

6th Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit
October 19, 2011
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



**CLEAN LAND.
SAFE WATER.
HEALTHY LIVES.**

Founder's Hall
George Mason University
3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201

Regulation

Roundtable Notes

Focus: Attendees will review the commitments made at last year's Regulatory Roundtable; discuss the commitment of the Anacostia jurisdictions to develop Trash TMDL Implementation Plans that are measurable and accountable; check in on the status/progress of the MS4 permits in the Anacostia Watershed; and discuss the development of quantifiable trash reduction language. Participants will also explore how a Trash Free Potomac will be measured and achieved.

Moderator: Doug Siglin, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Participants:

- Bob Hoyt, Director, Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery County
- Steve Shofar, Chief, Watershed Management Division, Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery County
- Christophe Tulou, Director, Department of Environment, District of Columbia
- Hamid Karimi, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Administration, Department of Environment, District of Columbia
- Sam Moki, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Resources, Prince George's County
- Jon Devine, NRDC
- Diane Cameron, Audubon Naturalist Society
- Beth Mullin, Executive Director, Rock Creek Conservancy
- Brent Bolin, Policy Director, Anacostia Watershed Society
- Eric Grabowski, Arlington County
- Lori Arguelles, Executive Director, Alice Ferguson Foundation
- Laura Chamberlin, Program Manager, Alice Ferguson Foundation

Observers:

- Ben Carswell, NOAA
- Ryan Ewing, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Accomplishments in 2011

- Bob Hoyt, Montgomery County:
 - Have been involving solid waste division more; working on footprint, trash, impact; MS4 permits—use these to look for a day to day way to decrease trash

- Trash collection bin monitoring—observe bins before and after to see if companies/collectors picking up fallen trash as they are supposed to. Small, but important activity.
- Want to quantify reductions seen based on effort, 200 homes observed, 2%
- Bag bill, want to be a model for state, holding conference with retailers next week, identify specific populations
- Paper reduction—county implemented paper reduction, \$3m for FY10 and \$3.3m for FY11 for a total of \$6.3m for both years.
- Steve Shofar, Montgomery County
 - Working with watershed groups, build capacity.
 - Started using AFF ads on buses and bus shelters, also on trucks
 - Conducting annual trash survey, storm water inlet to collect trash
- Sam Moki, Prince George's County
 - Solid waste management division is increasing its recycling and outreach for commercial sites
 - Working on improving communication and education between DER and public works and transportation
 - For MS4 reporting, had not captured the entire outreach efforts, now coordinating to improve this.
 - Pick up green campaign- countywide cleanup campaign
 - Community cleanups, especially older community where notice problems, capturing this data
 - Prince George's County MS4 permit similar to Montgomery County permit as related to trash
- Christophe Tulou, District of Columbia
 - Bag bill continues to be successful
 - Using more waste trapping technology—Hickey Run BMP is the latest trap installed
 - Sustainable DC initiative—DPW, wrapping up waste management study
 - Trash is an embarrassment
 - Capture response of prideful city.
 - Ultimate desire is to take bandalongs out, goal to stop picking up trash
 - AFF work to understand psychology of trash very important
- Hamid Karimi, District of Columbia
 - We are trash free facility now, hope to use facility as template for rest of DC facilities
 - Getting hand towels into compost from trash is not a challenge
 - DDOE will be funding UDC to install trash compactors on their campus. This will be a pilot project to assess the performance of these devices. Installation of these devices in other municipalities nationwide has shown that they are highly cost efficient, cutting back on the frequency of trash pick-ups. Trash is kept off the street, and rodents are not attracted to the devices because they don't leak fluids. If this project proves successful, DDOE would like to see it emulated on large campuses (e.g. other universities, hospitals, government properties) throughout the District.
 - Commitment for a trash free Hickey run 96% done.
 - Watts Branch: a 2nd bandalong will be installed soon. With a Bandalong positioned at the head and end of DC's portion of Watts Branch, DDOE hopes to make Watts Branch trash free as well. To aid in this, DPW implemented an enhanced street sweeping program this past year. This new program will free up an extra two days a month for them to sweep trash "hot spots" in DC. In addition, DDOE has funded AFF to conduct a concentrated education and outreach campaign around the DC portion of the Watts Branch watershed. DC is hoping that this will have an effect as well.
 - DC's Strategy: tributary by tributary. Work w/AFF, Deanwood—hotspots, behavior patterns, increase incentives, done with phase 1 and implement in other parts of DC, go against low income perception of don't care
 - Bag bill, enforcement of bag fee is the main challenge; given more than 100 NOV's (tickets), hope to use to spread word to charge bill fee
 - Develop SOP to track river trash, visual assessment along transect, implement along Anacostia—more effective
- Eric Grabowski, Arlington County

