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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Solid Waste Association of North America

SOLID WASTE NEWS For Waste Professionals

August 15, 2003

Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA Board of Directors

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Evelyn Tomlin

It's been a busy and fun year with Wastecon in Long Beach, CA; board meetings every two months; afternoon tours or demonstrations after 3 of the 6 annual board meetings; annual technical meetings, the annual Rodeo, and Crab Feast. Our third combination board meeting and afternoon tour/demonstration was held on July 16th at Baltimore County's Environmental Center near Eastern Sanitary Landfill with a demonstration of an alternative cover degradable plastic film. We're looking forward to the September 26th, 2003 Annual Business and Technical Meeting at the HEAT Center in Harford County.

Even with the torrential rain, this year's Crab Feast was a great success. Special thanks go out to our coordinators and caterers, Dan Williams of Calvert County and Dana Murray of SCS with children's games and prizes by Frank Henderson of Harford County. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded at the crab feast to Kathleen O'Hara and Alison Sleva.

Please welcome Tony Duckett, the new board member from D.C.! Tony fills the spot reserved only for a D.C. member.

I look forward to seeing you all at September's meeting.

CHAPTER DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

By Steve Lippy

In June I represented the Chapter at the mid-year meeting held in Atlantic City. Detailed e-mail minutes will eventually be sent to me; therefore, if you are interested in more detail than the summaries which will be/have been published in SWANA's newsletter *MSW Solutions*, let me know. As a result, I will only comment on a few of the items:

- SWANA is endeavoring to make its name more recognizable by sending solid waste articles, items, editorials, etc., to reporters. They are compiling lists of environmental reporters (with complete address, including e-mail address), so please send any names to Todd Von Deak, SWANA's Manager of Marketing and Member Services, at tvondeak@swana.org.
- SWANA staff has orally committed to eliminating the minimum number of attendees for a SWANA/Chapter partnering event. As a result, the Chapter will endeavor to schedule one of them, e.g., a certification course, such as Managing Municipal Solid Waste Collection Systems
- It was announced that two of our Chapter members will be receiving SWANA awards at WASTECON 2003 in St. Louis in October – Lanny Hickman (Professional Achievement for Life Member) and N.C. Vasuki (Robert Lawrence Lecturer). **CONGRATULATIONS!**
- There was to have been a bylaws amendment this summer with the ballot for the SWANA International officers. However, the vote on the bylaws amendment has been postponed for various reasons. Since it will be resurrected in some sort of form, it is appropriate to give the members some background and to request member feed back. Upon my recommendation, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter Board of Directors at the July 16 meeting unanimously voted NOT to support the proposed bylaw amendment; accordingly, we were going to recommend to the other chapter members to vote AGAINST the bylaw change. (continued on page 2)

CHAPTER DIRECTOR'S REPORT *(Continued from page 1)*

Several years ago, a bylaws amendment was passed by the membership to allow one of the five officers to be a "sustaining" member; previously, they all had to be "regular" members (i.e., not employed in the private sector). The amendment initially proposed in Atlantic City in June was to remove all membership category restrictions on the officers, e.g., all officers could be "sustaining" (or corporate members) or all five could even be from the same employer. [This amendment was proposed because there were three viable candidates for the one open officer position. Since all were "sustaining" members, the other potential candidates would not be eligible to be an officer for another five years.] In addition, a policy paper would be developed to discuss how the Nominating Committee would function and what criteria would be used in nominating someone. Finding this sequence disconcerting, I proposed an amendment to the amendment that the policy paper should be approved prior to the bylaw amendment. That failed with only 11 yeas; it would have effectively delayed voting on the initial amendment for a year, which most of the IB did not support. Then, I proposed an amendment to restrict the officers to having different employers; that did pass. The amended bylaw amendment was then voted on and passed, with 11 yeas (included mine). This vote then authorized the next step which would have been placing it on a ballot to be voted by the entire membership.

