

SOLID WASTE NEWS for Waste Professionals

December 21, 2021

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President's Report

By: Kristyn Oldendorf
City of Baltimore

Kristyn Oldendorf presented the following report during the Annual Meeting on September 22, 2021.

The SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter has had a busy year, and I am excited to provide this report on our accomplishments. Chapter members have demonstrated commitment and flexibility in the face of pandemic-related challenges. We have continued planning and participating in activities and striving to meet the mission of the chapter.

I have missed our in-person meetings, tours, and conferences, but our virtual meetings have also provided opportunities to host guest speakers and has been convenient for many members. In the past year and a half this is our first fully in-person meeting. We did hold a hybrid meeting in July, giving members the option to attend virtually or in person. I am not sure what the next few months or the next year will bring, and we will need to make decisions about how to host our meetings. But for today, we can enjoy our time together, especially the annual crab feast after the meeting.

Our committee members have continued to keep up their good work and have much to report. Please reach out if you wish to join a committee or otherwise support the work of the committees. This is where the work gets done to support our members. I'm going to share a few highlights of the committee accomplishments.

The Young Professionals, the group critical to the successful future of the chapter, continue to have a strong presence. Over the past year, the YPs hosted several successful virtual discussions on timely topics and hosted an in-person networking event. I hope that we can continue to encourage young professionals to join and to share reminders of the first-year discount for YPs and the free membership for students.

The Chapter's scholarship program continues to benefit Young Professionals and other members. We have several scholarship options for both full-time and part-time students, so please share the information with anyone who might be interested. Our membership has grown slightly from this time last year, with 373 members in September. We hope that it will continue to grow as we continue to provide and advertise member benefits.

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SWANA Mission Statement:

"Advancing the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste in North America."

Speaking of member benefits, we worked with the Maryland Recycling Network to host a virtual conference, which was a big accomplishment and required flexibility as plans changed. Our Legislative Liaison continues to provide excellent legislative updates and SWANA advocacy alerts. These are shared in the chapter newsletter, which provides many informational resources. Our training committee encourages the use of SWANA's virtual trainings until we can safely begin in-person training again. Our new Safety Ambassador has been sharing safety messages and has ideas on how the chapter can strengthen its safety program.

Our board has also been working to ensure that the chapter remains financially and legally responsible. Our Treasurer has done a great job transitioning to a new accounting software, and, with the help of the Finance Committee, has been working on a budget. Our bylaws committee worked on bylaws updates to reflect the requirements for virtual meetings.

In addition, the chapter took time this past year to reassess its activities and to begin thinking about how to make changes and improvements, with the help of a professional facilitator.

The facilitator conducted a survey of chapter membership and a survey of the board to gain an understanding of what the chapter does well and where it can improve. Thank you to all who completed the online survey. The board members and committee chairs participated in two virtual strategic sessions with the facilitator during which we had in-depth discussions on reviewing the survey results and implications and identifying how we can work more effectively to better serve our members. The final report included some key recommendations, including: 1) Reconfigure board agendas to prioritize discussion and decision-making; 2) Streamline committee structure; 3) Consider board term limits; and 4) Regularly evaluate board practice. Going forward, we will be working on implementation of these recommendations and other improvements for the benefit of the chapter.

It has been an honor to serve as president of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter for the past year. I appreciate everyone's good work and dedication and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Annual Business Meeting Election of Officers and Crab Feast September 22, 2021

The SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter hosted its Annual Business Meeting, Election of Officers, and Crab Feast on September 22, 2021 at Nick's Fish House and Grill in Baltimore, MD.



Congratulations to our newly elected Chapter Officers and Directors! We look forward to another exciting and successful year for the Chapter.

Officers and Directors - FY2022

President - Kristyn Oldendorf (Baltimore City, MD) 410-396-4511

Vice President - Jonathan Meyers (LaBella Associates) 410-409-6736

Secretary - John Neyman (Republic Services) 302-658-4097

Treasurer - Jennifer Padgett (Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.)

