

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Friday, February 2, 1973

SOLID WASTE PLAN

Present: Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles, President  
Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr.  
Commissioner George R. Aud  
Judith A. Mullins, Recording Secretary  
Jim Fuller )  
Gene Matullo ) Henningson, Durham and Richardson  
Jim Shea )  
Walter Raum, Health Department  
Erva McKinney, CLEAN  
Dennis Joyce, Tri-County Council  
John Norris, Assistant County Engineer  
Patty Muchow, Beacon  
Jack Kershaw, Enterprise

Mr. Fuller stated there must be a Solid Waste Management Plan by January 1974. The State Health Department set the schedule ahead and want it essentially completed by June 30, 1973. He stated that their goal should be to have the plan straight by May of 1973 so it can be printed up at the end of June 1973.

Mr. Fuller made a chart presentation and stated their purpose was to make our County a more pleasant place to live with a long-range plan for the period 1974 to 1985. There is 140 tons of refuse a day to be disposed of in St. Mary's County. It is not all going to landfills and dumps but in back ravines. The County needs five to six acres of landfill each year covered with ten feet of fill.

Mr. Fuller stated that fixing the responsibility is part of the program and that St. Mary's County is ahead of Charles and Calvert County and two years ahead of any County in the State. The County sanitarian, the County Engineer, the Sheriff, for law enforcement and the Planning Commission would have to be brought together under a solid waste management program. A supervisor is need for the Solid Waste Program. The responsibility can be turned over to the Sanitation Commission, because the State Law allows this, but it was his understanding that the Sanitary Commission did not want this responsibility. It could also be the County Administrator but Mr. Fuller said he sees no particular advantage from changing it from the County Engineer

Mr. Fuller then discussed the chart on the collection system.

1. The County should continue to provide a collection system as we are now.

2. A collection point is needed for used oil. The State has written a letter that a used oil collection is needed and Mr. Fuller said he agreed to this.



3. The green box system would be provided for rural residents that live five miles or more from the three existing landfills. He suggested closing the Valley Lee dump and the Ridge dump and put in green boxes.

Commissioner Bowles said there would have to be a collection system for the green boxes and there would be labor and equipment costs. The Valley Lee landfill has been operating very successfully since we have had a man there daily for the last two or three years and he is doing an excellent job.

Mr. Fuller said if the Valley Lee landfill can continue to operate it would be an alternative but more land would be needed. He said he had considered establishing another landfill there. Mr. Fuller then discussed the sanitation of the green box. He said the boxes were tight and there was no rat problem and it could be a clean operation. The box size is six cubic yards.

Commissioner Aud asked if the County would not be better off getting a contract for the boxes rather than the County operating them itself. Mr. Fuller said this could be. The charge to empty one box is \$1,00 a year in LaPlata. He stated that the County should try it on a bid basis to see what the price would be.

Commissioner Guy asked about the sites on which the green box would be placed, would then be free of charge. Mr. Fuller stated other counties in Virginia and Alabama are not buying the sites. They are placed on a right of way or at a public operation where they will be glad to get the box.

Mr. Fuller then discussed the idea of continuing the three landfills as they are and closing the Valley Lee and Ridge dumps. Mr. Fuller said another idea was to purchase a piece of property jointly by Charles and St. Mary's County for the Hughesville area and the northern part of St. Mary's County. Commissioner Aud asked whether the green box collection would be by a private collector and Mr. Fuller said it may discourage private collection but the man who has a private collection system would probably continue to do so.

Mr. Fuller then talked about public relations program and suggested a brochure explaining the green box system. He stated that the State requires an anti-litter program and the green box system would fit right into this.

Mr. Fuller said there should be new laws for solid waste and junk cars and regulations on the use of landfills. Such as regulations of the containers and storage of the containers and truck inspection which is now being done by John Norris, Asst. County Engineer should be done by the County Sanitarian. Mr. Raum said it is being done on a complaint basis. Mr. Fuller said an ordinance was needed for regulating private and public landfills.

Mr. Fuller discussed the junk cars and said that Mr. John



Combs hauls a lot of cars out of the County. Junk car dealers are licensed by the State. Cars are hauled to the shredding machine at Alexandria for \$6 a car registered in Maryland. The shredder will not take car seats which presents a problem of disposing of the seats. Mr. Fuller suggested one way would be to force the shredder to take the seats but it would be costly, or bring pressure from the Motor Vehicle Administration to not pay the \$6 unless he takes the seats. The third alternative would be the authorization of the burning of the seats once or twice a year. Mr. Raum said the Health Department would like to see the burning stopped. Mr. Fuller said another problem is the accumulation of junk cars on private property. He said the only way to prohibit this would be to enforce a law limiting the storage of junk cars on private property to six months, if cars are unlicensed or inoperable.