Notwithstanding, our Chapter Board, agreed with my concerns that this amendment was "rushed" in order to get it approved on this summer's ballot and that "safeguards," e.g., the policy paper, should be approved prior to the enactment of the bylaws amendment. In 20 years, we as a Board have NEVER voted not to support a proposed bylaws amendment; however, in this instance, we did recommend that members NOT vote for it. Concern was also expressed at our Board meeting if the SWANA officers were all privately employed, whether consultant or service providers? Would it make a difference? (SWANA's Guiding Principle is that "Local government is responsible for municipal solid waste management but not necessarily the ownership and/or operation of municipal solid waste systems." If the officers do not have local government experience, will they be able to lead SWANA, albeit they may well be considered solid waste management professionals?) Some of those attending suggested that instead of only one, maybe two of the officers could be from the private sector, which would actually be reflective of the actual present membership ratio. (Another chapter's director has also suggested two, but not successively elected.) If you would like to discuss this issue, please contact me at 410-887-2009 or one of the other Board members, as this topic will need to be discussed at our meeting on September. Hopefully, the next version of the amendment will be one that we can support (or at least not oppose).

D.C. REPRESENTATIVE WELCOMED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a result of amendments made last year to the Chapter bylaws, one position on the Mid-Atlantic Chapter's Board of Directors is reserved for a member representing the District of Columbia. The Board is pleased to welcome Tony Duckett as the D.C. representative. Tony, a 20 year District of Columbia employee, has worked for the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Administration (SWMA) for the past 12 years. During his tenure as Chief of the Bureau of Waste Collection, he has worked to optimize collection routes which have resulted in significant reductions in overtime expenditures. To assist with controlling operating costs, Tony was instrumental in developing a computerized cost accounting and operations management system (DPW Works) used throughout the Administration. He is currently focusing on development and implementation of improvements to the District's residential recycling program.

The SWMA, which provides comprehensive waste collection, disposal and cleanup services in the District, employs 651 full time employees with an annual operating budget of \$46 million. The Administration is organized into four Divisions.

The Solid Waste Collection Division is responsible for the collection of household waste, bulk waste, and recyclables from 110,000 households. Collections are provided by District employees and equipment utilizing both manual and semi-automated methods. Bulk waste collection is provided

by appointment. A contractor currently provides recycling collection.

The Street and Alley Cleaning Division is responsible for the routine cleaning of streets, alleys, and public areas including manual litter collection, emptying of public waste containers, and operation of street sweepers. Other services provided include vacant lot/illegal dumping clean up, seasonal leaf collection, and clean up of public areas after special events.

The Solid Waste Disposal Division operates two city owned transfer stations utilizing contract services for waste hauling and disposal. These stations, and existing privately operated transfer stations, currently receive 997,000 tons of waste annually of which 630,000 tons is generated within the District. 207,000 tons per year is collected by the SWMA. The Administration has undertaken a major initiative to renovate the two existing city-owned transfer stations so that they will be able to receive both waste collected by the SWMA and by private haulers.

The Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP) is responsible for promoting SWMA programs and for educating residents, businesses, and the visiting public about waste collection and recycling. A staff of inspectors enforce regulations and serve as liaisons with neighborhood groups to promote compliance.

DEGRADABLE ADC DEMONSTRATION

A primary goal of every landfill operator is to make the most efficient use possible of permitted capacity by maximizing the waste tonnage placed in a landfill cell. One way to accomplish this goal is to minimize the cell volume taken up by daily and intermediate cover. To this end, reusable tarps have been used at some facilities as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) rather than soil. At landfills which have seen a large drop in waste received as a result of waste export, the use of tarps has proven particularly attractive. Otherwise, as waste tonnage decreases, cell volume taken up by soil cover increases.

After the July 16 Board of Directors meeting at Days Cove Environmental Center, attendees visited Baltimore County's Eastern Sanitary Landfill to see a demonstration of an alternative to reusable tarps. This ADC product, marketed as the Enviro Cover System, is produced by Environmental Products, Inc., (EPI) an international firm with offices in Canada. The product, which has been marketed since 1996, is in use at landfills in several countries including in the British Isles, Australia, and Canada and in several states in the U.S. including California, Texas, and North Carolina.

