

MINUTES
RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FEBRUARY 15, 2023
Board of Supervisors Chambers

Meeting Convened: A regular meeting of the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board (R-Board) was convened at 8:31 a.m. on February 15, 2023.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Timothy J. Baroody; Meg Bohmke; Monica Gary; Jon A. Gerlach; Matthew J. Kelly; and Randy Vosburg.

Also in attendance were: Bill Hefty, R-Board Attorney (by telephone); Rick Markwardt, Landfill Superintendent; Susan Carpenter, Assistant Landfill Superintendent; Francesca Johnson, Recycling Manager and Community Outreach Supervisor; Pamela Timmons, Clerk; and Phil Hathcock, Director.

Approval of the minutes of prior meeting: Mr. Kelly motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2022 meeting.

By roll call, the vote was:

Yea:	(6)	Baroody, Bohmke, Gary, Gerlach, Kelly, Vosburg
Nay:	(0)	

Presentations by the Public: The following members of the public desired to speak:

Tim Rudy - Thanked staff and Mr. Hathcock for their efforts, as well as the adjustment of Landfill weekend operation hours. He noted that it has well-received and is appreciative of Mr. Hathcock and the Landfill employee's can-do attitude.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to move the public hearing regarding tipping fees, to be heard following R-Board members presentations.

By roll call, the vote was:

Yea:	(6)	Baroody, Bohmke, Gary, Gerlach, Kelly, Vosburg
Nay:	(0)	

Presentations by the R-Board: The following members desired to speak:

Mr. Kelly - Had conversations with Fredericksburg's sister city regarding its similar issues on trash, recycling, and composting. As there are many similarities, conversations will continue.

Ms. Bohmke - Echoes Mr. Rudy's comments regarding Mr. Hathcock. Is concerned with the issues that residents continue to experience with GFL. The Board of Supervisors will be discussing going to the Attorney General for assistance, because the issue has become too large at the local level. Mr. Hathcock will continue communication with GFL.

Ms. Gary - Agrees with Ms. Bohmke's comments. Thanked Mr. Vosburg for his assistance with forwarding communications to the Attorney General's office.

Public Hearing re. Tipping Fees: Mr. Hathcock reported on the following:

Prior to the R-Board implementing flow control, a discounted tipping fee schedule was established. This discount was based on the tonnage of waste delivered to the landfill per month. An analysis of tipping fees for FY 2022 indicated that \$614,689.57 in discounts was provided to 3 waste haulers that met the minimum amounts. Presently, the fee schedule allows a hauler that delivers greater than 1500 tons per month of waste to the landfill a cost of \$32.96 per ton as opposed to the full rate of \$41.20 per ton. The average tipping fee in Virginia was \$47.50 in 2011 and approximately \$50.00 nationwide in 2021, the RBoard's current price for MSW is \$41.20 with no discount. With the adoption of flow control in 2015, the necessity of a discounted pricing structure is no longer a benefit to the R-Board, and the additional revenue realized by no longer offering volume discounts would fund future cell construction and closure activities. Staff recommends discontinuing the discounted pricing structure effective July 1, 2023.

Mr. Baroody asked if the updated fee is embedded in the FY2024 budget. Mr. Hathcock said the 3% is built in. There is no raise for staff that is currently in the draft budget, but the fees adjustment will make raises doable.

Mr. Kelly asked if GFL was aware of the new proposed rates. Mr. Hathcock stated that it was.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

The following members of the public desired to speak:

Brian Saunders, Operations Manager GFL Supports the "increase." Noted that customers will likely see an increase in their bills of approximately \$3 - \$5.

Tim Rudy Questioned financial incentives. Finds irony in the situation.

Ms. Bohmke noted that she was not happy to hear of GFL looking at an increase for customers, and does not believe that the business model is good. Asked for good will on GFL's part, and not raise customer's bills.

Ms. Gary supported Ms. Bohmke's comments. She iterated that this is not an "increase," as the prior rate was a temporary incentive.

Mr. Kelly noted that the change was overdue, as the Landfill is self-supportive.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to approve proposed Resolution RB23-05.