Past President - Tim Ford (Maryland Environmental Service) 410-729-8303

Advisory Board Delegate - Dana Blumberg (SCS Engineers, Inc.) 703-471-6150

Director - Blake Adams (Washington, DC) 202-359-2996

Director - Niti Blackwell (Howard County, MD) 410-313-6418

Director - Mark Gutberlet (EA Engineering) 410-584-7000

Director - Stephen Lippy (semi-retired) 410-296-9150

Director - Michelle Minstrell (WasteKnowledge, LLC) 571-354-7487

Director - Jess Moore (University of Maryland) 301-405-7460

Director - Jason Munyan (DE Solid Waste Authority) 302-764-5385

Director - John Schott (NE MD Waste Disposal Authority) 410-333-2730

Director - Mehal Trivedi (Frederick County, MD) 301-600-3043



Legislative and News Updates

SWANA Mid-Atlantic

November 17, 2021

By: *Jacob Shepherd, P.E.*
Legislative Liaison
JShepherd@scsengineers.com

SWANA Updates

SWANA Letter to Senate Committee on Recycling and Circular Economy – SWANA sent a letter to the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee in response to an EPW hearing and roundtable on recycling and the circular economy. On September 22, the committee held a hearing on “The Circular Economy as a Concept for Creating a More Sustainable Future.” SWANA’s letter emphasizes that the federal government must provide ongoing support to municipal recycling programs and suggests the amount of funding provided in the infrastructure bill is inadequate. It notes more than 100 curbside collection programs across the Nation have suspended or reduced operations over the past three years, primarily due to issues of cost and contamination.

SWANA Report on PFAS Management and Treatment for Leachate – In response to growing public health concerns associated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the SWANA Applied Research Foundation (ARF) has issued a report summarizing and analyzing management options and treatment technologies that can be used to address PFAS chemicals contained in landfill leachate. PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in industrial processes and consumer products since the 1950s. PFAS are found in many consumer products, and present challenges to the MSW management facilities, including MSW landfills, that receive them. A key issue is how to treat leachate for PFAS removal. The new report serves as a companion report to one published by the ARF in June 2021 on “PFAS Fate and Transport in WTE Facilities. These reports are available to access on SWANA’s website.

SWANA Applauds EPA National Recycling Strategy – SWANA applauds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) issuance of a National Recycling Strategy, which was announced by the EPA on November 15, 2021 (see below). SWANA has been closely engaged with EPA over the past four years helping the agency respond to China’s National Sword program, including participating actively on several recycling workgroups and advocating for EPA’s 50 percent waste diversion goal by 2030.

SWANA received an advance briefing from EPA officials concerning the strategy late last week, and Carlton Waterhouse from EPA discussed the strategy during his keynote session at WASTECON on November 3. SWANA has played a very active role advocating for stronger federal support for municipal recycling programs. SWANA was a key supporter of the RECYCLE Act, which was incorporated into the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that will be signed by President Biden later today. SWANA spoke at a recent U.S. Senate Recycling Roundtable and issued a report on the recovery of recycling markets.

Legislative Updates

Federal

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (HR3684) – On November 15, 2021, the President signed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. As part of the expansive law, the EPA will administer \$15 million annually for five years as competitive grants to States, municipal governments, Indian Tribes, nonprofits, or public-private partnerships. Funds may be used for recycling education or to increase collection rates and decrease contamination. Additionally, the legislation directs EPA to create a model recycling program toolkit that includes standardized terms and examples of covered materials, educational principles based on best practices, a community self-assessment guide, and training modules for States and nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to local governments. The toolkit must also include a guide to measure the effectiveness of the federal grants that are awarded, including standardized measurements for recycling rates and decreases in contamination. More information can be found in Section 70402 of the law.

