

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF ALLEGANY COUNTY



Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and In-person

Members Present: Juli McCoy, Raquel Kettermann, Bethany Fife, Robin Paulman, Lee Heavner, Richard Soderman, Carolyn Mathews, Sarah Llewellyn, Adam Strott, John Kirby, Andrew Cowan

Members Absent (without Alternate): Brian Dicken, Dusty Hilbert, Wally High, Frank Fox

Guest Present: Woody Getz

Next Meeting: March 5, 2025, 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

- There was one correction to the December Meeting Minutes. The next meeting date should read February 5, 2025, not December 4, 2024. The corrected Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion from Lee Heavner seconded by Carolyn Mathews.
- One addition to the agenda. Carolyn requested that Plastic Bag Ban be added under new business.

Old Business

Cumberland Curbside Recycling Update:

- Raquel reported that Cumberland's co-mingled and mixed paper recycling numbers are up from the previous quarter. Cumberland has also opened up its online bids for trash services. They have received two bids for tipping fees and two bids for hauling. She hopes to have a recommendation for a bid at the next meeting.

Mountainview Landfill Update:

- No Update.

New Business

Economic Development:

- Adam Strott announced that the land sale to Burgmeier was finalized in December. They are currently working with the County to secure the necessary permits. Nexus completed its funding round last year and aims to begin construction this year. Geocycle has taken over the illegal tire dumping site in McCoole and plans to establish a permanent tire collection facility. All old tires have been removed from the site, and the remaining tires are currently stored in trailers on the property. Clym has finished their pad work. They plan on starting construction next week. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-March.

HHW Event:

- Andrew informed the board that Allegany County could not support a Household Hazardous Waste Event in 2025 due to a reduction in the recycling budget and the absence of additional grant funding. Lee proposed canceling the event for 2025 and suggested that the board revisit the matter next year.

Other Items:

- Andrew is scheduled to meet with Steve Miller on February 6th to discuss recycling contamination in the County. Currently, #1 and #2 plastics are mixed, leading to unacceptable recycling bin conditions. To address this issue, Andrew proposes installing new signs on the bins that illustrate the proper ways to recycle plastics. Juli suggested launching a social media campaign to raise further awareness about the problem. Additionally, Andrew has a meeting with the LaVale Civic Association in March to discuss contamination in more detail. Penn-Mar has had to dispose of loads that were rejected by the mills.

Plastic Bag Ban:

- Carolyn mentioned that Prince George's County, Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel County have banned single-use bags at the point of sale. She proposed implementing a similar ban in Allegany County. John noted that this is a legal decision that requires multiple approvals from various departments. Adam Strott suggested starting an educational program encouraging the public to reduce plastic bag usage. Adam will talk to Jason Bennett about the issue.

Upcoming Events:

- Bethany announced that Frostburg's Buy Nothing Event will take place on Saturday, May 17th, and Sunday, May 18th. She invited anyone interested in volunteering to contact her.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Andrew Cowan.