Next Mr. Fuller discussed costs. He stated the present annual cost to operate the three landfills is \$97,000. The annual cost for the green box system in addition to the landfill would be an estimated total of \$130,000. Other counties are on a 50% self-support basis and the other 50% would be subsidized by the County.

Mr. Norris asked what the alternative to the green box system in the lower end of the County would be. Mr. Fuller said to open another landfill at a cost of \$50,000. Commissioner Aud stated the green box system would be obsolete because of development in that area. Mr. Fuller said the green box system is the best solution at this time. Mr. Raum stated the ability of the land to take care of a landfill is limited in that area. Mr. Norris stated a landfill would not be practical in the lower end of the County because of the difficulty for one area or another to reach it. Commissioner Aud asked about the cost of the green box to which Mr. Fuller suggested the County ask for bids. Commissioner Bowles asked about the private operators placing the green boxes and charge the residents in the area they would serve. Mr. Fuller said if the citizens would agree to this.

Mrs. McKinney mentioned that the landfills are closed early in the winter and Commissioner Bowles said that is why they are open seven days a week. Mrs. McKinney then said there should be covers on the trash hauler trucks and Commissioner Aud stated the law has not been enforced on this problem.

Mr. Fuller stated he would like to talk about the comments from Tri-County Council. There was a suggestion that the County buy a tire-splitter; however, Mr. Fuller did not recommend this because it was not economical. Covering the tires would be the best solution.

Mr. Joyce asked about a state-wide system for getting rid of used motor oil and tires. Maryland Environmental Services would like additions to the Plan concerning recycling; however, recycling does not pay off today. Also Tri-County Council would like more detailed information added on the training of landfill operators.

Commissioner Bowles asked what authority did the County have



over the proposed recommendation for a regional landfill. Mr. Fuller stated that the plan is the County plan and the County can change whatever they want. He said that the plan does not recommend a regional landfill because it is too expensive.

Commissioner Bowles stated that when we accept a plan, it has been our experience that we are then bound by the plan insofar as state agencies are concerned. That is why we want to be very cautious about what is in the plan.

Mr. Fuller said Section IX of the Plan has the details and if the Commissioners do not like what is in it, they may delete it. Commissioner Bowles asked if the green box system and/or landfill is the option of the County and has such option been included because the County should have the option. Mr. Fuller said he could make this change. Commissioner Bowles asked Mr. Fuller if he understood correctly that the Commissioners do not recommend the regional landfill. Mr. Fuller said that Section IX-A7 states that consideration should not be given to the regional landfill. Commissioner Guy said it should imply that there would be a cost factor with the other counties because St. Mary's County taxpayers would not like their money spent in another County.

Mr. Fuller stated Calvert County has a citizens advisory committee to work on the plan. Mr. Matullo said he hoped that a timetable for one or more public meetings would be established. Mr. Fuller said the timetable would be March 15 - first public hearing; April 15 - revisions submitted; May 15 - a second public hearing; June 15 - a final plan to submit to the state. Commissioner Bowles said when it is completed that it should be sent directly to the County Commissioners and the Tri-County Council.

At this time a number of changes were discussed, which were:

Section III 1 - Blakistone should be changed to St. Clements.

Section III 2a - Chesapeake Bay should be added after Potomac River

Section III 2b - Chaptico should be spelled correctly and "St." should be added before Clements.

Section III F - The sentence about railroad should be omitted.

Section III G - "County owns an airport around which an industrial park is planned." should be added.

Section IV 10 - The sentence "He also budgets and disburses funds for landfill operations" should be omitted, and "County Commissioners acting as Board of Estimates develops the budget." should be added.

Section VI F-1b - Change open six days to open seven days.

Section VI F 1e - Fenwick should be spelled correctly.

Section IX 5a(3) - add "and Welcome Wagon Committee".

LAND USE PLAN

Present: Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles, President  
Commissioner George R. Aud  
Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr.  
Paul Raley, Administrative Officer  
John Norris, Asst. County Engineer  
Angelos C. Demetriou, Architect and Planner  
Walter Raum, Health Department  
Dr. John Mills, Tri-County Council  
Anthony Wiles, Sr. Assoc. of Barton Aschman Assoc.  
Jack Kershaw, Enterprise  
Patty Muchow, Beacon  
Dave Fox, WPTX

This meeting is on tape in the Commissioners' Office.

 3/13/73  
J. Wilmer Bowles  
President