By roll call, the vote was:

Yea: (6) Baroody, Bohmke, Gary, Gerlach, Kelly, Vosburg
Nay: (0)

Resolution RB23-05 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CHANGES TO THE FEE SCHEDULE REGARDING TIPPING FEES AT THE RAPPANNOCK REGIONAL LANDFILL

WHEREAS, prior to the implementation of flow control, a discounted tipping fee schedule was established; and

WHEREAS, an analysis of tipping fees for FY2022 indicated that discounts were provided to waste haulers that met the minimum amounts; and

WHEREAS, there is a disparity between the current discounted tipping fee charge of \$32.96 per ton, and the full rate of \$41.20 per ton; and

WHEREAS, the average tipping fee in Virginia was approximately \$50 nationwide in 2021; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends an updated tipping fee of \$41.20 per ton;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board on this 15th day of February, 2023, that the R-Board be and it hereby does authorize the amended fee schedule regarding tipping fees in the amount of Forty-one Dollars and 20 cents (\$41.20) per ton, effective July 1, 2023, for commercial haulers. The tipping fee schedule is as follows:

Current Fee Schedule	
MSW	Fee/Ton
>1000 <1500 tons per month	\$39.14
> 1500 tons per month	\$32.96

Proposed Fee Schedule	
MSW	Fee/Ton
>1000 <1500 tons per month	\$41.20
> 1500 tons per month	\$41.20

Report of the Landfill Superintendent: Mr. Markwardt reported on the following:

Cell F3 Operations Cell F-3 is filling without any issues at this time. The last flyover event took place on 20 January, 2023. Staff is currently awaiting the site life report from SCS, and will continue to excavate in Cell G-1.

New Equipment FY23 Staff is still awaiting a build date for the 963 Track Loader. This is the last piece of equipment that is still pending from FY23.

Ms. Bohmke requested that Mr. Markwardt email the R-Board after the next flyover if necessary.

Report of the Assistant Landfill Superintendent: Ms. Carpenter reported on the following:

Staffing The R-Board is currently authorized for a total of 42 staff positions, of which 37 are full-time and 5 are part-time. Most recently, Donald Mitchem was hired to fill the Landfill Gate Attendant position at the Belman Road facility, and Michael Martinez as Landfill Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Staff is currently recruiting for the position of Landfill Scale Technician.

Training and Career Development Staff members are currently working on the 2022 Annual Performance Reviews through Cornerstone. Shaun Bowling a Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator I, is studying Entry Driver Level Training for his CDL A.

Accolades Kim Sowers, along with her creative staff members, decorated the residential site for Christmas using recycle items brought to the landfill. When the residents come into the landfill, they really seem to be pleased with the decorations. Decorating the landfill helps make the community more aware of recycling and shows them how they can reuse items for other things.

Renovation Renovating the conference room involved new flooring, new painting, more outlets, and new blinds. Finally, the renovation is completed, and we want to give special thanks to Phil Hathcock and the maintenance staff for all their hard work. We like to acknowledge Mary Ann Coulombe for her participation in getting the room furnished. In this new conference room, we will be able to hold our monthly safety meetings, staff meetings, and luncheons for staff.

Safety Boot Policy Chris Hoover (Utilities), Benjamin Orto (Parks and Recreation), and I were selected to work together on a cross-department committee. The committee has created the first Safety Boot Policy for Stafford County and the R-Board. This policy is for the issuance and use of safety footwear that has been established to ensure uniform and fair practices among Stafford County and R-Board employees who are required, as part of their occupation, to wear such footwear. This policy increases the allowance amount, sets guidelines for employees and went into effect January 18, 2023.

Mr. Hathcock commended Ms. Carpenter for her good work.

Environmental Compliance Report: Mr. Schmidt reported on the following:

VA DEQ Corrective Action Plans (Updates): Below is an update of where the R-Board is, regarding the two Corrective Action Plans (CAP):

1. Sediment Basins: The R-Board has finished the corrective measures outlined in the stormwater CAP. Additional lime applications and treatment actions will be conducted, when necessary, to prevent future noncompliance for stormwater discharge. Submission of the CAP Report to VA DEQ for the July-December 2022 period was done by SCS on January 9, 2023. The Work Order relating to the removal of SB-F-2 (Outfall 008) from SCS was received by the R-Board on January 9, 2023. The R-Board is evaluating its options to remove the troublesome sediment basin. Lastly, the R-Board has pulled its application to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) after having further discussions with VA DEQ about the project submitted.

2. Wetlands: ECS submitted the Year 1 Monitoring Report to VA DEQ on December 29, 2022. The R-Board is currently waiting for VA DEQ to review the report.

VA DEQ Quarterly Inspection: On December 12, 2022, VA DEQ conducted its quarterly review of the R-Board landfill. The result of the inspection led to a no deficiency letter.

Groundwater Monitoring & Reporting: On December 13, 2022, SCS conducted the 4th Quarter Ground Water Monitoring (GWM) for the active landfill. The 3rd Quarter GWM draft report for the active landfill and the 2nd Semi-Annual GWM draft report for the closed landfill were received by the R-Board on January 26, 2023, with no exceedances detected.

Ms. Gary asked why the application was pulled. Mr. Schmidt replied that it did not fit the guidelines.

