

## **CHAPTER 5.0 FINDINGS AND OUTCOMES OF THE SWMP COMMITTEE**

### **5.0 COMMITTEE FINDINGS**

#### **5.1 Committee Discussion of Issues**

Following the presentation of the background information waste generation and the current solid waste system, the Committee made certain findings regarding the state of the current solid waste management system, and those initiatives that should be pursued to ensure the provision of adequate solid waste services in the future.

The process by which the Committee arrived at these decisions is described in detail in Chapter 9, Section 9.2.4 of this document. The information was grouped in three categories: Emergent Trends, Solid Waste Management System Deficits, and Recycling. Agendas and agenda items from each meeting are included in **Appendix C** and meeting summaries are included in **Appendix D**.

#### **5.2 Summary of Committee Findings**

The following statements reflect the findings of the Committee. They are based on the discussions of the background information provided, and the issues and options identified by staff, Committee members, and participants in the various meetings. They have been grouped under five headings, collection, processing and disposal, recycling, environmental protection, and public information and policy.

##### Solid Waste Collection

- The County will set performance standards for the provision of solid waste collection services and regulate the service providers through a permitting process.
- The provision of solid waste collection services by the private sector is adequate at this time to address the collection requirements in the Towns and more developed areas of the County.
- The Towns may use contracted services or determine other means of collection at their discretion.
- Incentives should be provided to encourage new minor collectors to enter the market and to encourage existing minor collectors to continue to provide collection services to the rural areas of the County.
- The County will continue to collect solid waste generated at public schools and other County Government Sites.

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- Solid waste service districts to ensure adequate collection services are not needed in the District at this time.

### Processing and Disposal

- The County should maintain the publicly owned and operated solid waste management facility to provide an important disposal option and to protect the County, residents, and businesses from relying on sole source providers of solid waste services.
- The financial base of the County Solid Waste Management System should be improved by adopting an operating policy and fee structure that would provide a more revenue neutral service.
- The County should maintain the capital construction plans for Phase III to ensure adequate disposal capacity at the County SWMF.
- The District will continue to rely on private sector transfer station facilities and disposal outside the County as its primary disposal strategy.
- The District members did not recommend provisions for additions to existing processing or disposal facilities including transfer stations at this time.
- The District members do recommend that an assessment of available processing and disposal capacity be made every two years as part of the biennial plan review and that adjustments be made to the plan as warranted by this assessment.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that in-county generated waste be given top priority at privately owned and operated processing and disposal facilities.

### Recycling and Reuse

- Full implementation of the recently adopted provisions of Chapter 1084 and 1086 should ensure that the District will meet the Virginia mandated 25% recycling rate. The District will monitor progress toward this requirement and make adjustments as required.
- The District membership should develop proactive workable approaches to meeting anticipated increases in mandated recycling rates.
- An increase in the current level of program effort is needed to sustain compliance with existing mandated recycling rates.
- The method for calculating the recycling rate will be the Virginia approved method.

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- The target recycling rate for the District will be the State mandated rate.
- The District will not exclude yard waste recycled from the rate calculation.
- Compliance with recycling requirements is improved with simplified and consistent requirements throughout the District.
- The Towns will support the provisions of the County recycling requirements to the extent possible fiscally.
- A recycling dropoff center is needed in the Purcellville area to provide reasonable access and recycling opportunities to Loudoun residents and businesses without curbside pickup.
- The Town of Leesburg will continue to operate dropoff centers in the Town to ensure the availability of recycling opportunities to those without curbside collection services.
- OSWM should work within the land development referral process to ensure that adequate facilities are included in new developments that will foster compliance with new recycling requirements.
- The deficits in the recycling infrastructure should be addressed by the development of a public/private recycling transfer depot at the County Solid Waste Management Facility.
- The operations of the existing recycling dropoff centers should not be reduced.
- Enlist a non-governmental organization (NGO) to develop and sustain a waste reuse and exchange program.
- The District should not pursue a “Too Good To Waste Place” at this time due to the cost and logistical concerns attendant to operating such a facility.
- Consider the development of a web-based effort for waste exchange.
- Future recycling dropoff centers should be included in the capital projects planning for regional government sites.
- The County will not fully implement the provisions of the County recycling policy with regard to dropoff centers due to present fiscal constraints.
- The County should continue to provide the special recycling services for tires, batteries, waste oil, antifreeze, and scrap metal at the solid waste management facility.

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### Environmental Protection

- Inconsistencies were identified between the County Zoning Ordinance and the County Solid Waste Management Facility Regulations as applied to the solid waste industry. Revisions to both the Zoning Ordinance and Solid Waste regulations should be adopted as appropriate to ensure that the County is consistent in its regulatory approach.
- The County will continue to provide for protection of the environment and public health and safety through the regulation of private solid waste management facilities.
- The County should continue to provide the fee waivers for the cleanup of farm dumps and roadside litter.
- The frequency of special waste collection programs for Household Hazardous Waste should be increased to once a month.
- The special waste programs for waste oil, antifreeze, and batteries should be expanded to central locations in the east and western portions of the County.
- A dedicated HHW collection site and building is not needed at this time.
- The County should maintain the Clean Waste Program that provides options to small business to properly dispose of potentially hazardous materials in a safe and cost-effective manner.
- Appropriate provisions in Chapter 1080 and the Zoning Ordinance should regulate the dumping of waste dirt.
- Appropriate provisions in Chapter 1080 and the Zoning Ordinance should regulate processing of topsoil.
- The County should amend appropriate ordinances as necessary to prohibit the burning of any municipal solid waste.
- The County should amend appropriate ordinances as necessary to prohibit the burning of vegetative waste and construction and demolition waste generated off-site.
- The County should amend appropriate ordinances as necessary to prohibit the burning of all solid waste and vegetative during summer months and whenever air pollution levels constitute a potential health threat.
- The existing environmental compliance systems at the County solid waste management facility should be maintained.

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### Solid Waste Planning and Policy

- The County should take reasonable steps to ensure an adequate response to solid waste/debris disasters.
- The District will rely on disposal and recycling as its two most cost-effective methods of solid waste management. Incineration is not technically or fiscally feasible for the District at this time.
- OSWM will act as the District agent for the Loudoun County Solid Waste Management Plan, and will be responsible for keeping all member jurisdictions apprised of status and emergent issues.
- The County solid waste management staff (OSWM) will be available to all participating members to provide technical information and support as requested by the members.
- Technical staff should conduct regular audits of solid waste conditions in the District to assess the adequacy of the plan in meeting the solid waste management needs of the District.
- The plan will include all information and elements required to comply with the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations.
- The District should improve the quality of information available on construction waste by requesting regional planning agencies to conduct an assessment on generation, disposition, and disposal capacity.
- The District should conduct a biennial assessment of the Plan to identify and address any issues that might negatively impact the provision of adequate solid waste management services to residents and businesses.

