

4th Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit

October 28, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Convened at: House of Sweden • Washington, D.C.



Roundtable Notes

8:30 a.m. –
10:20 a.m.

**The New Rules of Trash:
LEGISLATION to Address Regional Trash Issues**

Alfred Nobel Hall
Side A

Outcomes:

- Reintroduce bottle bill (all three jurisdictions and potentially WV) – champion to be determined. Need to use COG as regional developer (3 year process) – create synergy through public awareness
- Plastic bag bill (potentially re-think MD approach) – mirror DC bill (Tax vs. bill) – create awareness of problems through awareness campaign (2010) – win the bill even before introduction
- Styrofoam ban – Senator Raskin (MD) to reintroduce ban bill (2010) – Need to expand awareness campaign on dangers – developing businesses to self-impose ban as part of a “good neighbor/business practice” – other jurisdictions need to identify champion
- Compost / 2 types (yard waste and kitchen waste) – develop or use model legislation to allow large facilities to do it in MD/VA/DC – need to address NIMBY by problem – support letters for carbon credits in the current cap and trade bill
- Green Business Certification – use COG to develop bill and guidelines for certification (2010-11) – create a symbol which is recognizable – establish certifying program

Challenges:

- Many constraints in certain jurisdictions – “Do what you can do.”
- At the local level approval is complicated b/c of zoning, permits, taxes, & the approval process so we need tax breaks, a faster process, etc.
- Some areas have more intrinsic powers.
- Communication of regulations and laws is a big problem. Enforcement is difficult.
- Businesses have mandatory recycling of some sort – enforcement isn’t even in various jurisdictions.
- Need a regional composting facility – need very large piece of property due to odors and “NIMBY”
- little new legislation – financial issues
- There should be a goal of phasing in compostables and phasing out Styrofoam
- Dillon Rule is a legislative impediment
- Better dumpster technology and enforcement
- Mandatory animals waste pickup may actually be making plastic bag percentages increase in streams (pet owners pick up waste, put it in plastic bags and chuck them down storm drains, etc.)
- carbon offset credits (for composting facilities)
- Make money from trash (will change industry)
 - Incinerate
 - Algae into oil
 - Reclaim packaging
 - Etc.
- DC metro area is poised for demonstration projects
- Tax incentives and credits
- A lot of ambiguity in state regulations – a big impediment in Maryland; facilities only permitted for yard waste, not food straps; controversial
- Movement for producing consumer responsibility is gaining steam
- Product Stewardship Councils are forming
- Some revenue to be generated; example is Montgomery County’s COMPRO
- At local level, process for approving new facilities is complex, but can be expected
- Where do we put incentives – beginning or end of the waste stream?
- Need to look at the amount of storm water runoff
- Fee for percentage of impervious surfaces in a jurisdiction
- Create incentives to large distributors to reduce packaging, etc.

- Green Business Certification (regional approach) – Montgomery County, MD is piloting this now – identify and reward businesses; positively validate and support them
- Move trash rapidly – well organized efforts needed
- Biggest expense item is cleaning up street litter
- Overarching Federal legislation is necessary – major Federal rewrite is needed; resurgence in environmental interest may help
- Most technology is a relic of the 19th century – wood pallets, cardboard boxes, filament light bulbs, etc.

Strategies

- Take a cue from the District of Columbia and encourage bag bill to be re-introduced in Maryland and Virginia
- Storm water utility fees bill to be introduced
- Legislative Roundtable to be continued beyond today (signup sheet for three major jurisdictions to be circulated)
- Mandate recycling provided by retailers
- Take model from the Virginia wine industry – what was the set up or planning process?
- Umbrella groups that work with businesses with incentives to go green
- Need a marketing tool to help with this.
- Carbon Credits – write-in campaign as relates to them.
- In West Virginia, they have had 7 years of introduced bottle bills – Border States “aren’t interested” – what about regional bottle bills?

Focus: Legislate Trash with Innovative Policy at Multiple Levels of Governance – Elected and senior officials can establish “trash free” policies for their jurisdictions at the local, state and federal levels. Other jurisdictions are investigating ZERO Landfill Legislation that includes: banning key items from the landfill; placing a surcharge on material that is landfilled; providing incentives for recycling; encouraging waste audits and stimulating take-back programs.

Moderator: Michael Herman, Chief of Staff for The Honorable Jack Johnson, Prince George’s County, President of Board, Alice Ferguson Foundation

Presenters and Panelists:

- ❖ John Snarr, Principal Planner/Technical Manager, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- ❖ Brenda Platt, Waste to Wealth and Sustainable Plastics Program Director, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
- ❖ Tommy Wells, Councilmember, Ward 6, Council of the District of Columbia
- ❖ Harry Crisp II, Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors, Stafford County, VA
- ❖ Nancy Floreen, Commissioner at Large, Montgomery County, MD Board of Commissioners

Attendees:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Karen Jenson Miles | Merrit Drucker | Ted Graham |
| John Daniels | Julie Lawson | Heeral Bhalala |
| Matt English | Jim Heins | Curtis Dalpra |
| Jim Connolly | Cynthia Collier | Kristin Rannels |
| Emma Hetnar | Kate S. Vasquez | Jenna Kohler |
| Juliet Glassroth | Jessica Ross | Jeremy Faust |
| Charles Allen | Chris Bradford | Rich Hergenroder |
| Pamela Gratton | Gary Hopkins | Tracy Bowen |
| Gary Hopkins | Alan V. Cecil | Jeremy Heckler |
| Eric Durland | Steve Shofar | Alan Pultyniewicz |
| Alice Wilkerson | LeAnne Astin | Diane Cameron |
| Alex Hirtle | Harry Crisp | Dennis Fleming |

Those who signed up for a Legislation Working Group:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| John Daniels | Emma Hetnar | Alice Wilkerson |
| Julie Lawson | Kate Vasquez | Jim Connolly |
| Heeral Bhalala | Jessica Ross | Stacey King |
| Lisa Pelstring | Eric Durland | Luisa Robles |
| Jeremy Faust | Curtis Dalpra | Kristen Rannels |
| Dennis Fleming | Chris Bradford | |

2009 Key Questions:

1. What do we need for legislation or policy that will get us to a trash free Potomac by 2013?
2. Identify strategies to implement local and regional legislation that mirrors other model legislation in the country that will support a trash free Potomac by 2013.
 - ❖ Bag Fees
 - ❖ Product bans – Styrofoam
 - ❖ Composting Infrastructure legislation
 - ❖ Bottle Bill

Minutes and Discussion Bullets:

John Snarr—Plastic Bag Report

Anacostia watershed: plastic bags are the 3rd biggest component of river litter, get caught in twigs, & don't make it to faster river, but found more often in smaller streams

- Plastic bag ban reduces litter; this is its biggest impact
 - Ireland bag ban example

Tommy Wells – Plastic Bag Tax for Anacostia River Watershed

How did we pass this bill? How can we have the biggest impact on the Anacostia River?

- Won the bill before it was introduced, very important
- Had scenarios to rebut anti-movement
- 11 co-introducers, this helped discourage people from thinking they can change the minds of the council members
- Spent a lot of time with the business community & chamber of commerce so we were able to answer members questions about the bill

Political strategy was very important: emphasized this is not a bag bill but a bill to clean up the Anacostia River

Fee collected can go to the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, & Rock Creek & all the tributaries in the watershed

Brenda Platt - Composting

- Composting is cheaper, creates jobs, inherently local, & the infrastructure allows us to address problems like Styrofoam
- National Figures on Composting: >1/2 trash is biodegradable/composting, plastics 17%--mainly single use food service ware
- Need to ban Styrofoam & use compostable products
- Yard waste: need legislation on the books against putting it in the landfills
- Plastic bags in composting facility account for ~25% of operating costs

Discussion

Where is the lowest hanging fruit in the region?