Legislative and News Updates continues on page 5

New OSHA Rule for Vaccination and Testing – On November 5, 2021, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published an interim final rule to apply to employers with 100 or more employees. Under the rule, employers covered under the rule must develop, implement, and enforce a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy, with an exception for employers that instead adopt a policy requiring employees to either get vaccinated or elect to undergo regular COVID-19 testing and wear a face covering at work in lieu of vaccination. Employers must include all employees across all their U.S. locations regardless of vaccination status and work location, and include both full- and part-time employees. Text of the rule is available on the Federal Register.

The rule is being challenged by multiple states and unions currently totaling 34 lawsuits filed in 12 different court of appeals. These cases will be consolidated into one, with the federal court circuit chosen at random. OSHA has set a January 4 deadline for employers to meet the rule, though it remains unclear whether court action will pause the rule during judicial review. In addition to the legal challenges, some states have passed legislation or orders that counter the OSHA rule, making it difficult for employers to comply with the laws. It should be noted that as of the date of this update, no countering rules exist in Chapter jurisdictions.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Summary of EPA Strategic Roadmap on PFAS – On October 18, 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a “Strategic Roadmap” to address growing concerns associated with PFAS. Since then, the U.S. Senate has held a hearing on the federal response to PFAS and EPA has announced it will address PFAS contamination under RCRA per a petition from the governor of New Mexico.

EPA’s multi-faceted approach is intended to address both human health and environmental impacts. EPA describes the plan as “ambitious,” and it involves numerous Agency offices, including the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), which has jurisdiction over solid waste and the Superfund program. Although solid waste facilities are not generators of PFAS, the Roadmap may have substantial implications for landfills and other solid waste disposal facilities, including compost facilities.

EPA Publishes National Recycling Strategy – On November 15, 2021, the EPA published a National Recycling Strategy as part one of a series on building a circular economy. According to the EPA, the Strategy focuses on enhancing and advancing the national municipal solid waste (MSW) recycling system and identifying strategic objectives and stakeholder-led actions to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective domestic MSW recycling system. More information is available on the EPA’s website.

Maryland Legislative

The 443rd legislative session will be a special session to convene on December 6, 2021, to address redistricting maps. No legislation related to solid waste or recycling is expected during the special session. The 444th legislative session will convene on January 12, 2022 and adjourn on April 11, 2022.

Maryland MDE

Currently Tracking – New Landfill Methane Rules and State EG Implementation Plan – No updates. MDE is currently developing new rules for methane control and reduction from municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills. The rules would also implement the Emission Guidelines (EG) under the 2016 NSPS changes (40 CFR 60 Subpart Cf) and would replace the current Federal EG Plan that applies to Maryland landfills (published under 40 CFR 62 Subpart OOO). A draft regulatory framework was presented at the recent June 23, 2021 landfill stakeholders meeting, which has been posted to MDE’s website. As proposed in the draft regulatory framework, the regulations would significantly reduce the threshold for requiring the installation, operation, and monitoring of an active gas collection system. In July, the Chapter Legislative Committee distributed a list of potential issues presented in the framework. MDE is currently reviewing comments submitted on the framework and is developing a draft regulation, which is expected to be published soon.

Legislative and News Updates continues on page 6

Delaware Legislative

The 2022 Delaware General Assembly legislative session will convene on January 11, 2021 and adjourn on June 30, 2022. No updates.

District of Columbia Legislative

Council Period 23 began on January 2, 2021 and will end at 12:00 p.m. on January 2, 2023. Currently no bills related to solid waste and recycling are being considered.

News Updates

The Brewing Fashion Waste Issue and What Brands Are Doing About It – WASTE ADVANTAGE – October 19, 2021

Oregon's New Landfill Methane Emission Rules Now Strictest in the Country – WASTE DIVE – October 21, 2021

With Landfill Methane in the Climate Spotlight, Satellite and Flyover Measurements Attract a Following – WASTE DIVE – November 3, 2021

OSHA Sets January 4 Deadline for Employers to Mandate Vaccines – WASTE DIVE – November 4, 2021

Are Clothes Made from Recycled Materials Really More Sustainable – THE GUARDIAN – November 6, 2021

The World Created About 8 Million Tons of Pandemic Plastic Waste, and Much ... in the Ocean – THE WASHINGTON POST – November 10, 2021

Closed Loop Partners Collaborate to Advance Composting – WASTE ADVANTAGE – November 12, 2021

How Maine is Transforming Who Pays for Recycling – PBS NEWS HOUR – November 14, 2021

The U.S. Finally Adopts a National Recycling Strategy – THE VERGE – November 15, 2021

SWANA Mid-Atlantic Regional Road-E-O May 12-13, 2022

Save-the-dates! Begin Planning!

