

Montgomery County
Integrated Waste System Strategic Plan Task Force

Meeting Notes

June 10, 2019

Attending: Chaz Miller, Sara Bixby, Lauren Greenberger, Ken Lavish, Keith Levchenko, Caroline Taylor, Robin Wiener, Peter Ettinger (by telephone)

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)- Division of Solid Waste Services (SWS): Adam Ortiz, Patty Bubar, Marilu Enciso, Willie Wainer, Ray Liou, Lonnie Helfin, Susan Thomas

- Montgomery County Staff
 - Adriana Hochberg, County Executive Office
 - Katy Koon
 - Danni Melton
 - Lillian Cruz, Councilmember Albornoz' staff
 - Ben Price, Councilmember Navarro's staff
 - Nicole Rodriguez, Councilmember Rice's staff
 - Yi Shen, Councilmember Katz's staff
 - Pete Tomao, Councilmember Glass' staff
 - Christopher Mabry, Councilmember Jawando's staff
 - Aaron Kraut, Councilmember Friedsen's staff
 - Victoria Hall, Council Office of Legislative Oversight
- Debbie Cohn, Montgomery County Sierra Club
- Holly Joseph
- John Keller
- Neil Seldman, Institute for Local Self Reliance
- Energy Justice Network: Mike Ewall, Jamila Alfred
- Walter Mulbry
- Bailey Condrey
- Susan Eisendrath
- Adam Diamond
- Nanci Wilkinson
- Woody Bailey
- Rini Saha, Green Thinker DC
- Sylvia Diss
- Adeline Louie, Climate Mobilization
- Sheldon Fishman, Montgomery County Green Democrats
- Speaker: Nathan Wittstruck, U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery
- Speaker: Jeffrey Morris, Sound Resource Management Group, Olympia, WA

1. Called to order by Chairman Miller at 5:30 p.m.

Miller said that each speaker would be provided 30 minutes to speak and Task Force members 15 minutes in which to ask questions. Members of the public were asked to hold questions to the end of the meeting.

3. Nathan Wittstruck, EPA Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Wittstruck presented and explained aspects of the U.S. EPA's Waste Reduction Model (WARM), which is a system created by EPA to help organizations track and voluntarily report greenhouse gas emissions. WARM uses national averages that can be considered and refined for local use. The system was first created 20 years ago; it has been regularly updated and the newest version (#15) is due out summer 2019. Version 15 will include economic estimates for the first time; it was also expanded to include an electronics category among the 60 materials that are modelled. Wittstruck said that in using WARM in any discussion of landfill vs. waste-to-energy technologies it is important to understand what materials are being managed as there are positive and negative effects to each. See Wittstruck's presentation here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/Resources/Files/master-plan/waste-reduction-model-epa.pdf>

Also, visit <https://www.epa.gov/warm/frequent-questions-about-waste-reduction-model-warm> for answers to recurring questions.

4. Jeffrey Morris, Sound Resource Management Group

Morris discussed comparison of several tools that can be used to evaluate environmental, climate, and health effects of waste management technologies. He described differences among WARM, the MEBCalc™ (SRMG's model) and the Municipal Solid Waste Decision Support Tool developed by RTI International. He spoke about the importance of understanding waste composition going to the disposal and WTE facilities in any system and noted that landfills are no longer the environmental concern they once were (compared to WTE) because of advances in landfill gas and leachate management.

See Morris' presentation here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/Resources/Files/master-plan/life-cycle-msw.pdf>

1. Approval of May 29 meeting minutes

Wiener moved, Taylor seconded to approve the May 29 Task Force meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting was set for July 10th at 5:30 p.m. with presentations from the American Biogas Council and, potentially, someone speaking about the Prince Georges County compost operation.

5. Public Comments

Several members of the public asked questions.

6. Moved by Taylor, seconded by Wiener to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.