- Demonstrate that composting/recycling/reduction of plastic bags, etc., makes sense economically; saves money, can be self sufficient
- Saves space in landfill & save cost to get new landfill
- Focus: recycling & composting are revenue sources & can generate electricity, which can be sold for money
- Commercial Recycling is often left out of discussion—up to 50% of recycling in regions. Need to have residential curbside recycling that is convenient & accepts more materials. This will have a big impact.
- Commercial recycling often simpler: paper, cardboard, etc.
- There needs to be a policy to stimulate & enforce this
- Need funding to enforce the laws
- Biggest impact on decreasing the trash to the landfill

For Composting we need:

- To increase yard waste composting
- Drop off sites for yard waste & food waste
- A pilot food scrap composting program

- -San Francisco: has composting at all public events; this is a good model
- A ban on Styrofoam; don't use public funds to purchase it.
- A regional Strategy is needed.
- Year round collection of yard waste

Recycling is a safe area; costs money

- What is really needed is to target reduction, but this is a tough political issue.
- Need a regional ban on Styrofoam that can be phased in
- Plus, have surrounding counties institute a similar ban, especially near the Anacostia Watershed.
- From a policy standpoint it is better to focus on utilization.
- You can only deal with where you are; there's a variety of local level authority, which makes it hard to do things.
- Community education is the #1 issue.
- Commercial facilities is the biggest problem, including private haulers

Is it better to focus on the commercial sector & the unmanaged waste stream?

It should be mandatory to recycle, but it is difficult to enforce this. Some places have more money; often are dealing with the same large companies.

Opinions on how to deal with waste streams?

- Need regional composting facility in Northern Virginia that will also work cooperatively with the District of Columbia & Maryland.
- Product stewardship: little legislation is going forward
- Green procurement bill includes polystyrene (Styrofoam) phase-out bill; goal is to phase-in biodegradables. State level implementation. Need help for polystyrene phase-out.
- Legislation can be an impediment: Dillon Rule—limits the amount of legislation that can be presented in Virginia
- Need better dumpster technology & enforcement
- Plastic bags: re-use for other uses like dog waste, etc.
 - Enforcement for picking up dog waste & then throwing it on the ground as trash
- Small Island, Nantucket, with 90% recycling, this is due to attitude & incentive; the centerpiece is composting.
- Carbon offsets—climate bill, cap & trade
 - Support bill for composting to be included
- Industrial/commercial facility in Wilmington, Delaware will be opening soon.
- Montgomery County makes money from trash; burn & sell the trash.
- We need to think entrepreneurially & generate revenue. Washington area is uniquely positioned for projects because we are near the White House & can benefit from a local initiative & showcase it.

Carrot vs. Stick, do we need tax incentives/credits for encouragement? What's the best approach? How can we help advance these goals?

- Increase public support
- There is ambiguity in state regulations, especially for composting; need to make it easier for companies to do it here
- Need permitting for wood waste process & need other types
- Follow examples of other places: Toronto—e-waste recycling, Maine—excellent mercury policy; & address the issue of pharmaceutical drugs in our water
- Need product stewardship councils—local governments getting together to enforce/start legislation
- We should be able to generate money

Where should we put these incentives?

- Storm water runoff—fee for impermeable surface, & ways to decrease water flow
- We can use this as an example for trash, like Whole Foods: uses no polystyrene
- Get large distributors on our side, create an “approval seal” that companies will want in order to show consumers they are a “green business”; Good Housekeeping seal of approval as an example
- Identify & reward businesses with the right idea; validate, support, & encourage consumers to support these places & companies
- Create a green business certification program?

As far as the Trash Treaty 2013 objectives, what is achievable in 4 years & what are we prepared to do? What commitments to do we need in order to make it happen?

- Reintroduce plastic bag bill into the Maryland legislature
- Storm water utility fees for MD & VA
- Producer responsibility
- Product stewardship council
- Create green business/trash seal for companies in region—companies can be proud of having the seal & it can be a sign to consumers

Does the capacity exist to do these things? Incentives?

- US Composting Council—easy to incentivize composting, letter of support
- Dillon Rule is an impediment to doing these things
- Bottle bill has been introduced many times in WVA but there is a reluctance b/c the border states are not interested
- Need Regional legislation
- At MD state rest stops there is no recycling, nor at Camden Yards; we can change this

Some main items we can focus on:

- Bottle bill
 - Plastic bags
 - Styrofoam
 - Composting
1. Demonstrate that it makes sense economically. Strong trash program focused on recycling, composting, methane capture
 2. Single stream recycling curbside
 3. Commercial sector needs more attention – up to 50% of recyclables in some areas; stimulate with educators and enforcers
 4. Expand yard waste recycling and food scraps – drop off sites; curbside; education at public events; siting of composting facilities
 5. year-around collection of yard waste in areas where it isn't currently done

4) Commitments or Declarations

Delegate Carr is re-introducing the bag fee bill in Maryland.
 Delegate Carr is re-introducing the storm water bill in Maryland.
 Increasing the mandate for recycling

**8:30 a.m. –
10:20 a.m.**

**Treating Water as a Resource Rather than a
Waste Product!: STORMWATER TECHNOLOGIES**

TRE

Outcomes:

- Street sweeping great for getting trash out of stream and helps for TSS and heavy metals
- Screens could potentially be a way of exposing a trash problem because trash collects on streets, neighbors don't like it, and ask what is going on.
- Design for sustainable management of stormwater making current technologies no longer necessary

Challenges:

1. Varying costs of technologies:
 - Technology is not a complete answer. Sustainable solutions are people-driven. There needs to be partnerships with stakeholders to provide opportunities.
 - A continual challenge is guaranteed funding
 - We do have to reduce trash annually, how do we measure it? And we do need, for now, a short term containment of trash.
 - i. Need to implement the long term programs R. Goo discussed
 - ii. For the near term, we do need technology to keep trash down (P. Lee)

Focus: Presenters share innovative storm water management technologies and strategies that have been implemented or are being planned in region to capture and reduce trash. Discussion on best management practices, lessons learned,

and creative funding.

2009 Key Questions:

1. How do we leverage existing Stormwater Technologies that address other pollutants to also address trash?
2. What is the most practical and cost effective technology on the market?

Moderator: Jamie Baxter, Program Director, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Presenters:

1. Phil Lee, President, Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association
2. Carlton Ray, Director, CSO Long Term Control Plan, District of Columbia, Water and Sewer Authority
3. Kevin Coyne, Project Scientist, Larry Walker Associates, Ventura, CA
4. Mr. Samuel Moki, Associate Director, Prince George's County, Department of Environmental Resources
5. Meosotis Curtis, Senior Planning Specialist, Montgomery County, Department of Environmental Protection
6. John Wasiutynski, Environmental Protection Specialist, District Department of Environment
7. Joe Libertelli, UDC Clarke Law (and maybe Friends of Rock Creek?)
8. Robert Goo, USEPA

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Carlton Ray | Kent Hibben |
| John Wasiutynski | Emory Miller |
| Robert Goo | Elizabeth McGowan |
| Phil Lee | Kari Morris |
| Sam Moki | Susan Boone |
| Linda Howard | Joe Hoffman |
| Doug Curtis | Karen Ogle |
| Phong Trieu | Wendy Bell |
| Andrea Ryan | Candace Creswell |
| Mike Ryan | Jeff Wilkes |
| Kelly Jimarer | Ed Murtagh |
| Scott MacDonald | Geoffray Kridel |
| Walter Trinka | Brian Perry |
| Beth Mullin | Kent Slowinski |
| D. Minerva | Corrie Maxwell |
| Joe Libertelli | Rosalee Federeh |
| George E. Onyulls | Joe Chudzik |
| Taksha Cannon | |

Roundtable Minutes

1. Phil Lee—Baltimore Harbor Trash Removal Alternatives
How does Baltimore deal with trash removal?
 - a) Skiffs/bass boats
 - i. Boats are manned by the Baltimore Department of Public Works
 - b) Skimmer boats
 - c) Floating trash nets
 - i. Effective after rain
 - ii. Bags fill with debris and are highly visible, increasing public awareness
 - iii. Labor intensive and inefficient—residents complained
 - d) Trash Paddle Wheel
 - i. Located in Han's Creek—small watershed
 - ii. Operated by tides and solar power
 - iii. Financed by a Federal grant--\$385,000
 - iv. Doesn't work in large watersheds with large debris, such as refrigerators
 - e) Financing
 - i. Baltimore Harbor receives money as part of the mitigation for dredging contaminated sediment in the Port of Baltimore
 - ii. Obtain corporate sponsorship of visible means of trash removal (i.e. paddle wheel)
 - f) Alternative methods of trash removal:
 - i. Match location—such as watershed size, residents' concerns, type of trash
 - ii. Sized properly—understand the area and land use, both visible and hidden
 - iii. Be accessible for maintenance
 - iv. Be cost effective

