

Open Work Session – Wicomico County 10-Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

Weston Young, Director of Public Works, and Mark Whitelock, Superintendent of Solid Waste, approached Council. Mr. Young introduced the 10-year plan for Solid Waste actions within the County. Mr. Holloway asked if construction of this plan is a MDE requirement, Mr. Young said that it was. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if the recycling center on Old Ocean City road was moved, Mr. Young answered that it was. Mr. Joe Holloway also asked for the County Executive's office to be added to the list of stakeholders on a particular page, Mr. Young agreed but noted this portion related to apartment building and condominium recycling in particular.

Mr. Kilmer asked if cardboard was separated at these convenience centers, Mr. Young said that yes, there are cardboard bins, but explained some of these bins are not in the best shape and perhaps that relabeling and repainting would help. He also noted that Solid Waste has no backup cardboard containers, so when a container is full and transported back to Solid Waste to empty, the convenience center will not have a cardboard bin present. Mr. Kilmer asked if Solid Waste operated at a loss for recycling operations, Mr. Young said that it is tough to find a vendor for glass but they would partner with the City of Salisbury and Bennett Construction to find a market for crushed glass. Mr. Young also said that Solid Waste can use the glass for internal operations. Mr. Young continued by explaining that cardboard and paper do produce revenue, but aluminum cans and scrap metal accumulate the best profit. Mr. Kilmer asked if there was a state standard or mandate to recycle glass, Mr. Young said that there is and it actually is beneficial to Solid Waste to recycle glass as this improves the County's recycling rate in the State of Maryland's eyes. Mr. Young also noted that there would be a market for glass that is separated by color, but this is difficult to accomplish. Mr. Young did say that Solid Waste finds uses for the mixed glass and keeps it out of the landfill.

Mr. Hall asked about innovative projects Solid Waste plans to undertake. Mr. Young mentioned a brush recycling program, a business friendly program where vendors can drop their brush. Mr. Young also stated that Solid Waste would make sure that it is complying with the rule that condominiums and apartment complexes must offer recycling service. Mr. Young also mentioned on October 1st a law was passed that mandates any event in a public space with over 200 attendees must offer some type of recycling bin. Mr. Young concluded that all of the mentioned programs would increase the recycling rate.


Mr. Dodd asked for clarification if the local hospital incinerates medical waste. Mr. Young said that that the hospital does. Mr. Dodd asked about the vendor that Solid Waste uses for tire disposal, Mr. Young stated the County uses Dirt Express. Mr. Dodd asked how the engineer was picked to complete this study, Mr. Young stated that Solid Waste has three firms that were bid for a master engineering contract and this firm is the only one of those three that has strength and experience in waste management.

Mr. Hall asked what is being done to extend the life of the landfill. Mr. Young stated that they are in the beginning stages of investigating this and described some strategies, such as diverting waste and recycling, using grinders, incinerators, or using compression techniques.

Mr. Joe Holloway stated that there is concern of the use of treatment plants outside of Wicomico County for septic purposes, and presented that there is no location in Wicomico County for companies to dump septic waste. Mr. Joe Holloway asked, what would happen if these other Counties do not allow local companies to dump? Mr. Young referenced a law that MDE would require Solid Waste to construct a solution to deal with this waste if there is no viable dumping site. Mr. Joe Holloway said that Worcester County has an issue with Ocean City shipping their trash out of state and Worcester's landfill is now operating at a deficit. Mr. Young stated if this were to occur, a tipping fee reduction discussion would occur but Mr. Young did note that he feels the current rates are acceptable. Mr. Joe Holloway also expressed pleasure at the idea of using a grinder to save room in the landfill. Mr. Matt Holloway asked for the cost of constructing new cells at the landfill. Mr. Young gave the cost of design of approximately \$90,000-\$100,000, and construction for two cells would cost approximately \$8 to \$9 million. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if Solid Waste had enough money to complete this, Mr. Young said yes, but a portion of the project may want to be bonded by County Administration.

Mr. Cannon asked if gasification and zero waste initiatives needed to be included in this plan. Mr. Young wondered about the commercial viability of the gasification and that Solid Waste is continuing to research this. Mr. Young also noted that the State is asking manufacturers to consider what will occur when the product that a vendor produces reaches its' full extent of usefulness, meaning that pressure is being put on manufacturers to begin accepting disposal of the products they make. This practice is common in European Counties, but this idea is just being considered in this Country. Mr. Cannon asked if any kind of waste-water treatment authority would be completed within these 10 years. Mr. Young stated that this needs to be considered but is a different topic than Solid Waste. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if there is any credit for outside recyclers that goes toward the County's recycling rate. Mr. Young confirmed that this does, and businesses must provide their recycling numbers to Solid Waste. Mr. Cannon thanked Mr. Young and Mr. Whitlock for their time, and Mr. Young confirmed the changes provided by the Council will be made to the 10-year plan. On motion by Mr. Dodd and second by Mr. Hall, the Council adjourned into a Closed Work Session to discuss personnel and land acquisition.

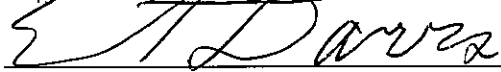
**Open Work Session Minutes – Wicomico County 10-Year Comprehensive Solid
Waste Management Plan
October 6, 2015**



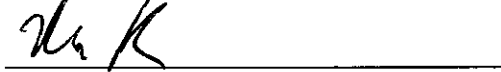
John T. Cannon, President



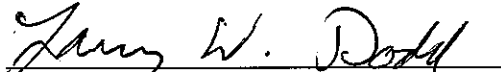
Matt Holloway, Vice President



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Marc Kilmer, District 2



Larry W. Dodd, District 3



John B. Hall, District 4