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, a Regional Road-E-O has been scheduled. The SWANA ROAD-E-O mission is to *provide operators of solid waste collection and landfill equipment an opportunity to showcase their skills*. This is done at a one-day event during which contestants operate various solid waste collection trucks and landfill equipment on different courses in the field and are scored according to their proficiency, with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners recognized. It is an opportunity for operators to not only compete with other operators, but to provide them an opportunity to network with operators in the region from other companies or entities. In addition, first and second place winners will be eligible to attend the SWANA International Road-E-O to be held in the Fall 2022 in El Paso, Texas, to compete against and network with contestants from across the US and Canada. The Road-E-O is also an opportunity for employers and management to recognize and acknowledge their best field personnel by promoting the event and allowing them to attend and participate.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is the overall sponsor for the Regional Road-E-O, which includes our neighboring chapters to the north: Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The actual event will be hosted by the Cecil County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division at its Central Landfill in Elkton, MD.

See the links for info on the last three Regional Road-E-O's, as well as the October 2018 and July 2017 Chapter newsletters which describes the two most recent events hosted by the Chapter: <https://swana-midatl.org/2010/12/05/newsletters/>.

Regional Road-E-O continues on page 7

The Cecil County Solid Waste Management Division is ACTIVELY planning and preparing for the event. Some decisions have been made already, e.g., both the landfill heavy equipment and truck courses will be at the Landfill, as well as the Thursday evening dinner and the Friday continental breakfast, lunch, and awards ceremony. A budget is being developed in order to set registrant fees for contestants with a goal to have registration forms for both contestants and volunteers available before January. In addition, there may be a "Closest to the pin" on-site fundraiser, as well as bleachers to watch the landfill equipment events.

Even though all the details have not yet been finalized, mark your calendars for **May 12-13, 2022**, AND begin to decide to have or to recruit members of your field staff to participate in the contests. The contests at the May event will include the following (assuming a minimum number of three registrants for each category):

- ◇ Heavy landfill equipment
 - Landfill compactor
 - Track dozer
 - Rubber-tired front-end loader
 - Articulated dump truck
- ◇ Trucks
 - Front-end loader
 - Rear-end loader
 - Roll-off

Besides contestants, we will need volunteers in order to conduct the event:

- ◇ To serve on the Road-E-O Committee
 - To help plan and coordinate
 - To assist with general promotion for contestants and event volunteers with newsletter articles, website posts, etc.
 - To assist with soliciting swag giveaways for the contestant bags
 - To assist with obtaining sponsorships
- ◇ To be on-site at the event on May 12 and/or May 13
 - To assist the host Cecil County – DPW -Solid Waste Management Division as needed
 - To lay out the courses
 - To judge the contestants on the courses
 - To tally scores (two volunteers already)
 - To be score sheet runners
 - To be "gophers"

In addition to contestants and volunteers, we will need sponsors, who will receive various levels of advertising/recognition, depending on the sponsorship levels, which will be detailed in forms to be finalized by January. If you know of any vendor or company who services the solid waste management industry and may be interested in sponsoring the Road-E-O, please contact them. If unwilling or unable to contact them, send their names and contact information to David Horne (dhorne@ccgov.org).

We will also be preparing swag giveaway bags for the contestants, so any suitable items for field personnel would be appreciated but are not needed until early May.

For more information or questions on the Road-E-O, or to volunteer, contact David Horne or Steve Lippy (s.lippy@verizon.net).