- v. Ineffective without education programs to change the culture which contributes the trash in the first place
- 2. Carlton Ray—Washington, DC Water and Sewer Authority
 - a) Significant amount of raw sewage draining into Rock Creek due to old, combined sewers
 - b) Contributing Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) and reducing dissolved oxygen
 - i. This is being addressed by installing a pump station, rehabilitation, and inflatable dams
 - ii. Long term goal: 40% reduction to 1996 levels
 - a. Tunnel system
 - b. Updates and improvements to Blue Plains
 - c. Targeted water quality improvements
 - iii. Trash projects
 - a. Floatable demonstration project
 - b. Do well, but can always do more to get people's mindsets to change
 - iv. Swirl facility
 - a. Will be eliminated when tunnel system complete
 - v. Total N and wet weather plan
 - a. Addressing excess nutrients with the Chesapeake Bay
 - b. Extending plan beyond Poplar Point
 - vi. Summary
 - a. WASA improving pollution and trash reduction programs
 - b. Nutrient problem addressed
 - c. Meet water quality standards
 - d. Reduce CSOs as pollutants in the Potomac and Anacostia
- 3. Kevin Coyne—Overview of the Venture County Trash TMDL, MS4, and Trash Implementation Strategies
 - a. Venture County is in the same jurisdiction as LA for Regulatory Authority, also an agricultural area making storm water both urban and agriculture in nature
 - b. Trash TMDL in California is zero
 - c. Being consistent with requirements for permits
 - a) Using "hot spot" method of compliance: find dumping area, clean it up regularly
 - d. Identify sources of pollution—point and non-point
 - e. Work to gain stakeholder involvement for storm water and non-point
 - f. One type of management does not fit every situation—need to fit BMPs to trash reduction plan for the onset
- 4. Mr. Samuel Moki—Innovative Technology in Trash Management
 - a. Trash nets
 - a) Installed in three locations—known trash "hot spots"
 - b. Automated trash screens
 - a) Operated on sites
 - b) Need to change bags below screens after heavy rains
 - c. Monitored to see what collecting
 - a) Mostly organic matter, about 3% trash
 - d. Large storms compromised the equipment
 - a) Volume and speed of water were too great for both nets and screens
 - e. Proposed retrofits
 - a) Stop trash at its source:
 - i. Single stream recycling
 - ii. Rigid plastics recycling
 - iii. Hidden cameras for illegal dumping sites
 - b) Use methane captured at landfill to power correctional facilities
 - c) Increase street sweeping
- 5. Meosotis Curtis—Storm water
 - a. Storm water permit for Montgomery County, MD, which is an implementation plan for TMDL waste load specifications
 - b. Anacostia Pilot Study
 - a) Enhanced street sweeping
 - b) Screens over storm drains
 - c) Used White Oak area—207 acre watershed containing shopping mall, multifamily residential areas
 - i. Found less trash than expected
 - a. Mall street sweeps

- b. Atlantic Station—was an industrial site—made it beautiful and people appreciate and protect
- iii. Technologies like screens are unseen—do not result in changed behavior
- iv. Santa Clara – Trash BMP tool box is a good source of technical information

Discussion

2. Varying costs of technologies
 - a. Examples of Success:
 - i. Street sweeping great for getting trash out of stream and helps for TSS and heavy metals
 - ii. Screens could potentially be a way of exposing a trash problem because trash collects on streets, neighbors don't like it, and ask what is going on.
 - iii. Technology is not a complete answer. Sustainable solutions are people-driven. There needs to be partnerships with stakeholders to provide opportunities.
 - iv. Clean ups are much cheaper than technology, and education gives the best results.
 - v. County-wide clean-ups with NGOs and volunteers provide unbelievable results
 1. Non-points blow into systems, so monthly clean ups in impaired waters can be done by organizations like the Environmental Corps
 - b. A continual challenge is guaranteed funding
3. If efforts to change behavior to reduce waste getting into systems are successful, what is the continued role for technology in the future?
 - a. Depends on the vision—there are lots of cultures (Europe, Boulder, CO) where people do not litter (R. Goo)
 - b. There is too much pressure on a system designed to convey water from streets when it is being asked to filter trash, too. It can't do that. We need a change in behavior, and things like the bag fee in DC to reduce trash. (J. Wasiutynski)
 - c. We do have to reduce trash annually, how do we measure it? And we do need, for now, a short term containment of trash.
 - i. Need to implement the long term programs R. Goo discussed
 - ii. For the near term, we do need technology to keep trash down (P. Lee)
4. What are optimums for street sweeping?
 - a. Depends on road types
 - b. Land use—depends on the aggregate numbers to determine the TMDLs for this
 - c. Need the data collection process to improve

**8:30 a.m. –
10:25 a.m.**

Trash is a Crime: ENFORCEMENT is Education

Alfred Nobel Hall
Side B

Enforcement: Trash is a Crime Enforcement is Education

Outcomes – Successes

- 1) DC-Fines and 180 days in jail. General deterrent effect. Ongoing
- 2) MD/DC-Housing people included citizens/ community groups to be involved and report. Ongoing
- 3) Be creative in involving other criminal citations for litigation/prosecution (MD) Ongoing.
- 4) Media coverage is great support.
- 5) Use community service as consequence/fine to increase labor resources
- 6) Document need for environmental court. Collect data, get community/political support. Determine economic viability of the court.

Challenges –

- Turnover in judges equals change in philosophy of sentencing/enforcement.
- Need for dedicated environmental courts
- Judges are receiving increased demand for “dedicated days” to various special interests
- Illegal dumping and trash accumulation effects property values
- Shortage of resources for enforcement
- Hard to track data on violations i.e. where and how much dumping per violator
- Fines/consequences are less than cost of following the rules

Enforcement: Trash is a Crime Enforcement is Education

The past three Trash Summits the discussion focused on more effective enforcement of litter and illegal dumping and the education of officers. Through these conversations Alice Ferguson Foundation in partnership with the

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Police Chief's Committee created **Litter Enforcement Week (LEW)**. **LEW** gave region police departments the opportunities to enforce illegal dumping and littering in a reasonable amount of time while publicizing their good works to create awareness to the general public that they can and will be ticketed for littering and illegal dumping. Much like "Seat Belt Awareness Month and DUI Month. In 2009, 116 Police Officers from around the region attended 1 of 6 hour long seminars on the impacts of environmental crimes and what to look for at the Prince George's County Police Department headquarters. This year it is time to involve attorneys and judges who follow through with the punishments of environmental crimes.

Focus: This Roundtable will explore the possibilities of an environmental crimes court or the like in the Metro DC Area, most effective ways of educating police officers, judges and prosecutors, and enhance the cooperation between police departments and the judicial system. During the Roundtables, presenters will share brief overview of what they do, what their needs are, and why it is important to have environmental crimes a priority within our police departments and judicial system. Police officers, judges and prosecutors are all welcome to share their expertise and challenges with the enforcement of littering and illegal dumping.

Moderator: Glenn Ivey, States Attorney, Prince George's County

Presenters:

- ❖ Greg Cross, Litter Prevention Recycling Coordinator, Wise County, VA (by teleconference)
- ❖ Honorable Craig Iscoe, Judge, East of the River Community Court, District of Columbia Superior Court
- ❖ Michelle Barnes, Division of the Chief, Maryland State Attorney General Office
- ❖ Thomas Waugh, Chief, Special Investigation, Baltimore City, Environmental Crimes, Housing Division
- ❖ Jason Hessler, Esquire, Baltimore City, Environmental Crimes, Housing Division

2009 Key Questions:

1. What are the direct challenges Police Officers face after ticketing someone for litter or illegal dumping?
2. How do we better educate our Police Officers, Judges, and Attorneys on the impacts of environmental crimes?
3. What steps are needed to explore and achieve an environmental crimes court or the like for the greater metropolitan region?
4. What enforcement actions are needed to get us to a trash free Potomac by 2013?
5. How do we measure how successful the existing and proposed enforcement will be?

What commitments or declarations are people here willing to make?

