderman, Bethany Fife, Robin Paulman, Juli McCoy, Carolyn Mathews, Dusty Hilbert, Frank Fox, Lee Heavner, Andrew Cowan

Members Absent (without Alternate): Brian Dicken, Adam Strott, Wally High

Guest Present: Woody Getz

Next Meeting: June 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and Meet in Person in Potomac Room 230, County Office Building at 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD

- The April 3rd Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion from Raquel Kettermann seconded by Robin Paulman.
- Woody Getz requested re-appointments added under old business. Andrew Cowan added sticker price increase under new business.

Old Business

Cumberland Curbside Recycling Update:

- Raquel reported that the program was running smoothly. Recycling has remained steady compared to recent quarters. The recycling numbers for January through March were 16 tons per month for co-mingled and 6 tons per month for mixed paper.

Mountainview Landfill Update:

- Noble met with MDE the last week of April to discuss their Phase II submittal. Dusty stated that this would be an ongoing process for the next couple of months. MDE has completed their preliminary report for the Phase I application and sent a conformity letter to Allegany County. Andrew stated the County has received a conformity request from MDE. Once the relevant employees have reviewed it Andrew will draft a letter affirming that Noble's application conforms to County zoning and Solid Waste Management Plan.

Re-Appointments:

- Juli stated that in March four names were submitted for re-appointment to the County Commissioners. She received a letter that the Commissioners would not take action on the appointments as they did not approve the re-appointment of Woody Getz and asked for another appointee. Andrew read aloud the letter from Jason Bennett to Juli. Juli asked the board, over the next couple of weeks, to come up with another nomination for the seat of Environmental Group. The remaining three appointments are scheduled for the May 2nd

BOCC meeting. Woody suggested the board inquire as to why his nomination was rejected. The decision was made in a closed session and attendance and final decision are the only reporting requirements.

New Business

Economic Development:

- Andrew informed the board that Burgmeier is still moving forward with their transfer station. They have submitted plans to the County for review and are submitting their application to MDE for Solid Waste Collection. Juli reported that Chamber is hosting a ribbon cutting for Geocycle on May 16th. She will forward an invitation to the board members if they would like to attend.

2024 Priorities and Project Coordination:

- John sent a draft letter to Juli, Bethany, and Andrew for the Goal of informing the Commissioners of the SWMP. The idea is for John to present the MDE progress report, submitted by Andrew, at a Commissioners' work session. The board is also requesting one or more Commissioners to attend a regular SWMB meeting to fully understand their role in implementing the SWMP. Andrew has passed the request along to Adam Patterson and Jason Bennett.
- John and Lee are working on the Pumpkin Collection for the fall. John feels like he should connect with a DNR Biologist to make sure there are no issues with disposing of the pumpkins in the woods. Juli suggested posting on social media to ask for volunteers that are willing to accept the used pumpkins.
- Bikes for the World was posted on social media. Juli feels like this completes the goal set for 2024
- Carolyn attended Envirothon and was able to speak with the local science teachers. They are still interested in the idea of a video contest. Carolyn suggested using more specific topic for the videos.

Plastic Mat:

- Andrew reported that group of local residents from Our Lady of the Mountains Parish "Mary Matters" Group are making mats out of used plastic markets bags. The mats are the size of a yoga mat and donated to the homeless. They presented their project to him and would like to share it with the SWMB. They will present at the regular June meeting.

Sticker Price Increase:

- Andrew informed the board that the County was considering raising the trash stickers from \$1.00 to \$2.00. The sticker has been set at \$1.00 since 2017 while the cost of trash disposal has risen nearly 40%. He wrote a memo to the Commissioners stating that the program for the convenience boxes is supplemented \$275,000 by the General Fund. Raising the sticker price to \$2.00 would reduce the support to \$25,000. At the next meeting he will ask the board for support through a letter of recommendation to raise the price. Juli feels that the increase could increase recycling efforts. If the sticker price is increased, the board would like to promote the free recycling program as a way to offset the increase cost.

Landfill Tour:

- **Dusty rented a passenger van to give board members a tour of the landfill. He showed the group a future site of a methane collection facility. The plant will be able to take methane that is normally burned through a torch and clean it for use as a household gas such as NG. The group also saw samples of the liner that Noble is required to use under the landfill. Dusty explained how the current system works and how it will continue with the expansion of the landfill.**

Other Items:

- **Carolyn reported HB-1-SB 235 introduces up to a \$2.00 tax on paint containers.**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:57p.m.

Minutes prepared by Andrew Cowan