

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF ALLEGANY COUNTY



Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and In-person

Members Present: John Kirby, Raquel Ketterman, 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, Teresa Easton, Cathy Pannone

Next Meeting: August 7, 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 May 1st Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion from Lee Heavner seconded by John Kirby.
- There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Old Business

Cumberland Curbside Recycling Update:

- No update.

Mountainview Landfill Update:

- Dusty reported that Noble was working with Jerrod Cook from the County for their zoning permits. Noble is also working with the County to amend the SWMP to include the expansion of MVL. Andrew noted that there would be a public hearing on July 8th to take questions and hear comments on amending the SWMP. He suggested that available members should attend as the board would need to make a recommendation to the Commissioners on the issue. Nearby residents have made complaints about operations at the landfill and Andrew expects concerns to be raised. A committee meeting was set for Tuesday July 23rd at 2:00pm to review the public hearing.

New Business

Plastic Mat Presentation:

- Theresa Easton and Cathy Pannone from Our Lady of the Mountain presented a project that they have been working on. They are upcycling plastic bags and using them to make plastic mats for the homeless. They are able to cut plastic bags into strips to make a yarn and crochet the mats. It takes, on average, 700 bags to make one mat. To date they have been able to make over 20 mats. Theresa offered an invitation to any wanting to learn how to make the mats or anyone that would like to join their group.

Re-Appointments:

- Caryolyn offered to fill the role of Environmental Group until a suitable member was found. She suggested Dr. Jeniffer Bentlejewski for the seat. Lee will attempt to make contact with Dr. Bentlejewski about joining the SWMB. Lee Heavner and Dick Soderman's re-appointments were approved at the May 2nd BOCC meeting. Carolyn was appointed as member for Citizens-at-Large at the same meeting.

Economic Development:

- Adam Strott informed the board that the County has partnered with Geocycle to dispose of the large tire pile located in McCoolle. There are roughly 300,000 tires that were illegal disposed of and the County is required to clean up the site. The long-term goal is to have a permanent collection site and Geocycle is interested in opening a business.
- Nexus is still moving forward with their bio-char facility. They are reconsidering their vendor for the technology-based equipment. Currently they are looking at a late summer to start on the facility. During construction there may be a need for a temporary mulch site until completion of the bio-char facility.
- Juli reported that Geocycle joined Chambers and they were able to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for them. Geocycle has 12 employees now and expects to expand. Adam Strott said that Economic Development has a blog post about Geocycle for anyone that wants to learn more about their operations.
- The County is continuing to reach out to similar businesses to grow recycling as a viable industrial base for our community.

2024 Priorities and Project Coordination:

- Three members; John Kirby, Carolyn Mathews, and Lee Heavner formed a Pumpkin Sub-Committee for the Pumpkin Collection Goal. A meeting was held at Rocky Gap where they discussed different options to reduce the food waste in the waste stream. John provided the group with notes from the meeting.

Other Items:

- **Bethany provided the group with an update on Frostburg's Buy Nothing Event. Last year 6,000 items were accepted. This year that number grew to over 50,000 items. At the end of the event 12 bags of clothing and 20 boxes remained and they were given to local charities that were in need. There were only 3 bags of trash total out of the donated items. She stated that next year they will need more volunteers due to the event growing in popularity. She is attempting to create a "How to Guide" and would like to release it to communities that are wanting to have their own event. While Bethany was not able to attend Green Fest other members of the Buy Nothing Event attended in Boonsboro, Md. They plan to incorporate ideas from the Green Fest into next year's Buy Nothing Event.**
- **The Solid Waste Management Board meeting for July was cancelled with a motion from Lee Heavner seconded by John Kirby.**

Meeting Adjourned at 4:05p.m.

Minutes prepared by Andrew Cowan