Attendees:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Captain David Ray | Ben Boxer | Jim Ball |
| Sean Mahaffy | Clint Hogbin | Yvonne Brookes-Poole |
| Christian Suite | Arsima Teklemarsan | Rob Wilson |
| Danielle Wynne | Amy Anderson | AnnMarie Mitroff |
| Emily Eder | Joe Ballanderson | Ayanna Shorter |
| Reginald May | Frank Young | Verna Clayborne |
| Michelle Barnes | Nancy Floreen | Joyce Beck |
| Sherwyn Santos | Basile Nkeng | Esther Rocluta |
| Jen Cole | | |

Notes/Minutes/Discussion Bullets

Jason Hessler:

- Special Investigation Unit (SIU) investigating environmental crimes came to the Housing Authority in June 2009
 - Responsibilities are
 - Investigate illegal dumping
 - Serve criminal summons within Baltimore City
 - Serve civil summons throughout Maryland
 - Conduct titles searches on properties scheduled for demolition
- 311 calls made in 3 months
- Use of Proactive inspections of known "Hot Spots"
 - Identify Dumpers with cameras and finding personal information to contact them with
 - Positive Media is very helpful to continue your efforts

Future Goals:

- Defensive strategies
 - More cameras

- Fences
- Barriers
- Lighting
- Legislation
 - Small hauling
 - Increase fines

Greg Cross, Wise County Environmental Crimes Court

Litter Enforcement- How the Criminal Justice System Can Cleanup Up Your Community

- Wise County Litter Control Department
 - Education
 - Mobile Environmental Education Trailer
 - School Education Committee
 - Enforcement
 - Litter Control Officers
 - Environmental Court
 - Civil Prosecution Ordinance
 - Eradication
 - Dumpsite Cleanups
 - Assign-A-Highway for punishment/community service
 - Inmate Trash Detail Program
- Litter Control Officers
 - Identified over 350 Illegal Dumpsites
 - Average 7 Dumpsite Cleanups a month
 - Answer up to 75 complaints every month
 - Complaints range from littering to burning violations to junk cars
 - 1,176 miles of road cleaned up
 - 7,284 Bags of trash picked up
 - 65 Dumpsites cleaned up
 - 3 Man department
- Need for Environmental Court
 - Few Convictions & Light Punishment
 - Property and Roadsides covered with litter
 - Hundreds of Dumpsites
 - Property Values Lower Due to the Trash
 - Detrimental to Economic Development and Job Growth
 - Environmental Crimes have very little convictions without witnesses or confessions
 - Punishment so light is was laughable
 - \$100 fine – Those convicted not even ordered to clean up
 - Loss of tourism \$ in Southwestern VA
 - Loss of Tourism Dollars
- Discovering Environmental Court
 - Southwest VA Environmental Task Force
 - Judge Larry Potter from Memphis TN who instituted environmental court there
 - Litter Summit Meeting
 - Judge Joseph Carico
 - Wise County Environmental Court
- Civil Prosecution Ordinance
 - All Cases can be heard in Environmental Court
 - Judgment Double – Up to 5,000 per violation
 - Can be ordered to cleanup the littered area and prohibited from future violations
 - Can be Ordered to jail if court order is violated
 - Cases can be heard either in general district OR circuit Court

- Easier to secure convictions
- VA allows prosecution for solid waste
- Judgments result in twice as much as criminal court and can also include restitution
- People are ordered to jail for violating court orders

• Results

- Advantage to Environmental Crimes Court
- Judge deals with only environmental cases
- Fewer New Dumpsites
- Fewer Littering Cases
- 100% Conviction Rate
- “Redneck Grapevine” = When word gets out, dumpsites are reduced
- Judgments Totaling more that \$110,000
- Positive Impact on Tourism
- Impacts economic development
- Largest Single fine/Judgment for Littering
- The money goes back to your Locality!

Michelle Barnes – Prosecuting Attorney, Maryland State

- Manager of Environmental Crimes Division
- Litter is not sexy topic to work on
- Cases takes a long time which is difficult to justify the resources
- Prince George’s Police Department disbanded its litter task force which causes less communication between the County and the State on Environmental Crimes issues.
- Current bad economy presents more challenges

Litter Control Statute

- Broad natured – Catch ALL Statute
- Very Inclusive = Roadways, All bodies of water, public and private property
- Broad definition of what litter is
- Disposal = Leaving, dropping, putting down, Dumping
- Penalty provisions depend on size and amount of litter. Any commercial dumping in 5 years / 30,000 dollars
- Challenge = how to use broader things into our statutes
- DNR has codes in place already in which you can combine
- Tire Recycling Violation Fines are minimal in Environmental codes
- Problem is resources
- Press is another challenge

Judge Craig Iscoe

- Letting Community groups get involved and let them know what the laws are. If citizens are reporting the civil authorities and police, there is a level of policing that is more thorough
- Forfeitures have immediate impact

DICDPW – Anita Chavis

- Banner reward offered to citizens
- Citizens asked to attend community meetings and be vigilant/ take down License plates #s
- Many cases are with chronic dumpers—people who are known for dumping
- Tack on the abetment cost to fines

Verna Clayborne and Reginald May

- Individual also asked for 100 hours of community service
- Problems with poster spam = felony charge for defacing property
- Needed: more Saturday/Sunday Cleanups

AUDIENCE Qs

- Who oversees clean ups?
 - Assigned agency oversees all logistics of clean up including forms

- Judge Cross – Probation folks are assigned sections of highways to clean up
- Any suggestions on how to Enforce Trash Problems with Fisherman
 - US Park Police Environmental Crimes Unit = If you're caught illegally you are written up but problem goes to US District Court – Doesn't handle US PP Court. US District Court is too BUSY

**1:45 p.m. –
3:20 p.m.**

**Trash Free Potomac Facility Program 101:
MARKET BASED APPROACHES**

TRE

Outcomes:

1. Increase number of trash-free facilities.
2. Build better awareness among employees about the need/capability to be trash-free.
3. Increase sharing of strategies/ideas among trash-free facility managers.
4. Coordinate pressure on vendors to change offerings.
5. Increase information released by AFF on trash-free facilities' progress.

Challenges:

1. Not having a composting facility nearby makes composting unsustainable (currently compost must be sent to Carroll County)
2. Vendors don't produce compostable/recyclable options.
3. Employees don't recognize trash problem; don't see need to change.

Focus: Alice Ferguson Foundation newly launched the Trash Free Potomac Facility Program in June 2009. This Roundtable will be lead by Trash Free Potomac Facility (TFPF) Charter Members including Whole Food Markets, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and Georgetown University, who will use their models of reducing and managing their solid waste, and show how these new strategies have lead to cost reductions. Come and learn how your workplace can become a Trash Free Potomac Facility!

Moderator: Tom Griffin, Division Director, Greener Results

Presenters:

- Edward Murtagh, Manager, Sustainable Operations, United States Department of Agriculture Headquarters
- Erin Kerr, Cluster Store Green Mission Specialist, Whole Foods Market

Attendees: Luisa Robles, Sean Mahaffy, Stacey King, Eric Durland (others attended but there was no sign-in sheet)

Key Questions:

1. What are the barriers (i.e. Legislation, regulation) that are prohibiting businesses to become trash free?
2. Please list suggestions and feedback for the Trash Free Potomac Facility Program and Guidebook.

Minutes:

- Tom led explanation of Trash-Free Potomac Facility Guide:
 - Signing up is a commitment
 - 5 components
 - Waste reduction
 - Litter prevention
 - Recycling
 - Green purchasing
 - Promotion & education
 - Start with a waste assessment to get a baseline: dumpster diving
 - Waste Reduction starts by creating structures
 - Green team
 - Environmental policy statement
 - Set reasonable goals to start (e.g. 10% reduction)
 - Create projects to reach each goal
 - Litter prevention – goal is to keep trash out of the Potomac
 - Green purchasing – find new ways to talk to your vendors
 - Promotion & Education – creating partnerships with other organizations

