

**Middlesex County Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)
September 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

Attendees

*Linda Scott, representing Cranbury Mayor Matthew Scott
*Marc Coleman, representing East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen
*Douglas Rex, representing Middlesex Mayor John Madden
*Ralph Jasionowski, representing Milltown Mayor Eric Steeber
*Kyle Harris, representing Old Bridge Mayor Owen Henry
*Guy Gaspari, representing Piscataway Mayor Peter Cantu
*Neil Blitz, representing Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu
*Bernard Bailey, representing Sayreville Mayor Victoria Kilpatrick
*Paul Luceri, representing South Brunswick Mayor Charles Carley
*Alice Tempel, representing South Plainfield Mayor Matthew P. Anesh
*Adriano Soares, representing South River Mayor John Krenzel
*Audrey Rozger, representing Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac
*Robert Leslie
*Patrick McGaheran
*Gary Sondermeyer
*Gary Smalley
*Nicholas Smolney
*Dawn Slawsky, NJ DEP
*Erin Jensen, NJ DEP
*George Ververides, Middlesex County Planning Board
*Joe DiFillippo, Middlesex County Environmental Health
*Paul Clark, MCUA
*Paul Matacera, MCIA
*Michael Williams, Middlesex County Counsel
Elyse Barone, Sayreville
Erin Senape, South Amboy
Frank Lankey, MCUA
Jessica Alvarez, Middlesex County Planning Board
Dave Sliker,
Jeff Casaletto, GP Harmon
Adam Remick, GP Harmon
Lane E. Cook, GP Harmon
Lawrence Sachs, LMS/Gasko
Daniel Gattuso, LMS/Gasko
Carole Tolmachewich, Middlesex County Solid Waste Management
Fred Stanger, Middlesex County Solid Waste Management
*denotes SWAC membership

I Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting were approved. The motion was made by Mr. Smolney, seconded by Mr. Sondermeyer, and the motion carried unanimously.

II Correspondence

The following members requested an excused absence: Mr. Slomian, Mr. Reed and Mr. O'Reilly. A motion to excuse was made by Mr. Sondermeyer, seconded by Mr. Smolney and the motion carried unanimously.

III Division of Solid Waste Management Report

Ms. Tolmachewich reported that the DSWM is continuing with scheduled events with additional socially distanced measures in place and they have been going well.

The DSWM will be trying out some virtual presentations with Bill Kerwood targeting different age groups and if successful, will develop more in the future.

All 25 Middlesex County municipalities successfully submitted their tonnage grants by the deadline of September 1.

The next SWAC meeting will also be in tandem with a Recycling Coordinator meeting. Remember, to keep your status of a Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) you must attend at least one Recycling Coordinator meeting per year.

Instead of ANJR holding their annual symposium meeting, they will be holding a series of virtual workshops throughout October, November and December. Sign up to receive CRP credits.

IV Agency Reports

1. NJ DEP Report

Ms. Jensen didn't have an official DEP report but wanted to thank and acknowledge the municipal recycling coordinators for getting their tonnage grant applications submitted on time.

2. Environmental Health Division - Solid Waste Enforcement Report

Mr. DiFillippo noted that the August report was still under preparation, but will be sent out once it's complete.

The Division was able to complete or exceed the number of required inspections by the end of the fiscal year which ended on June 30th and resumed regular inspections in June.

There was one odor complaint for the landfill.

Truck inspections were conducted at the landfill and the Division is waiting for responses to violations.

In furtherance of the delinquent haulers, some cases have been sent over to the Environmental Prosecutor's office for follow up, with special thanks to Frank Lankey for helping out.

The inspectors are currently inspecting offices for recycling compliance. Since many offices are closed, some inspections are being coordinated by making appointments. Inspection procedures have been modified to reduce contact, which includes no longer exchanging paperwork.

There are plans to hold a virtual outreach event in November to make up for the cancelled in-person event that was supposed to take place this past May. Details to follow.

3. MCIA Report

Mr. Maticera reported a 1.7% increase in curbside recycling for the month of July and brush numbers remain about the same. In September North Brunswick joined the MCIA curbside program which brings the total number of participating Middlesex County municipalities to 17.

V Old Business – Status of District Waste Facility

1. MCUA Report on Middlesex County Landfill

Mr. Clark mentioned that the disposal numbers are down about 17,000 less tons compared to last year, mainly due to less ID13 as well as some ID27. Odor complaints continue to be low.

VI Other Old Business

1. Administrative Action 002-20 (986 Jersey Ave / Solterra Class A Recycling Facility – New Brunswick)

This agenda item was tabled.

VII New Business

1. Administrative Action 003-20 (GP Harmon Class A, South Plainfield)

Ms. Tolmachewich reminded SWAC that this application will be on the agenda for two SWAC meetings and will include a site inspection between each meeting. It will require a Freeholder vote but no public hearing will be necessary.

Jeff Casaletto provided a brief overview of the proposed operation and Adam Remick, site plan developer and Lane Cook representing GP Harmon were on hand to answer questions.

The proposed facility, to be located in South Plainfield, will function in the same way that the current GP Harmon facility in Edison functions, which takes in smaller bales of cardboard, breaks them apart and forms larger bales in order to prepare for shipment to overseas markets. Scales will be added to keep track of inbound and outbound weights of trucks. The site capacity will be 1600 tons per day, operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Ms. Tempel asked why a new location if they already operate in Edison and the response was that the lease is ending at the Edison location.

Ms. Tempel asked if the Edison location has had any fires and the response was that there have been some fires, but nothing that the fire suppression system could not manage. The new facility will have the fire suppression system upgraded / improved as per discussions with the municipal Fire Marshal.

Ms. Tempel asked if they plan to appear before the South Plainfield planning / zoning board, and the answer was yes.

Ms. Tempel asked for clarification on the number of trucks that will enter and exit the facility on a daily basis. The answer was, between 35-40 trucks will enter the facility with smaller cardboard bales and leave empty and a fewer amount of trucks will arrive empty and leave with larger bales.

Ms. Tempel explained that the intersection at Durham Avenue gets very congested, especially during peak travel times, and asked if there is a plan to avoid rush hour. The answer was that appointments are made for both inbound and outbound shipments, so efforts will be made to make the appointments to avoid rush hour.

Mr. Sondermeyer asked if the material being accepted for densification will be primarily corrugated cardboard and Mr. Cook answered that it will be about 98% plus cardboard with the possibility of some newspaper and office grade paper.

A subcommittee will be assembled and a date will be set to tour the proposed facility prior to the next SWAC meeting.

2. Administrative Action 004-20 (LMS/Gasko exempt Class C, Monroe)

Ms. Tolmachevich reminded everyone that SWAC recently adopted new procedures in order to accommodate new Class C exempt facilities into the Solid Waste Management Plan, so this will be the first one under the new guidelines.

Daniel Gattuso provided an overview of the intention for the Class C exemption to be located in Monroe. The facility is located on rented space from a farm that will take in brush and tree branches and grind the material once or twice a year and distribute the product to a nursery in Hightstown. Leaves and soil will also be brought and composted on site and the resulting product will be used on the farm where the operation is based.

Ms. Tempel asked where the closest sensitive receptor is and the answer was the closest housing is approximately ½ mile away and there have been no odor complaints so far.

A subcommittee will be assembled and a date will be set to tour the proposed facility prior to the next SWAC meeting.

VIII General Public Portion

There was no one from the general public.

Mr. Smolney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McGaheran.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Stanger

Neil Blitz
SWAC Chairperson