Recycling and Community Outreach Report: Ms. Johnson reported on the following:

Single-Stream Update Single-stream recycling value per ton started to decrease rapidly beginning in July 2022. The rates continue to decline slightly and appear to be stabilizing. The decreased value per ton has caused the total monthly cost to be above \$14,000 since September 2022. November 2022 and December

2022 saw a more significant increase of greater than \$17,000. The recycling monthly costs are expected to remain above \$14,000 for the next few months and possibly the rest of the fiscal year 2023. R-Board staff will provide an update at the next R-Board meeting.

DEQ Report Work The staff are preparing for the mandated Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ) recycling percentage report. An essential component necessary to meet the mandated percentage of recycling is a voluntary Commercial Recycling Audit. Staff is well underway with this audit. R-Board staff will bring statistics regarding 2022 data versus 2021 data at the next meeting.

Ms. Bohmke asked if there has been any thought to change the writing of checks for recycling. Mr. Vosburg asked about changes in recycling of the costly recyclables. Mr. Kelly does not want to jump too quickly before looking at the recycling issue holistically. Mr. Hathcock said that the committee is looking at reducing recycling costs. Ms. Bohmke also suggested talking to Mr. Southall in the Parks and Recreation Department to consider the opportunities to educate children.

Recycle Education The R-Board recently updated the R-Board website to include visual examples of what the R-Board accepts and does not accept in single-stream recycling. R-Board staff provides recycling education through community outreach. Social media posts are planned to continue recycling education.

Fredericksburg Preschool Programs The R-Board discussed recycling at the Fredericksburg Preschool Programs. R-Board staff provided recycling education followed by a craft to over 150 students. The students and teachers gave us a beautiful thank you card at the end of our visit.

James Monroe High School Litter Cleanup The R-Board coordinated a litter clean up at Old Mill Park for James Monroe High School students to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through community service. Five adult volunteers and seventeen students participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service. The R-Board provided supplies to the group and reached out to Fredericksburg Parks and Rec to obtain permission for the group to clean. The total amount of trash collected in two hours was 200 pounds! The R-Board thanks the students, and volunteers for their hard work.

First Annual Compost-a-Thon The R-Board applied for and was awarded a \$10,000 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Competitive Grant to continue offering composting classes and a spring Compost-a-Thon event. The R-Board is hosting Fredericksburg's first-ever Compost-A-Thon, a community-wide event to celebrate International Compost Awareness Week, hosted by the U.S. Composting Council. International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is the largest and most comprehensive education initiative in the compost industry. It is celebrated nationwide and in other countries each year during the first full week of May. The Compost-a-Thon will educate the community on how to compost correctly and increase the percentage of composting households in the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford County. The event is being held at Hurkamp Park in Fredericksburg, VA on Friday, May 12, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

R-Board Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee The R-Board Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee met on February 8th. The committee listened to public/private partnership opportunities.

Central Rappahannock Regional Library Webinars The R-Board continues to support “Backyard Composting 101” classes with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. Two virtual classes and one in-person event have been held since the last R-Board meeting. The R-Board also held a class to encourage recycling correctly that included a craft. Thirty-six attendees made a reusable shopping bag from an old t-shirt.

Litter Collection The R-Board collaborates with the Rappahannock Regional Jail (RRJ) to utilize the adult probationer community service requirement for roadside litter cleanup. The court assigns probationers a certain number of hours to be completed by a set date. Through this cooperation, from November 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, there have been:

34 active adult probationers currently in the program; 273.25 non-paid hours; 314 bags of roadside litter collected; and 114.2 miles of roads cleaned.

14 adult probationers completed the program; 702.25 non-paid hours; 748 bags of roadside litter collected; and 185.8 miles of roads cleaned.

Staff also works with the Rappahannock Regional Adult & Juvenile Drug Court located at 618 Kenmore Avenue. The premise is the same as the RRJ assignees, but these folks have fewer hours and a quicker turnaround time. The court meets on Mondays and staff receives a new list of assignees on Tuesdays. The following information is provided from November 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023:

5 active assignees; 30 assignees completed the program; 309.25 non-paid hours; 287 bags of roadside litter collected; and 101.25 miles of roads cleaned.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to adopt proposed Resolution RB23-03.

By roll call, the vote was:

Yea: (6) Baroody, Bohmke, Gary, Gerlach, Kelly, Vosburg
Nay: (0)

Resolution RB23-03 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING REGARDING THE COMPOSTING CLASSES AND COMPOST-A-THON EVENT FOR THE RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD (R-BOARD)

WHEREAS, the R-Board has been approved for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s competitive grant of \$10,000 for composting classes and a Compost-a-Thon event for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, these funds will enable the continuation of composting classes and a new composting event; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the acceptance and approval of these funds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board on this 15th day of February, 2023, that the R-Board be and it hereby does authorize the acceptance of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's competitive grant, in the total amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to adopt proposed Resolution RB23-04.