- Annual reporting is necessary – various levels of achievement are possible
 - Start as supporter – window decal
 - Become a partner – 40% -100% diversion from landfill
 - Your performance level becomes public information on an individual website
- Questions for Tom:
 - What if you're "already awesome"?
 - You can become a trainer, coach, leader, mentor for other facilities
 - Is there a possible "next phase", i.e., pressuring other companies/vendors to stop their non-Green practices?
 - That would require a lot of groups working together asking for greener products. E.g. Vendor for D.C. Public Schools won't change their products if 1 school wants something different. Requires lots of clients for each vendor asking for something new.
 - Is a waste audit apart of LEED certification?
 - Waste stream should be a part of basic LEED commissioning
- Ed Murtagh led presentation of USDA's Trash-Free Facility Program
 - Executive Order 13514 calls for sustainability
 - Goal: 50% waste diversion by 2015
 - 2005 baseline: 21% waste diversion
 - How to calculate recycling rate & waste diversion
 - Recycling rate = (recyclables + compostables)/ total waste stream
 - Waste diversion rate = (Baseline waste – Current waste)/ Baseline waste
 - Every facility tends to calculate diversion rate slightly differently
 - Waste minimization program highlights
 - 2-sided printing by default
 - Provide reusable mugs, bottles
 - Reduce unwanted mail
 - Reuse shipping pallets
 - Donate bio-based soap barrels to Audubon Soc. for use as rain barrels
 - Examining service contracts: are your contractors' committed to sustainability?
 - Recycling program
 - Desk-side recycling containers
 - Collect compostable food trays, food scraps
 - Problem: sending compostables to Carroll County is unsustainable
 - New outdoor & office/hallway recycling receptacles
 - Results: 52 fewer trash removals per year = lower cost, lower carbon footprint
 - Waste sort basics
 - Gives you a good idea of areas for improvement, e.g. USDA discovered lots of towels, so need exists to replace hand towels with high speed blowers
 - Performed by environmental employees in a few hours
 - Tom noted his company did it by floor to separate groups of employees
 - USDA sorted 800 pounds, found 25% recyclables in trash
 - Training is necessary for the custodial staff
 - Training should be 2-way, custodial staff have useful insights for trash reduction
 - Outreach program to staff
 - They have events, giveaways to employees for education
 - Awareness through emails to staff updating on what/how much is being recycled
 - Website provides info on what's being done: www.da.usda.gov/HQ_GreenTeam
 - Importance of Green Team to provide sense of success/accomplishment
 - Questions for Ed
 - Do you have single stream recycling?
 - No, it gets sorted because high quality paper is worth more
 - Lots of questions about how to green the cafeteria
 - What did he (Ed) do before taking this job?
 - He was in green construction, but then transferred to operations. Because sustainability programs saved so much money, he was asked to do greening full-time (Legislation and great press helped)
 - How does recognition (for a facility) work?
 - At 70-80% diversion, someone will come to facility to verify

- As branding improves, “Trash-Free Facility” label will be more recognized
 - What are the chances of getting a composting facility nearby?
 - Unsure.
- Erin described the program at Whole Foods Market
 - She spends 50% of her time training people about Ecology & why they should care
 - Uses Ecolaunch to train employees
 - Big slideshow at store meeting
 - Explain composting bins & trash bins
 - Bilingual training (Spanish/English)
 - What is composting? What is it important? What is recycling?
 - Employees sign a pledge to follow store guidelines on recycling/composting
 - She can train all the employees at a store in a week
 - Questions for Erin
 - Is there training for new employees who arrive after Ecolaunch?
 - Yes, once a month including a green mission video
 - She uses the video “The Story of Stuff”
 - Is there a scale in every store to weigh trash/compost/recyclables?
 - No, when the waste trucks go to composting/trash/recycling facility, they are weighed going in and out, and difference is used for calculations.
 - How can you set a baseline amount for quantity of trash/recyclables if a garbage truck is making multiple stops along the way?
 - Sometimes the quantity of a particular box/container is known and can be used
 - Sometimes an average is used (ie. Average weight of compost bin x # of bins)
 - What are your plans to be ambassadors? How can I get Whole Foods to come out and work with other group?
 - Have those groups call Whole Foods.
 - Whole Foods is thinking about holding mini-Summits with local businesses
 - How do you (Erin) do all this work?
 - It’s her job. It’s what she does for Whole Foods.
 - How can I convince my bosses to be more on top of recycling?
 - Numbers talk volumes. Get a baseline and show where you can make big improvements.
 - How do I get more people at my workplace interested in trash/recycling?
 - Create a formal green team and go from there.
 - How do I overcome “non-recyclers”?
 - Get employees to sign pledge.
 - Make sure people know that their recycling is going to a real recycling facility and not to a landfill
 - Show cost savings of recycling vs. trash pickups

**1:45 p.m. –
3:20pm**

Maximizing REGULATION Tools

Alfred Nobel Hall
Side B

Key 2010 Commitments

Jim Connolly: Help advocate for funding, implementation of TMDL, and promote a Maryland bag bill

David Byrd: stronger MS4 permit for Prince George’s County to match or exceed Montgomery County’s. Continue to work with AFF on cleanups.

Diane Cameron: Advocate for funding in Montgomery County through storm water partners. Support funding mechanisms in Montgomery & Prince George’s counties and the District and the rest of Maryland. Continue to be citizen watchdogs. Help with outreach and education using both paid and volunteer workers.

Hamid Karimi: Another and larger sub-watershed will be trash-free by the next summit. Work towards an MS4 permit from EPA and aggressively address trash in the entire watershed across jurisdictions.

Rich Eskin: Help Prince George's County get an MS4 permit like Montgomery County's.

Linda Howard: Recommend that Prince George's County learn from the mistakes made in obtaining Montgomery County's MS4 that slowed down the process. Promised to continue financial support to TFPWI and other organizations working on the trash issue.

Bob Hoyt: Continue to embrace the MS4 permit and work on the development plan to find innovative ways to fund it. Be an active partner in cleanups and public outreach campaigns. Find new ways to involve citizens and coordinate them with government resources for monitoring and education.

Greg Voigt: EPA will continue to coordinate jurisdictions if seeking TMDLs.

Moderator: Jack Greer, Assistant Director for Public Affairs, Maryland Sea Grant

Presenters:

- Bill Stack, Chief, Surface Water Management Division, Baltimore City Public Works Department
- Thomas Mumley, Assistant Executive Officer, San Francisco Bay Water Board (tentative)

Participants:

- Diane Cameron, Conservation Program Director, Audubon Naturalist Society
- Greg Voigt in place of Jon Capacasa, Director, Water Protection Division, EPA Region III
- Jim Connolly, Executive Director, Anacostia Watershed Society
- Richard Eskin, Acting Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment
- Linda Howard, Executive Director, Summit Fund of Washington
- Bob Hoyt, Director, Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery County
- Hamid Karimi, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Administration, Department of Environment, District of Columbia
- David Byrd in place of Charlie Wilson, Director, Department of Environmental Resources, Prince George's County
- Samuel Moki, Associate Director, Prince George's County, Department of Environmental Resources

Attendees:

- Ted Graham
- Phillip Lee
- Kevin Coyne
- Kent Hibben
- LeAnne Astin
- Cynthia cutler
- Meo Curtis
- Sally Strahan
- & 6 unidentified others

Focus: Attendees will review the goals set by last year's Trash Summit and discuss the progress and implementation of the trash TMDL and MS4 permits that are being issued around the Anacostia Watershed. Next step for this group will be to discuss what's achievable by 2013, and to commit to maintaining momentum of TMDL Working Group to develop an Implementation Plan that has "teeth." During the session, leadership from the City of Baltimore will share their current strategy and plans for developing a trash TMDL for the inner harbor, and other jurisdictions will be present that are exploring trash TMDL's in other sub-watersheds around the Potomac River.

2008 Regulatory Roundtable Measurable Commitments Pledged by Participants:

- Hamid Karimi, DC — DC pledges to make one tributary of the Anacostia trash-free each year
- Jon Capacasa, EPA — 20% per year reduction in trash via permits—public review process
- Steve Pattison, MDE — Use MS4s as tools for enforcement. Trash will be written into the upcoming MS4 permits. There will be public involvement at all steps in the process including public review, comment, and subsequent revisions of proposed Implementation Plan
- Jon Devine, NRDC — Open to flexibility in terms of how to go about reaching the 100% trash-free goal. Reasonable annual progress is necessary, but perhaps 20% per year does not have to be hard-and-fast requirement, so long as trash elimination is achieved on time and there are specific management practices required by the permit that are expected to get to trash-free goal
- Diane Cameron, Audubon Naturalist Society — DC has come closest to reaching the 2007 goals in its MS4,

through its commitments in its November 2007 MS4 “BMP Enhancements Package” contained in a letter from DC DOE Director George Hawkins to Jon Capacasa

- Jim Collier, Anacostia Watershed Society — Two paths to consider: model of Whole Foods, which has completely banned plastic grocery bags; and legislative approach, which would not cost much to implement, since it would consist mostly of permits
- All present supported the continued gathering of baseline data, with simultaneously working on other fronts such as what is currently working, hot spots, etc.