As registration and sponsorship forms are finalized, they will be posted on the Chapter's website and emailed to the members.

With assistance by **all** Mid-Atlantic Chapter members, such as allowing and recruiting your agencies' operators to register and participate, volunteering to serve on the Committee and/or at the event, sponsoring the Road-E-O, contacting potential sponsors (or forwarding their names), donating raffle items or swag giveaways, etc., the SWANA Mid-Atlantic Regional Road-E-O on May 12-13, 2022, can be a resounding success, as were the previous Regional Road-E-O events held in Maryland and hosted by Harford County DPW at its Harford Waste Disposal Center (2003 and 2004) and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) at its Mid-Shore II Regional Solid Waste Facility in Ridgely, MD (2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2018).

The three SWANA chapters of Mid-Atlantic, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey are all appreciative of Cecil County stepping forth and volunteering to host their inaugural Regional Road-E-O. **Let us be supportive and assist them to have a GREAT event!**



Maryland Food Center Anaerobic Digester Tour on November 19, 2021

The SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter organized a tour of the Maryland Food Center Anaerobic Digester (AD Facility) (owned by BIOENERGY DEVCO) on November 19, 2021. The Maryland Food Center in Jessup, MD serves as the hub of food distribution and processing in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

This Anaerobic Digester will be Maryland's largest organics recycling facility. Operations are estimated to start in the Summer of 2022. The Facility will be capable of recycling 115,000 tons of organics annually to produce approximately 265,000 mmBTUs of renewable natural gas for energy (enough to power 6,000 homes) and 20,000 tons of digestate solids that can be used as a soil amendment for agricultural and other land use. The Facility will be able to receive liquid, solid, packaged, and palletized organic waste.



A Waste-Free Future

By: Steve Lippy
s.lippy@verizon.net
410-296-9150

This is the theme of the Future City competition for 2021-2022.

What is Future City? It is a competition among 6th-8th graders from schools on a theme addressing certain issues and problems of a city 100 years in the future; the theme varies from year to year. They need to imagine, research, design, and build a city, emphasizing a specific theme for the year, such as Living on the Moon, Age Friendly Cities, Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow, Power of Public Space; Waste Not, Want Not. In pre-COVID times, the schools would submit deliverables, and then all meet on the same day to exhibit their models and do their 5-minute in-person presentations. There are about 50 regions in the US, Canada, and even one in China, where there are competitions, with the winners then eligible to participate in the Nationals competition in the DC area. The Mid-Atlantic Regional was held at the Museum of Industry in Baltimore in mid-January.

However, in 2020-2021, the Regional competition was completely virtual, as well as the National. For general information on Future City, see www.futurecity.org.

Why is this article in the SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter newsletter? To have a competition, besides the students in the schools interested in STEM projects, volunteer judges are needed. Specific experience is not required to be a judge, but anyone who is a member of SWANA should be uniquely qualified to be a judge for this year's event. As a judge, you might even learn something... or at least think about a solid waste management issue in a different way as seen from the perspective of 6th-8th graders.

I have been volunteering for over a decade. Many of the entries are what you might expect from middle highs; but many will be amazing as to their originality, imagination and possibilities. Last year I was able to participate by judging most of the deliverables for both the Regional and the National.

However, besides not having to schedule a specific day to do judging at the in-person competition at the Museum of Industry since it is all virtual, the lure of volunteering for Future City is that judges are **not** expected to judge all of the entries or all of the deliverables. You choose what you wish to judge based on your interests and time availability to be able to complete the judging by the stipulated deadline. The regional coordinator will parcel out the teams' deliverables for the specific category via its website, typically three teams at a time. If you can do more than three, then you request more team deliverables to review. The schedule for the various deliverables by the teams have not been set yet, but typically are spaced over several weeks from mid-December to mid-January. The judges are then given a period of time to rate each of the deliverable on a standard rubric that all judges use for the specific deliverable. The sum of all of a team's deliverables will determine the total score.

