

## COE agenda for 5-6-15

### **COE Website Updates**

-Diane Gleissner responded to my inquiry about updating the website. I will be sending her the Mission Statement and Goals to be displayed on our site, which will be from the Annual Report that we submitted in January. As for the minutes, she is looking into it, but thinks that our staff worker, who I'm assuming is Jada Stuckert, should be able to add meeting minutes to the site. Diane does not think that she can access that part of the website, but said she will confirm that soon.

### **PAYT and plastic bag fees/bans**

-I contacted Nick Zurkan, the County's Recycling Coordinator, and asked some questions about our solid waste stream. I found his response to be quite informative:

Our St. Andrews Landfill is available for residential use only unlike our neighboring transfer station/landfill sites that accept both residential and commercial trash....our tipping fee is \$65.00 per ton or \$10.00 per pick up load. Calvert, in addition to their own trash, accepts our commercial and residential MSW (municipal solid waste) as well as construction and demolition (C&D) material brought in by private haulers, who are charged a tipping fee of \$77.45 per ton. Charles County accepts only in-county commercial and residential generated waste, private haulers there are charged \$70.00 per ton. More volume at a higher tipping fee equals more revenue.

The landfills post closure care/costs are mandated by the State and will be around 15-20 years depending on the remediation process and acceptable gas and groundwater monitoring data. We are evaluating solar/photovoltaic initiatives at the closed landfills.

The Commissioners are planning to increase the Environmental Fee which hasn't been increased since 2007. The other Counties have similar related solid waste fees in addition to their tipping fees that make up their revenue stream.

Yes, we collect and accumulate yard waste at the Landfill until it's worth to bring in a vendor and grind it into mulch and allow residents to pick it up for free. Expansion must be done in accordance with State regs. The State had draft language regarding composting regulations last year, but I understand now more discussion to review and develop a strategy to divert yard and food waste in a more effective manner is underway...

Hope this helps, if you need more information let me know. I purposely stayed away from the pay as you throw as I feel this program wouldn't be well received and administratively burdensome especially with our current Convenience Center operation.

-as for Bag fees, I did not research further into this subject, and Mark will not be at this month's meeting, so hopefully we can pick up that conversation at the next meeting.

### **Earth Day**

-Aside from some ominous-looking weather near the end of the day, I felt that Earth Day on the Square was a success. The college student that has been helping us with the Sustainable Maryland Certification printed out a poster with information about that, and she also printed another poster that I put together regarding plastic bags and packaging film and how they do not get recycled through single stream recycling. Helen was instrumental in setting up our tables, providing a tent and also rocks, which became crucial whenever the wind whipped up throughout the day. Sue also provided us with great material to display. A special thanks to Mark, Brad, Gordon, and Mike for coming out and manning the table (Bill, you are included too, as your table was directly adjacent and you were there all day)!

### **Sustainable Maryland Certification**

-Haley (the college student) and I met with Laschelle McKay, the Leonardtown Council Administrator, to discuss the certification. The meeting went very well. Haley put together an action

plan, which included points that could be claimed for actions already taken as well as actions that could be easily taken to reach the 150-point requirement. Mrs. McKay went through and made some notes, making a few corrections, but mainly adding to what we already had. It seems that we may already be able to claim 150 points. I will be attending their meeting next Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> where they will vote to pass the resolution that Haley composed, which is the first requirement of the certification process. It seems likely that they will pass the resolution, as there is no real reason not to do so.

### **Composting**

-I met with employees of the Board of Education to discuss a composting project. We discussed small-scale, on-site composting options as well as a larger operation at the Tech Center; the added advantage with the latter option being a central location if the project were to expand to include schools other than the adjacent Middle and High Schools. I also mentioned my idea of converting the old landfill at St. Andrew's into an industrial composting facility. They will be researching the questions that we proposed, which include how much food waste is produced at the schools on average in order to determine the requirements of a composting project. Unfortunately, the schools in St. Mary's presently only use warmers to heat processed food, so they do not have the food scraps that other schools produce from cutting up fresh fruits and vegetables; however, there is a program called Maryland Farm-to-School, which will be increasing the amount of fresh produce going into local schools. The group seemed to be most supportive of the industrial composting facility at St. Andrew's, which I found encouraging.

-I also met up with a childhood friend recently and discussed the industrial composting facility idea. He is on the BRAC (Base Relocation and Closure) Commission and said that this idea may peak interest among the group, as they are always looking for innovative ideas to make them stand out among the rest. I would like to begin working on a proposal to the County Commissioners to consider a public-private partnership in the construction, implementation, and maintenance of a facility of this kind. I believe it could help to offset the money lost to tipping fees paid to other counties since our landfill was closed. I feel that the new Green Mountain Compost facility provides a perfect model: <http://www.greenmountaincompost.com/about/our-new-facility-in-williston/>