2008 Incentives All Identified:

- Enforceable MS4 permits by EPA and MDE
- (Diane Cameron)—case for a bottle bill would be strengthened by permits that require trash reduction
- (Hamid Karimi)—a commitment to a 20% per year reduction would force legislation
- (Jon Capacasa)—appropriate milestones
- (Bob Hoyt)—a large goal would push legislation and support to meet it

2009 Key Questions:

1. Review status of 2008 goals and commitments made at 3rd Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit Regulatory Roundtable.
2. What are next steps to ensure momentum Trash TMDL and the development of an Implementation Plan that has is measureable and has accountability.
3. What are the next immediate actions needed to create and implement the necessary regulation that will lead the region to a trash free Potomac by 2013?
4. How can we leverage the Anacostia TMDL and help other Potomac subwatersheds with additional “impaired listings for trash” around the region?
5. What commitments or declarations are participants willing to make?

Presentations:

Presenter: Thomas Mumley called in by phone from San Francisco and narrated a PowerPoint about the permitting progress of the San Francisco Water Board. On October 15th the board issued a permit in six municipalities in the Bay area that surround the estuary, excluding the city of San Francisco. The board acted on 28 Trash listings—26 streams and 2 shorelines. They conducted a Rapid Trash Assessment, assessing 100 foot segments for 6 parameters: level of trash, number of items, threats to aquatic life, threats to human life, illegal dumping, and trash accumulation. The overall score was poor.

After the assessment, the board issued a reduction regulation to reduce trash 40% by 2014, 70% by 2017 and 100% by 2022. The baseline and tracking methods will be established by February of 2012, and the final plan submitted by February 2014.

The short term mandatory regulation includes a minimum full trash capture rate of 30% of commercial land use, and a minimum number of hot spot cleanups at one per 30K population for every 100 acres of commercial land use area. A question was asked of the speaker: How do you assess threats to aquatic life? The answer was to use a quality measure in as objective a manner as possible of the toxicity of trash found, and potential for ingestion of plastic by wildlife as possible measures.

Another question was asked about details of the Rapid Trash Assessment, but the connection to the speaker was breaking up. Kevin Coyne, Project Scientist for Larry Walker Associates in Ventura, California, offered to help anyone with this question, since he has used the same technique. Kevin also said the details should be on the SF Water Board web site.

Presenter: Bill Stack presented on surface water pollution issues in Baltimore, of which a major concern is trash. In issuing municipal storm water permits his office found that in addition to trash there are also a lot of organic matter and gross solids. The auto samplers for water quality are often clogged with these, distorting the readings. Regarding trash collection, the same techniques used elsewhere can be used in Baltimore, such as street sweeping and nets in storm drains. However there is a need for creating a sound organizational structure to coordinate the various agencies so that an accurate baseline can be established. This will require coordination between such departments as street sweepers and maintenance crews who currently have different duties and aims. In addition is the consideration of different jurisdictions which include Baltimore city, Baltimore County, and Baltimore Harbor.

Bill and his office have pitched this organizational structure to the Mayor of Baltimore, using the Montgomery County model for consolidation of services, including surface water enforcement, maintenance, and storm water control agencies to work together to install BMPs.

Presenter: Greg Voigt reported on the status of the Anacostia TMDL for trash, using the A river as a model. The baseline trash load is to be determined by monitoring and analysis of data collected. The objective is to remove 100% of

the baseline, compliance of which is computed on a three year rolling average. To date they have monitored 80 sites in Maryland and the District of Columbia and 19 trap sites in the year ending September 2009. The results showed that 95% was organic matter. Of the remainder, the largest part was plastic bags. The TMDL will be issued in early 2010, and enforced through permits, education and legislation. The final TMDL report will include appendices on reduction removal practices.

Review of commitments made at last year's summit

Question 1: What is the most important commitment you made last year?

Hamid Karimi: MDE will put Trash-Free by 2013 (Trash Treaty) on all future MS4 permits. This was included in the current Montgomery County MS4.

Diane Cameron: NGOs will continue to support funding approved by Montgomery County Council. Diane will continue to try to engage community support, and offered to help/push Prince George's County with a funding commitment similar to the \$45 per household per year currently in Montgomery County.

David Byrd: Cleanups of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers are the most important impact on the trash in the watersheds.

Question 2: What are some milestones for commitments to trash-free by 2013

Diane Cameron: Will Prince George's and Montgomery Counties match the District's goal to have one sub-watershed trash-free by next year?

Bob Hoyt: Montgomery County is looking for hot spots to evaluate and cleanup 100% to show small successes and build support for larger goals. Also promoting "cost sharing" with residents so they understand the huge cost of cleaning up trash, increased street sweeping to pick up trash before it gets into the water, and a focus on outreach and education to reduce or prevent littering. We need community and political support to help change people's attitudes, using NGOs and volunteers to advocate for increased education, support for fees, and implementation of the MS4.

Richard: the need to meet a baseline for trash removal is important, but trash comes back quickly.

Jim: the Anacostia TMDL is a milestone, and it will snowball to create more implementation plans, drive more cleanups and greater prevention.

Hamid: 2013 is very close and the Anacostia TMDL is the only one on the eastern seaboard and it has taken three years to be created. We need to look at other mechanisms than TMDLs such as federal government-issued Potomac watershed permits. Local governments do not have enough money—we need to think bigger. If 2013 is not realistic, we need to think about levels that can be achieved.

Richard: We need to do this anyway—think in terms of local, state and federal levels.

Sam: Money is not the only issue. The current technology does not always work even if we can afford to buy it. We need a comprehensive community effort—cleanups, behavior modification, and a network of committed neighborhoods.

Jack: to sum up, we need a three prong approach: money, people, and regulation.

Richard: We need to measure incremental progress with better assessments and data analysis, using new methods for monitoring such as flyovers or snapshots to determine % covered with trash. Do spring and fall surveys to measure % progress. Possibly find partners such as the State Department to provide flyovers if funding is an issue.

Question 3: Commitment vs regulation framework? Does regulation drive commitment or are there other motivations?

Linda: Regulation is critically important. If regulations are not met, we can act via legislation and enforcement. Regulations give us a floor to stand on. Assuming we get TMDLs, we need to determine who will oversee them, and who is committed to enforce them?

Implementation:

Last year Jon Capacasa expressed the need for a TMDL working group.

COG is a good forum to form the group since it already includes all of the jurisdictions. Within one year of issuing a TMDL an implementation plan must be submitted. Public participation within one year is a required part of the permit. Montgomery County is already working to implement their MS4 even though it is still under litigation.

EPA worked closely with Anacostia partners to create their TMDL. There needs to be a commitment by the whole group to work with EPA towards the goal of more TMDLs. We need to explore with EPA the possibility of a "Watershed Permit" as an alternative to regulation.

**1:45 p.m. –
3:20pm**

Starve the Landfill and Feed the Soil: COMPOST

TVA

Outcomes (Focus Points)

- Statewide disposal ban on yard trimmings from landfills and incinerators
- Implement year-round curbside collection
- Regional approach to implementing local bans on collection of yard trimmings in plastic bags
- Incentivize backyard composting bin use via state income tax deductions
- Require local and state agencies to adopt yard debris reduction practices
- Allow on-farm composting
- Carbon Credits for composting (write to US Senators; US Composting Council has sample letter; Brenda or Nelson can provide this)
- State green procurement: give preference to locally produced compost (Alice Wilkerson to work with MD Senator Jamie Raskin to include in his Green Procurement bill)
- Pilot a residential project to compost food residuals
- Expand regional infrastructure and set up a regional strategy for finding a site (Nelson stated he needs 40 acres)
- Organics Task Force to take up additional policies (listed below) for discussion and support
- Need political leadership and champions at high levels in order to expand composting in the region

Additional Policies Offered for Consideration by Brenda Platt (ILSR) and Craig Coker (Coker & Assc.)

Local Yard Trimmings:

- Require landscapers to recover yard trimmings for composting
- Ban yard trimmings from waste transfer stations, landfills and incinerators
- Set up drop-off sites for materials not collected at curbside (such as pumpkins, Xmas trees, garden trimmings)
- Give preference in purchasing to locally-produced compost
- Require all public agencies to adopt yard waste reduction practices such as controlled irrigation, precise fertilization usage, grasscycling, selective pruning, on-site composting and mulching/backyard composting, proper organic materials applications, and environmentally beneficial landscape design. Encourage residences, businesses, and institutions to adopt these practices.