By roll call, the vote was:

Yea: (6) Baroody, Bohmke, Gary, Gerlach, Kelly, Vosburg
Nay: (0)

Resolution RB23-04 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING REGARDING THE LITTER PREVENTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG AND STAFFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, the R-Board has been approved for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's non-competitive grant of \$48,980 for litter prevention and recycling program activities and the Extended Polystyrene (EPS) campaign for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fredericksburg was awarded \$10,620 for the non-competitive grant, and \$1,429.50 for the EPS campaign; and

WHEREAS, Stafford County was awarded \$35,508 for the non-competitive grant, and \$1,429.50 for the EPS campaign; and

WHEREAS, these funds will enable the continuation of the litter prevention and recycling program; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the acceptance and approval of these funds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board on this 15th day of February, 2023, that the R-Board be and it hereby does authorize the acceptance of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's non-competitive grant for the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford County, in the total amount of Forty-eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-seven Dollars (\$48,987).

Report on Finances: Mr. Hathcock reported on the following:

- FY2023 revenue through January reflects a total of \$6,184,266, which is 65% of budgeted revenue for FY2023. At the end of the reporting period, the R-Board held \$16,198,720 in cash and short-term investments.

- FY2023 expenses through January reflect \$4,098,114 expended (43.3%) of an approved budget of \$9,460,522.
- Permitted charge account collections reflect only two out of seventy accounts that are just over 60 days past due

FY2024 Budget Presentation Mr. Hathcock presented the proposed budget.

The proposed budget of \$11,865,854 which is supported by \$9,823,000 in projected revenue and \$2,042,854 of prior year fund balance. The prior year fund balance includes \$2,000,000 for construction costs of cell G-1. Projected revenue for FY2024 includes a 5% increase in commercial revenue, and a slight decrease in residential fees in response to the new trailer fees implemented January 2022. Proposed operating expenditures does not yet include employee compensation (these are provided by the Stafford County budget), which will potentially increase these lines. This proposed budget does include increased single stream processing costs and other increased operational expenditures. Proposed decreases include equipment rental costs and new equipment costs as many essential equipment replacements were made over the past several years. Capital expenditure items include \$695,000 for the replacement of an existing Caterpillar D-5 dozer with a Caterpillar D-6 dozer, lease payments for recently purchased equipment, \$2,000,000 for the construction of cell G-1, and existing debt service payment. The R-Board presently has adequate cash and invested reserves to fully fund VA-DEQ closure and post closure costs and support short term equipment and infrastructure needs.

Mr. Kelly asked if there was still a consideration of a volume v. flat fee. Mr. Hathcock stated that at a previous locality, he said the experience was large backups occurring regularly. He believes the scales are a good idea, but there is still the issue of the backup, and the fee will not cover the delta at this time.

Ms. Bohmke commended Mr. Hathcock on a phenomenal budget, and Ms. Gary agrees. Mr. Gerlach was also pleased and looking forward to bringing the budget back to the May meeting. Mr. Baroody asked again about the salaries, and will the raises be covered and shown in the final budget. Mr. Hathcock said that it will.

Discuss Public/Private Partnerships

Mr. Kelly said that the discussions of the Advisory Committee continue regarding trash and food waste programs. He would like to look at Prince William County operations, flush out what a partnership would look like, as well as an option where the R-Board provides the land and the partner(s) provide, "their part to be determined." The May meeting discussion will be on composting and what other counties are doing regarding recycling.

Meeting Dates Discussion Ms. Gary was in favor of changing the meeting dates, as was Ms. Bohmke. Mr. Kelly stated that he would be available any day of the week except Friday. Mr. Vosburg will draft a schedule and bring a recommendation to the February meeting. Mr. Hathcock said that four companies have shown an interest. Ms. Bohmke was in favor of moving forward. Mr. Baroody grateful for the energy

on the topic and acknowledges that there will be a tremendous amount of work involved. The need for sources of revenue to support this effort is necessary. Maybe resourced?

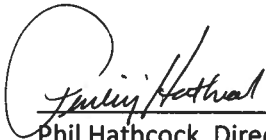
Ms. Bohmke left the meeting at 9:42.

Discuss the R-Board Meeting Schedule Mr. Hathcock stated that he considered as many members commitments as he could, and concluded that the following 2023 dates be offered: May 18th, August 17th, and November 16th.

All present R-Board members agreed to those dates.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Future Session: A regular meeting will be held on May 18, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., in the Activities Room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Hathcock", written over a horizontal line.

Phil Hathcock, Director

Pamela L. Timmons, Clerk