The deliverables are as follows:

1. Project Plan
2. City Essay
3. City Model
4. City Video Presentation
5. City Q&A



Deliverables #1-4 can be done on your schedule, assuming you are finished by the deadline; however, #5 is done on a specific day as it is a virtual Q&A conversation with the team (most likely January 15).

If you have any questions, contact me. If you are interested in being a judge, register at <https://dashboard.futurecity.org/judge-registration/>. Depending on when you read this may determine which deliverables still need to be judged.

P.S.— Feel free to forward this information to anyone on your staff who is not a member of SWANA, as well as to friends who may be interested in volunteering for this virtual judging experience.

MRN/SWANA Mid-Atlantic Annual Conference June 23, 2022

Join us on **Thursday, June 23 (8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)** at the **BWI Marriott in Linthicum, MD**, as we ask leaders from throughout the industry (and ourselves) how we move on and move up post-pandemic.

Check out **RECOVERY 2022**...maybe there is a more productive way to look at our options for 2022 and beyond.
Your ticket lets you open the door to ...

- Technical sessions that **bring you up-to-date on the hottest topics in the industry** including changing waste management and recycling models, policy & regulation, commodities markets, new technologies and more. *Details to come.*
- **Sponsors and exhibitors sharing the latest and greatest tools & equipment to help you do your job better, faster, or at a lower cost.** [Vendors - Click here to see how you can build your brand and your business through sponsorship or exhibits.](#)
- Networking opportunities to **connect with your peers** – Take a virtual step out of your office environment and be among those who understand what you're faced with day in and day out. This conference will offer numerous opportunities for you to converse with your fellow recycling professionals.
- **Recharge your thinking and inspire creative approaches.** *The ideas you generate could improve your program – and your career.*

[Register Today!](#)



Reminders / Wanted

- ◆ Reporters/writers for our Chapter newsletter.
- ◆ Important Websites to Remember: www.swana.org, www.swana-midatl.org and www.mdrecycles.org.
- ◆ Training the Trainers: Contact a Board member if interested in being trained to be a trainer for a SWANA course.
- ◆ SWANA Web Sessions: If your organization presents web sessions, make them a Chapter event so that all attendees can get CEU's. Contact Steve Lippy, Dana Blumberg or Shirl Wright.
- ◆ Job Vacancies in your Organization: Contact swright@nmwda.org for inclusion in our Chapter newsletter and website.
- ◆ Articles, information, recent/on-going projects of interest, active purchase orders, etc.: Contact swright@nmwda.org to be placed in our Chapter newsletter.
- ◆ Scholarship Sponsors: The Chapter is currently looking for an organization to sponsor the highest scoring candidate. The sponsor could be any organization and can suggest a name to be given to the award. The Chapter will accept an annual sponsorship of either \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000. Please contact Steve Lippy or Mehal Trivedi.
- ◆ Name(s) of Prospective SWANA Members: Contact either our Chapter Membership Chair, Deji Fawole dfawole@scsengineers.com or direct the prospective member to our Chapter website www.swana-midatl.org or SWANA's website www.swana.org.
- ◆ Newsletter Ads: These are business card size ads only (2"x 3.5"); \$100 for 4 issues. Send your ad in a JPG or PDF file to swright@nmwda.org. Please make check payable to: **Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA** and mail to the attention of Shirl Wright at NE MD Waste Disposal Authority, 100 S. Charles Street, Tower II - Suite 402, Baltimore, MD 21201-2705.
- ◆ American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists: If you are an environmental engineer or environmental scientist, you are eligible to become a member or to be certified in solid waste management by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. See www.swana-midatl.org or www.aees.org.

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SWANA Guiding Principle:

"Local government is responsible for municipal solid waste management, but not necessarily the ownership and/or operation of municipal solid waste management systems."

SWANA
MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

c/o Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority
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John Schott, Newsletter Editor
jschott@nmwda.org



We're on the Web!
www.swana-midatl.org