Local Food Scrap:

- Start an edible food donation program
- Pilot a residential project to compost food residuals (such as curbside collection with yard trimmings, curbside collection without yard trimmings, or drop-off collection)
- Consider creating a hybrid yard trimming program that collects some household organics but not the full range covered by most food scrap programs. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for instance, also includes fruit debris such as apple peelings and cantaloupe rinds, and soiled paper products such as tea bags, paper towels and paper plates.)
- Pilot a government cafeteria food residual collection and composting project
- Pilot composting food residuals and compostable food service ware at public events or publicly sponsored events
- Require submittal of a composting plan in order to obtain a street closure permit for a public event
- Implement purchasing specifications for compostable food service ware (such as products must be certified as compostable)
- Integrate plans to incorporate food residual recovery into solid waste management plans
- Ban the use of non-essential pesticides on all public and private property
- Maintain a user-friendly comprehensive easy-to-navigate web site dedicated to all aspects of composting from how-to-backyard-compost with rodent-free bins to a list of compost facilities and how to donate edible food.

State Yard Trimmings:

- Ban use of conventional plastic bags for yard trimmings collection in specific metropolitan areas
- Incentivize use of compostable bags for collection of yard trimmings by allowing tax deductions on State income

tax for bag purchases

- Incentivize use of backyard composting bins by allowing tax deductions on State income tax for backyard bin purchases
- Require all state agencies to adopt yard waste reduction practices such as controlled irrigation, precise fertilization usage, grasscycling, selective pruning, on-site composting and mulching/backyard composting, proper organic materials applications, and environmentally beneficial landscape design. Encourage residences, businesses, and institutions to adopt these practices.
- Require cities and counties or service providers to create the opportunity to recycle, including the establishment of “an effective residential yard debris collection and composting program that includes the promotion of home composting of yard debris, and that also includes either: (A) Monthly or more frequent on-route collection of yard debris from residences for production of compost or other marketable products; or (B) A system of yard debris collection depots conveniently located and open to the public at least once a week... ‘Yard debris’ includes grass clippings, leaves, hedge trimmings and similar vegetative waste generated from residential property or landscaping activities, but does not include stumps or similar bulky wood materials.”

Regional Cooperation:

- Implement a regional siting strategy for a large-scale yard trimmings/food residuals composting facility in the DC metro region

State Composting Infrastructure Development Policies

- Develop example zoning ordinances that define composting, composting facilities and acceptable land uses by right, or by conditional approval
- Streamline regulations/permitting programs:
 - Adopt performance based permitting regulations for composting facilities (time/temp; air/odors; storm water quality)
 - Allow small on-farm food scraps composting with only registrations, not permits (for less than 250 tons/year)
 - Increase flexibility for meeting financial assurance by allowing periodic payments into depository financial instruments
 - Require all permitted composting facilities have at least one operator trained via a national or state compost operator training program
- Train all regulators in the basics of composting and organics diversion

State Compost Usage Encouragement Policies

- Increase funding to cooperative extensions to develop compost usage and benefit education programs for homeowners and landscapers in counties and municipalities
- Increase funding to appropriate state agencies (in Virginia, for e.g., VDACS & VDEQ) to develop compost usage database for web-based downloads of technical information on crop yield increases and disease suppression, sediment loss reduction and erosion prevention, and acid mine drainage remediation due to compost use.
- Ensure state agency and contractor compliance with USEPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for recycled content materials and USDA BioPreferred materials programs
- Require state departments of transportation and other agencies to procure soil amendments by specifying composts certified by the US Composting Council’s Seal of Testing Assurance program
- Give preference in purchasing to in-state-produced compost, or even better, require the state to purchase compost from facilities registered and compliant with the state.

Statewide Economic Incentives

- Require “Pay-As-You-Throw” solid waste programs in all municipalities
- Promote Industrial Revenue Bond programs for composting facility construction capital
- Encourage Economic Development Authorities to include compost facility sites in portfolios of industrial sites
- Monetize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions from food scraps diversion from landfilling (~ 0.87 MT CO₂eq per ton diverted) by acting as carbon credits aggregator and refunding carbon credits to host municipalities
- Monetize GHG emissions reductions from carbon sequestration due to compost use as a soil amendment (~ 0.35 mt CO₂eq reduced/ton used) in same fashion as above
- Incentivize agricultural usage of compost by allowing income tax deductions for purchase price and income tax credits for reductions in nitrous oxide GHG emissions to replacement of nitrogen fertilizer usage with compost

Other Statewide:

- Maintain a user-friendly comprehensive easy-to-navigate web site dedicated to all aspects of composting from how-to-backyard-compost with rodent-free bins to a list of compost facilities and state regulations.
- Target large generators such as by providing handbooks, resources, and technical assistance (e.g., supermarkets, hospitals, schools, state fairs) on how and where to compost
- Establish a voluntary [Supermarket Recycling Program Certification](#) that encourages supermarkets to develop

- sustainable programs for recycling and reusing organics and other materials.
- Provide compost use training, and compost use specifications and guidance
- Set tiered materials recovery and waste reduction goals (such as 50% recovery and caps on annual increases in waste generation).
- Implement purchasing specifications for compostable food service ware (such as products must be certified as compostable)
- Prohibit the use of nebulous, false claims like "biodegradable" in plastic packaging by requiring that environmental claims can only be made if the terms used are verified by an existing ASTM standard specification.
- Disposal ban on food residuals (in addition to yard trimmings).
- Require each county develop and adopt a recycling plan to include recycling of yard trimmings & food residuals.

Challenges

- Infrastructure is lacking: need regional facilities & expanded collection/drop-off programs
- Outreach & education on composting
- Local jurisdictional support in order to pass state legislation

Focus: This roundtable will take up key local and state policies needed to expand composting of yard trimmings and food scraps in our region and will develop a strategy for implementation. Policies presented will be based on the initial recommendations of a regional Organics Task Force, as well as by two national compost experts. The Task Force formed following the May 2009 *Organics Composting Forum: Building Markets and Infrastructure*, which was sponsored through a partnership of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, and the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Biodegradable materials make up almost two-thirds of municipal trash. Their share could grow as many plastic products such as take-out Styrofoam containers could be substituted with compostable ware. Yet the Mid-Atlantic region lags behind other parts of the country in expanding yard trimming composting programs to year-round and including food scraps and other compostables. A well-established composting infrastructure is essential for a trash-free Potomac River watershed. Composting can also reduce disposal costs, while creating green jobs and protecting the climate.

2009 Key Questions:

1. What are our obstacles to expanding the composting infrastructure?
2. Which policies should be prioritized or are more politically viable for implementation in this region?
3. Which specific policies is a good match for your community?
4. How do we work together regionally to site a full-scale composting facility?
5. How do we garner leadership at high levels for expanded composting?
6. What are the next steps for implementing priority policies in our region?
7. Who will do what?

Moderator: Jeremy Faust, Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, Committee on Government Operations and the Environment, Council of the District of Columbia

Presenters:

- Craig Coker, Coker Composting & Consulting
- Brenda Platt, Co-Director, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Panelists:

- John Snarr, Principal Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Scott MacDonald, Recycling Program Manager, Prince William County Public Works
- Nelson Widell, Peninsula Composting
- Debbie Spiliotopoulos, Senior Environmental Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Alice Wilkerson, Legislative Aide, MD Senator Jamie Raskin

Attendees: Alyce Ortuzar, David O'Leary, Kristen Rannels, Chris Bradford, Ashlea Smith, Kelly Davis, Heeral Bhalala, Bambi Sears, Jim Heins, David Berry, Patrick Richter, Kent L. Hibben, Frankie (formerly with Pogo), Tommy (Cheh's office), Daniel Schwartz

Minutes

Jeremy Faust PowerPoint Presentation

Craig Coker PowerPoint Presentation

Brenda Platt PowerPoint Presentation

John Snarr PowerPoint Presentation

Scott MacDonald

- Collecting yard waste & thinking about a ban
- Fairfax County, City of Manassas are also composting with PWC
- Want to get into food waste
- Need a new facility in area & infrastructure
 - But where to put it? Odor is not appealing to neighbors
- Land use: laws for composting fall under agriculture?
- Backyard composting took off last year—went from 8 units the previous year to
- 78 units given away

