

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**  
**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY GROUP (SWAG) MEETING**  
**July 15, 2021**

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**OPENING:**

Mr. Scott MacDonald called the meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Group to order at 4:10 p.m. via Cisco WebEx.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**SWCAG Members:**

**Present:** Mr. James Gestrich, Mr. David Watjen, Mr. Joseph Chisholm, Ms. Jane Wyman, Mr. Ned Greene, Mr. Richard Arvin, Mr. Will Lintner, Ms. Tiziana Bottino, and Ms. Keisha Strand.

**Absent:** Mr. Mark Bonner, Mr. Harry Glasgow, Ms. Virginia Douglas.

**Solid Waste Staff:** Mr. Jason Pauley, Ms. Monica Gorman, Mr. Scott Kleinfeld, Ms. Amy Zitzmann, Mr. Bernie Osilka, Mr. Scott MacDonald, Mr. Sadhu Sandhu, Ms. Deborah Campbell, and Ms. Christine Hobbs.

**AGENDA TOPICS**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting via Cisco WebEx and confirmed which members were in attendance. Mr. MacDonald introduced Ms. Monica Gorman who is the new Assistant Director of Public Works for Solid Waste. Ms. Gorman introduced herself to the committee, stating that she is very excited to join Prince William County.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A quorum was valid, so the draft minutes of the April 15, 2021 and May 20, 2021 SWAG meetings were approved.

**GENERAL PROJECT UPDATES**

**Solid Waste Management Plan**

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Mr. MacDonald has received the first draft of the Solid Waste Management Plan from SCS Engineers. Once staff completes a review the draft plan will be emailed to committee members to read during the month of August.

**Landfill Buffer Acquisition**

Ms. Gorman stated the Bockes property acquisition is still in negotiations. She anticipates the sale will be finalized soon.

**Landfill Cell Construction**

Mr. Sandhu informed the committee that the new landfill cell will be completed in August. Once the cell is completed, paperwork will be sent to DEQ for approval.

**Landfill Gas Conversion Project**

Ms. Gorman stated that Fortistar is pursuing changing from power generation to renewable natural gas (RNG). Fortistar has asked the County to accept a revised agreement that would allow them to take the current landfill gas, clean it up to pipeline standards, and then sell that gas through an agreement with Washington Gas. This new agreement would reflect about \$50-60 million dollars in private investment. Part of this investment would be to build a new plant at the landfill that will regenerate RNG, as well as building a carrier pipeline. This project would result in increased revenue share to the County as a result of renewable identification numbers (RINs). RINs are valuable and would be sold by Fortistar like commodities. With our current agreement, incoming County revenue equates to about \$200,000 a year. Under a future agreement, the minimum the county would receive in revenue sharing would be \$400,000, with potential for that amount to increase to over one million dollars. The plant would take about two to three years to build and would be operational around 2023. Mr. Sandhu added that the square footage needed to build is already available on site. Mr. Pauley added that air emissions will be reduced by switching to RNG. Staff plan to brief the board in September on the environmental benefits that come with converting to RNG. Mr. Arvin wanted clarification regarding the funding of this project. Mr. Pauley confirmed that the landfill will provide a site for the facility. Fortistar will pay for the facility to be built. Mr. Lintner asked if the plant will be operated by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, or by Washington Gas. Mr. Pauley answered that Fortistar will be operating the facility under a new affiliate company name.

**Yard Waste Changes Update**

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Mr. MacDonald reminded the committee starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, all yard waste must be separated from regular trash for collection in the county and may no longer be placed in plastic bags. Yard waste placed curbside will be collected by private haulers and needs to be placed in paper yard waste bags or personal container labeled “yard waste.” Solid Waste staff is currently focused on community outreach and updating facility rules related to changes to the Refuse Code (including the yard wastes changes).

**LANDFILL OPERATIONS**

Mr. Kleinfeld reiterated that cell construction will be completed in August. Operations are running smooth. He is looking to hire more employees.

**BALLS FORD ROAD OPERATIONS**

Mr. Osilka informed the committee that Freestate Farms is having issues with their leachate collection associated with Phase I (advanced aerating compost system). Freestate Farms plans to issue a request for proposal to general contractors for a possible redesign of the system. Freestate Farms has missed their financing deadline for Phase II (in vessel advanced composting). County staff will continue to work with Freestate towards a resolution.

**COMMITTEE ISSUES/CONCERNS**

Ms. Bottino shared that the SWAG meeting may at times conflict with Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Several members of the SWAG also attend those meetings. Mr. Gestrich mentioned that during his visits to the landfill, he has noticed residents and contractors entering the facility through the back gate and bypassing traffic control. Mr. Kleinfeld agreed and informed Mr. Gestrich that he is working on remedying the issue and rerouting traffic. Mr. Bonner asked if Mr. Kleinfeld would accept and train entry-level employees. Mr. Kleinfeld replied that yes, he would consider entry-level employees and encourages committee members to refer any potential hires to our website regarding employment opportunities. Mr. Lintner stated that in Maine, the recycling costs have shifted from the taxpayers to the packaging producers. Mr. MacDonald stated that this is known as “extended producer responsibility” and will send more information regarding this concept to committee members if they would like.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Scott MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m. The next SWAG meeting and picnic will be on Thursday September 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Household Hazardous Waste Building.