Enviro Cover is a thin, puncture resistant, polyethylene sheet film which is deployed directly over compacted waste. The plastic film contains a proprietary "prodegradant" which causes the film to degrade over time from exposure to sunlight, heat, and mechanical stress. An advantage over competing products cited by EPI is that the film will continue to degrade after being covered with waste as temperatures in the cell increase. The film is produced in a range of thicknesses (1.5 mil to 7 mil) and widths (10 ft to 18 ft). Thicker films take longer to break down and are suitable for deployment as intermediate cover or for infiltration control where the film may be exposed for up to several months. Thin films

(1.5 - 2 mil) are more suitable for daily cover applications. Cost varies depending on the film thickness, but generally ranges from 2¢ to 10¢ per square foot. EPI notes that due to Enviro Cover's smooth surface and puncture resistance, access to covered waste by scavenging birds and rodents is deterred.

An Enviro Cover Deployer, supplied by EPI, is used to place the film. Several models of Deployer are available, depending on the film being deployed and on site equipment available. The Deployer can be attached to the blade of a dozer, the bucket of a loader, or can be towed. The Deployer dispenses the film and distributes ballast material (sand, soil, gravel) to hold it in place. The model RK610 Deployer was used at the demonstration to place

10 foot wide 1.5 mil Enviro Cover. The Deployer was hung from the bucket of a CAT 963 loader and soil ballast was dispensed from the loader bucket. Film placement required one equipment operator and one person on the ground to handle and cut each panel. Adjacent panels were overlapped 6 inches.

Enviro Cover has not yet been approved for use in Maryland by the Maryland Department

of the Environment. Ed Dexter, Chief, Solid Waste Program, for MDE noted that MDE has approved the use of reusable tarps at several landfills in the state and is receptive to the trial use of plastic film as ADC on a case by case basis.

For more information on this product visit EPI's website at www.epi-global.com, or contact Jens Proche, Sales Representative at:

Telephone - 1-604-738-6281

Fax - 1-604-738-7839

Email - jensproche@epi-global.com



Here the Enviro Cover plastic film is placed by the Enviro Cover Deployer attached to the bucket of a loader

CRAB FEAST

The Chapter's Annual Crab Feast took place on Saturday, June 7th, with approximately 60 people in attendance. According to Dan Williams, the Board's Past President, "Even with the rain, which came down in buckets, the attendees still had a great time...and the kids got soaked and muddy under Frank's (Henderson) guidance."

Dana Murray, Dan Williams, Frank Henderson, and others put in a lot of effort to make this Crab Feast a great success. Thank you for all your hard work!

CARROLL COUNTY AWARDS CONTRACT

Carroll County awarded a contract to Recycle America Alliance, LLC, to accept, process and market residential recyclables at the material recovery facility located on the site of the Northern Landfill. The recyclables to be processed include: paper; cardboard; and commingled glass bottles, plastic bottles and cans. The contract started on July 1, 2003, with a five-year initial contract term, and two five-year renewal options.

For additional information, please contact Vinnie Legge at 410-386-2633 or vlegge@ccg.carr.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
(OR COMPUTERS, OR PDA's)

- September 26, 2003 - Annual Meeting and Technical Sessions at the HEAT Center in Harford County.

THE MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER WANTS TO KNOW: What's the latest in your organization?

In the interests of keeping Chapter members up-to-date with solid waste activities in Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia, each newsletter will contain a section to highlight job openings, upcoming procurements, contract awards, etc.

Please contact Laura Thomson at lthomson@nmwda.org, or 410-333-2730 if you have any updates to share.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on September 26th, 2003, Chapter members will have the opportunity to vote on the slate of candidates put together by the nominating committee. The slate for this year, SWANA's fiscal year 2004 (October 2003 - September 2004), reflects no changes in the current make-up of the Board; therefore, the vote at the Annual Meeting will be to approve the Board of Directors as it is listed on page one of this newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING BALLOT VOTE No. _____

*Please fax or mail your proxy to Laura Thomson by September 19, 2003
Fax: (410) 333-2721 or Mail: NMWDA, Tower II, Ste. 402, 100 S. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201*

I cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please accept my mail-in ballot. I am a member in good standing of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA. I do hereby approve the slate offered by the nominations committee.

Yes _____ No _____

I nominate and vote for the following candidate(s):

_____ (name) _____ (position)

(Numbering of ballots assures that duplicate ballots are not submitted)