Nelson Widell

- New plant near center of city—transportation costs & access
- Issues: siting—zoning laws
 - Is compost considered recycling?
 - Technology needed to address odor & leaching issues at facilities
- Outreach is key
- Public vs. private facilities: competitive & can make money with composting

Debbie Spiliotopoulos

- Jurisdictions are competing in fees & for funding
- Plastic bag issues—certain jurisdictions may allow compost in plastic bags & others don't, can lead to usage problems with people avoiding facilities that ban plastic bags
- Need requirements for all jurisdictions

Alice Wilkerson

- Introducing bill in MD to phase out use of styrofoam at state level (ex: Camden Yards & government buildings)
- Farm to school initiative as a model
- Require government contractors to abide by recycling and composting regulations
- Concerns:
 - General assembly does not like to tell local jurisdictions what to do
 - Is there support from jurisdictions? This makes it much easier for implementation at the state level

Discussion

- If the Composting Council can create some model language about recycling and composting this could be used by the state to get legislation passed
- Mandatory recycling program for certain materials
- Regional facilities
- Ban Styrofoam
- Have a tiered approach, starting local and building up to business compliance; modeled from the farm to school program
- Infrastructure is needed to expand composting and include a larger audience
 - Haulers are pushing for composting & could expand to include condos, universities, hospitals, etc.,
 - Money & available land are challenges to infrastructure expansion
 - What if the state finds & purchases the land, then private companies can lease it from the state?
- How do we get support for creating a composting site/facility?
 - Creates local jobs; one facility's example: ~50 construction jobs, 15 employees, 15+ jobs from products made & used, etc.
 - Local economic impact of new jobs; facility studied impact of each employee on local economy and determined it to be: \$250,000 per employee per year
- Can we get government support for jobs from the stimulus?
- Need to allow on-site composting for farms
 - "Two Particular Acres" (Montgomery County, PA) as example

- Created jobs
- Saved money by creating compost/fertilizer for the farm
- Generated revenue by selling compost
- Local/jurisdictional support is needed to get the state legislation through
- POGO as a model for permitting (yard trimming composting, not food scraps)
- Every ton of food residuals kept from the landfill = 0.9 tons of CO₂
 - Good for the planet
 - Generates revenue
 - Additional CO₂ captures for energy
 - Carbon credits?
- Need to talk with the USDA about yard & lawn requirements & maintenance; can we get them to adopt some of our suggestions?

**1:45 p.m. –
3:20 p.m.**

Wake Up and Smell the Trash – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Alfred Nobel Hall
Side A

Roundtable Outcomes

- 1) Come up with a slogan
- 2) Come up with a PSA
- 3) Research ways to reach out to <25yr. males
- 4) Make partnerships with private sector, government, media, internet (blogs, etc)
- 5) Raise awareness among young people/ youth advocates

Roundtable Challenges

- Connecting groups across watershed
- How are people connected to their water?
- Most people do not understand watershed concept
- Majority of people do not know storm drains are not filtered
- Media can be a good partner, need to find a way to make partnership worthwhile to media
- Partnerships with government without getting too political
- DC-based messages are too narrow (i.e. W. Va does not connect at all to the idea that “we are all part of the capital”)

Focus: The Potomac River Outreach and Awareness Campaign for Trash (PROACT) is looking for a new name, a new image and creative ways to mobilize and engage our community! Join us to learn more about plans for an anti-litter campaign from the creative team spearheading this effort. Presenters including Noral Group International, OpinionWorks, and Ruder Finn will provide an overview of research completed to date and the steps we will take to launch the campaign. You will have an opportunity to give feedback on what resources would help you to utilize and maximize this public education campaign. Participants in this session will also take part in brainstorming sessions.

2009 Key Questions:

- What are some icons, personalities and images that define the watershed region? What/who has cachet with residents along the watershed region?
- What can the campaign hope to accomplish with various groups such as corporate sponsors, schools, civic groups (i.e. Boys & Girls Club, Kiwanis and church groups)?
- How would you define successful involvement for year one? Year five?
- What are reasonable action steps the public education campaign might ask residents along the watershed to take?
- What campaigns around social issues have made an impact on you (i.e. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Just Say No, Don't Mess with Texas)? What lessons can we take from these initiatives and apply to the anti-litter campaign?

Moderator: Steve Raabe, President, OpinionWorks

Presenters:

- Steve Raabe, President, OpinionWorks
- Eva Kasten, Founder and President, Noral Group International
- Jessica Ross, General Manager and Executive Vice President, Ruder Finn DC

Roundtable Minutes and Discussion bullets

Presentation by Steve Raabe "Opinions about Trash Research in the Potomac River Watershed"

- Biggest litterers are men aged 18-25, but young women also litter, and the problem crosses race/ethnicity and socio-economic lines.
- The public generally does not know much about how trash ends up in the water: that water is not cleaned when it goes down a storm drain, which they live in the Potomac River watershed (or any watershed), etc.
- Offenders do not believe they will get caught, see their own litter as benign, and see the problem as someone else's responsibility.
- But most litterers do have a sense of sanctuary: their own car or house.
- Though very little breaks through to them, short, simple messages about reducing pollution are the most effective.
- Short, simple messages about reducing pollution are the most effective.

Presentation by Eva Kasten

- There is an important link between common belief and desired behavior
- PSA's work best when research is done to ensure they reach concerns of the audience
- Reasons for trashing:
 - Denial "it's not really trash"
 - Rationalization "doesn't matter" or "my litter doesn't hurt anyone"
 - Externalization "volunteers need to keep busy" or "my taxes should cover cleanup"

Discussion

What is the best avenue for outreach?

- Creative use of partnerships
- Ongoing use of research
- Use of personal stories

How do we define the watershed region to the layperson?

- Everyone drinks water; we're all drinking the same water; it's all from the same cup
- Geographic region – capital's watershed
- History (Gettysburg, Civil War, Harper's Ferry, Revolutionary War)
- More national parks in watershed than anywhere else
- Greenest capital in the world
- "New urban green zone"
- Water connects everything
- Pristine frontier
- Connected by history, connected by water
- Common multiculturalism
- Stewardship of resources are common responsibility
- Faith: many houses of worship
- Important to upstream communities that we not be too Nation's Capital-focused.

What can we do to tie trash to our common ideas?

- "bathtub" (filling with trash)
- "swimming hole"
- "watering hole"
- "your water is locally grown"
- Youth advocates
- Litter is trash in the wrong place; "there is a place for it"
- "No such place as 'away'"
- Love of country; unpatriotic to create this mess in our nation's capital
- Tie to local stream
- Word "watershed" could be a problem
- Morality approach may not be effective because of the nature of littering
- People need instruction; need to tell them what to do with their used motor oil
- People care most about their own backyard

- Look for things that are cool to young men

Question to kids “Do kids at your school understand the flow of trash?”

- “Only a few. Maybe 500 kids at our school”
- “A lot of people would care if they knew or thought about it”

How do we develop partnerships? With whom?

- Government agencies
- Scouts
- Schools
- Speakers
- Musicians (Pete Seger/Hudson River project; Theivery Corporation)
- Famous people
- Trail maintenance volunteers and groups
- Partner with the media, local radio station, newspaper, internet, bloggers
- Local government: bag bill legislation, give away reusable bags
- Local businesses/corporations that supported DC bag bill
- Rowing clubs
- Sports
- Clubs
- Fishing
- Boating
- Walmart
- Colleges and universities
- Churches/faith based organizations
- Contest for school kids to submit their creative ideas

How do we reach target audience (25 year old men)

- Convenience stores 7-11
- Beer companies
- Professional sports teams (Ravens, Redskins)
- Cars/cigarettes
- McDonalds
- Chip bag manufacturers
- Universities
- Hip hop artists
- Churches
- Construction companies

What slogans stuck with you?

- In the UK: “It’s our future. Please don’t throw away our future”
- Census 2010 campaign “This is your future, don’t leave it blank/it’s in your hands”
- Pickens plan “It’s in your hands”
- Shocking photographs
- “Rock the vote”
- “Health care begins at your home”
- “this is your brain on drugs”
- “Yes we can”/“Change we can believe in”
- “Consider the environment” message on emails
- Gore campaign “there’s no such thing as clean coal”
- Polar bear/climate change video (WWF)