- On Big Belly- Don't put compacting container with non-compacting container
 - VA MS4: Fairfax disagrees w/EPA modeling context, waiting
 - Multifamily residences have same requirements as all residential
 - 40% recycling rate, needs to be higher
 - Recently funded an annual inspection program geared more toward education—can do it with only two inspectors due to small size of county. Fund inspection program, all multifamily residences—how to do better job, cost savings and recycle more/trash less
 - Quarterly waste audits: 100 homes, sort trash—understand where items are
 - Monitor 200 households/day, discrepancy report
 - Community—Implementing a Adopt A Street program where residents are encouraged to sweep curb and gutterline, 137 blocks in Arlington; there are signs to recognize it; get report of data quarterly. 87 adopters for 137 blocks—providing recognition on website.
 - Will target the informational campaign to increase resident participation in recycling.
- EPA (not in attendance) provided list of permits in the watershed, language from Fredrick County's MS4 Draft, and comments on the quantifiable language

Issues to be addressed:

- Diane Cameron- noted recent mtg with MCDEP, where bag bills as leading the way toward other aggressive source reduction: bottles, tires, Styrofoam etc.
- Brent Bolin- Need to get rid of environmental impact fee for getting rid of tires. What we have now is currently the wrong market incentive—don't want people to pay to have to do the right thing.
- Sam Moki- Bag bill for Prince George's County, legislature tried to pass last year. Efforts are renewed for this year. Need state OK before county can pass the bill. DER is supportive.

Incorporation of quantifiable terms and templates:

The deadline of a Trash Free Potomac by 2013 is a challenging deadline both within and outside the regulatory world. Several participants noted that it will be challenging for their jurisdiction to achieve this deadline. The 2013 deadline was used as a political motivator, and it worked as that but using it in the MS4 is difficult. The draft quantifiable language was reviewed. This language attempts to put into MS4 language what the political deadline of 2013 actually means. Jon Devine stated that there are two main issues or concerns that need to be adequately incorporated 1) substance 2) timing. Substance- Water quality standards require elimination of trash. Timing- 2013 is a political deadline, might be better to use the end of the permit as the deadline, rather than 2013.

The District of Columbia has set up a timeline for trash reduction in their newly issued MS4 permit. First, they are tackling the low hanging fruit, which will be a high percentage. Then in future years there will be additional declines, until 100% reduction of trash is reached.

Montgomery County, Prince George's, and the District permits will impact other permits in the region. Fredrick's permit is similar to Montgomery's for trash. PG language may be the model for other permits in MD. Eric indicated that Fairfax will likely be the model for other permits in VA. Brent, mentioned that there is a concern with the current MD template and if it will be sufficient.

Currently, a major problem, beyond the language is the ability to fund these projects. In particular, Sam Moki mentioned that the existing structure for funding MS4 implementation in Prince George's County (via property tax) is not sustainable. It was discussed that it is essential to maintain government funding by having implementation mandated through the MS4 permit, rather than an option as it is with the Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty. The political deadline of 2013 is optional, but permit requirements are non-optional. Christophe Tulou discussed that trash is easier for the representatives to get behind because it is easy, visible, and a problem for community members. Less abstract than other stormwater issues. In addition to permit mandates, this can be used as a leverage tool with representatives.

Next Steps

Regionwide:

- Incorporate MWCOG into these activities. MWCOG needs to be more actively engaged with the political side of things.
- Share information about successful policies or implementation. In particular, success with the bag fee bills was discussed.
- Template for MD permits is critical. Determine if there is anything that can be done here. Share with MDE the work that was discussed at the Summit.
- Quarterly meetings led by EPA
- Discuss quantifiable language at the next meeting.
- Identify more VA colleagues to engage in the process.

District:

- Expanding on Deanwood experience and lessons learned there
- Watts Branch Restoration completed and trash component in place
- Trash compactor project on the UDC campus may help to implement technology elsewhere throughout the District.