

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1995**

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Edward V. Cox, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recording Secretary

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON
STATE OF THE COUNTY**

The Commissioners attended the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon at the Belvedere Restaurant for a briefing on the State of the County.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND WOOD TREATMENT PLANT TASK FORCE
1994 ANNUAL REPORT AND STATUS REPORT**

Present: Ralph Guenther, Chair

Mr. Guenther appeared before the Commissioners to present the Southern Maryland Wood Treatment Plant Task Force's 1994 Annual Report. He reviewed the group's purpose and advised that the Task Force was established by the County Commissioners in August 1991. The report included activities of the past year including a review of the first draft Focused Feasibility Study which identified nine alternative technologies to clean the superfund wood treatment plant site.

During his presentation by way of overhead slides, Mr. Guenther review the alternatives and the costs and time frame for each. In addition Mr. Guenther explained the efforts of the EPA Emergency Response Team, a group charged with taking action to get a hazardous site to a condition where there is no immediate threat to the health and safety of the environment. He further explained that EPA has set up a program of regular testing of the monitoring wells at the site around the area of contamination.

Plans for 1995 include a review of the *Draft Final Focused Feasibility Study and Risk Assessment*, which are due for release by the end of January along with the *Proposed Plan* which will define the cleanup method to be used. Mr. Guenther advised that the Task Force will be meeting on January 25 to review the cleanup options and to develop recommendations to the County Commissioners as to the Task Force's opinion of the cleanup technology which best meets the county's goals.

A copy of the report is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Committee Members present included: Melva Abell, Co-Chairperson, Bill Mattingly, Co-Chairperson, Larry Donmoyer, Donald Hammett, Ken Hastings, Dudley Lindsely, Daphne McGuire and Hope Swann.

Staff present included: Edward V. Cox, County Administrator; Daniel F. Ichniowski, P.E., DPW; George A. Erichsen, P.E., DPW; Jeff Jackman, DPZ, and Melanie Johnston, DPW (Recorder).

PLAN PRESENTATION

A chapter by chapter summary of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan was presented to the Commissioners by Melva Abell, Co-Chairperson of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Ms. Abell pointed out the particular concerns/issues that were raised during the public hearing, which included the following:

Siting Criteria: Currently, any proposed facility, public or private, would have to conform with the County Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Land Use Plan and would require a community meeting, as outlined in Chapter I of the Solid Waste Plan. Also included in the Plan is an implementation schedule (Table V-1A), which indicates that the County plans to develop additional siting criteria in FY96. Constraints to development of new solid waste acceptance facilities is outlined on Pages IV-9, which includes topography, soils, geology, location, wetlands, etc. Discussion ensued whether the siting criteria should be in the Plan, the Solid Waste Ordinance or the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Thompson stated she felt that a person should be able to pick up the Solid Waste Plan and be able to determine where a solid waste facility can or cannot be sited. Commissioner Thompson also stated that referencing separate documents was not an acceptable way to handle this. Mr. Mattingly advised that the siting criteria had been discussed at many meetings and, because the Committee felt it would take quite some time to develop the specific details, it was agreed that the item would be deferred until 1996, after the scheduled items for FY95. In addition, Mr. Mattingly stated that in a memorandum dated December 5, 1994, the Department of Planning and Zoning indicated they do not have the means to conduct a Land Suitability Analysis.

Buffer Zones: On Page II-9, the Plan indicates that no solid waste activities can take place within 200' of a property line. There has been some discussion that this buffer zone be enlarged to 400' or more.

Private Municipal Landfills: There is no language in the Plan regarding private municipal solid waste facilities other than what is stated on Page V-5, which indicates that any proposed solid waste acceptance facility, whether public or private, will require a public hearing and Board of Appeals approval. Because our existing system is already consistent with the current Solid Waste Management Plan and has been deemed adequate for the next ten years, anything new would have to become a part of the Plan, so the Plan would need to be amended for any new private or publicly-owned facility in accordance with the Principles, Policies, Goals and Objectives.

Ms. Abell stated that the Plan already needs to be amended because page IV-8 states that a public hearing will be held for the expansion of the St. Andrews Landfill, and that public hearing has already been held on December 28, 1994.

Mr. Mattingly and Ms. Abell stated they felt that the Plan should not have been called back from the State in that it is a planning document and changing every day; it would have been sufficient to have the Plan reviewed by the State, and then the County could go to an immediate amendment of the Plan, rather than call the Plan back. Commissioner Brugman advised that he had made the motion to call the Plan back, not because of anything negative or deficient in the Plan, but basically because of concerns of the citizens that there wasn't enough siting criteria and the fact that since it is a ten-year plan, he wanted to make sure it was in the best interest of the County.

Waste-to-Energy Facilities: In a letter to the Department of the Environment, the Sierra Club referred to the Plan's support of a Waste-to-Energy facility. Ms. Abell stated that in Chapter III, Page 19, the Plan states that the County is open to this concept, however, due to the high cost of a Waste-to-Energy facility, it is doubtful that this will be a feasible option for the County.

Commissioner Jarboe presented a preliminary feasibility study performed by GBB for Calvert County regarding transfer stations to transfer their waste out of the County. Commissioner Jarboe requested that the Committee review same; in that the County is preparing to go to the bond market for \$12 million, Commissioner Jarboe felt this may be a viable option to

be considered which might allow the County to delay the bonds or defer a portion of the construction. Ms. Swann indicated that the Committee's major concern regarding this issue was Superfund Liability. Committee agreed to review the document and, hopefully, meet with Calvert County regarding same.

The Commissioners concurred that they would like the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to perform the following tasks prior to resubmission of the Solid Waste Plan to the State:

1. Prepare more detailed siting criteria for inclusion into the Plan;
2. Insert wording into the Plan, which reflects that private municipal landfills and hazardous waste disposal sites will not be allowed in the County;
3. Define the intent of public informational meeting and process for handling and addressing public comments. It was suggested that this could possibly be done by stating that comments generated at public meetings would be addressed by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Committee's recommendations along with the comments would be forwarded to the appropriate approving authority (i.e., Planning Commission, Board of Appeals).

It was noted that after the changes are made to the Plan, the County will have to go back through the public hearing process, however, a public informational meeting will not be necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board of
County Commissioners on 1/31/95

Juan A. Spalding
Recording Secretary