Chapter Officers and Directors

Congratulations to our newly elected FY 2018 Chapter officers and directors. For those of you leaving the Board, thank you for generously contributing your time and effort. For those of you moving on to other positions within the Board, thank you for your continued commitment. We look forward to another successful and exciting year for the Chapter.

Officers and Directors FY 2018

President - Andrew Kays (NE MD Waste Disposal Authority) 410-333-2730
Vice President - Tim Ford (Maryland Environmental Service) 410-729-8303
Secretary - Kristyn Oldendorf (City of Baltimore, MD) 410-396-1960
Treasurer - Jonathan Meyers, P.E., BCEE (Barton & Loguidice) 410-409-6736
Past President - Mark Gutberlet, P.E. (EA Engineering) 410-771-4950
IB Representative - Dana Murray, P.E., BCEE (SCS Engineers) 703-471-6150
Director - Niti Blackwell, P.E. (Howard County, MD) 410-313-6418
Director - Stephen Lezinski, BCES (Barton & Loguidice) 301-918-8468
Director - Stephen Lippy, P.E., BCEE, S.C. (retired) 410-296-9150
Director - Craig Marker, P.E. (Cecil County, MD) 410-996-8373
Director - Michelle Minstrell (Waste Knowledge) 703-659-2274
Director - Jessica Moore (University of Maryland) 919-593-6965
Director - Jason Munyan (Delaware Solid Waste Authority) 302-284-8851
Director - John Neyman (Republic Services) 302-658-4097
Director - Mehal Trivedi (Frederick County, MD) 301-600-3043

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Congratulations to Claire Wayner and Mercedes Thompson for receiving the esteemed Brower Youth Award! This award recognizes young environmental leaders, located in North America, who have made accomplishments in their field. Each year, the six awardees are chosen and are honored at a ceremony, this year in San Francisco.

Claire and Mercedes co-founded the group Baltimore Beyond Plastic, which is committed to raising awareness and changing policies around pollution issues. This group has engaged many youth throughout Baltimore City to advocate for bans on plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers, among other issues. Their professional-looking website and involvement in a range of events is impressive, especially considering that they are not yet out of high school. Both are seniors at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute located in Baltimore City.

As student members of SWANA, Claire and Mercedes attended afternoon sessions on Marine Litter at the WASTECON/ISWA conference held in Baltimore City in September. They had the opportunity to hear the keynote speaker on marine litter, Chad Pregracke, founder of Living Land and Waters, and to meet him after his presentation. The SWANA and ISWA Young Professionals (YPs) organized a break-out session with Chad, to give YPs and other conference participants the opportunity to further discuss the topic in a small setting and to ask questions of Chad. Claire and Mercedes participated in this session and shared information about their group.

If this is not impressive enough, both Claire and Mercedes are interns with the Baltimore Community Foundation at the Baltimore Office of Sustainability. In addition, Claire was recently featured in an article on the front page of the Baltimore Sun (November 9, 2017) for her work with Lights Out Baltimore, a group that advocates change to avoid bird deaths caused by flying into windows. Mercedes is currently planning on a career in environmental public health and medicine. Claire plans to pursue a career combining environmental engineering and public policy.

**Mid-Atlantic Chapter Scholarship Information 2018**

The SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter is a believer in supporting the higher education goals of today’s youth. The Chapter offers college scholarships to eligible students working toward undergraduate or graduate college degrees. In addition, the Chapter will submit the application of the most-qualified, eligible candidate for the Grant H. Flint Scholarship Awards Program administered by SWANA International.

A candidate must be sponsored by a Mid-Atlantic Chapter member, or shall be a Mid-Atlantic Chapter Student Member, in good standing at the time of application, selection, and award. Because an applicant does not have to be related to a member, please circulate these scholarship links to others who are not SWANA members, e.g., those in your office or field locations, as well as those in the solid waste field who work for your agency (such as contract trash and recycling owners and employees), solid waste vendors, your high school or college (to post on their scholarship websites), etc.

For additional information regarding scholarship eligibility criteria, please visit the Scholarship Eligibility Criteria page on the Chapter website.

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.

For additional information on the Mid-Atlantic Chapter’s Scholarship Program, please contact Mehal Trivedi at 301-600-3043 or mtrivedi@frederickcountymd.gov. Please refer to the Chapter website for any Scholarship updates: http://swana-midatl.org/scholarship_info.htm.

The deadline to apply for scholarships is May 1, 2018.

2018 AAEES Applications are due by March 31, 2018 to become certified in solid waste management as either an Environmental Engineer or Environmental Scientist by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. SWANA is one of AAEES’s twelve professional Sponsoring Organizations.

See the Chapter’s website http://swana-midatl.org/links.htm for more information or go to www.aaees.org.
I recently returned from a month in Tanzania serving as a volunteer “Solid Waste Policy Reform Specialist” under the USAID “Feed the Future Tanzania Enabling Growth through Investment and Enterprise Program.” The main goals of the project were to facilitate public private dialogue, particularly around policies and regulations related to the waste sector, and to enhance the capacity of the private sector to be involved with waste management, including collection and processing.

After a brief program orientation in Dar es Salaam, I traveled to Mbeya, a city of over 400,000, located in southwest Tanzania. I collaborated with the local government and a range of stakeholders including recycling processors and collectors, waste collectors, waste producers, institutions, residents, and more. Assisted by my City counterpart and the program staff, I conducted a series of site visits and interviews and facilitated two public private dialogues. These site visits were very informative and interesting, including a brewery, a bakery, a recycling facility, a landfill, a rice processor, and more.

After completing the site visits and interviews, I provided an assessment of the current system and recommendations for improvements, along with next steps, and presented this report to the city leadership. An Implementation Team of private and public sector members is working on the prioritizing recommendations and moving forward with implementation.

Although the method of collecting and disposing of waste in Tanzania is much different than in the U.S. and the infrastructure is simpler, many of the basic challenges and opportunities are very similar. In particular, the need for stakeholder engagement, public education, and strong communication are key components to a waste management system. Well-developed and well-communicated policies are essential to support the system, whatever it may be. My experience reinforced my belief in this concept, and even more so, in the concept that even the best policy must be accompanied by supporting steps to make it effective.

For more information, Kristyn can be reached at: Kristyn.Oldendorf@baltimorecity.gov

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**Point of Interest**

The waste collection system in Mbeya is a decentralized system, in which the city government delegated authority of waste collection and waste fee collection to the ward level with the goal of community based associations performing the work. This system is intended to encourage grassroots-level ownership over solid waste management, provide door-to-door collection, and increase the collection rate of the waste fees. These community groups provide curbside collection using small vehicles or wheelbarrows and transport the waste to a centrally-located dumpster where it is collected by a city truck for transport to the landfill.
Legislative and News Updates

By:  Craig Marker, P.E.
Project Manager, Cecil County, DPW

SWANA
On October 11, SWANA’s Landfill Gas & Biogas Regulatory and Advocacy Committees issued an update on the MSW Landfill NSPS & EG rules in the United States outlining the current status of the rules and SWANA’s plans for future action. SWANA’s LFGB Regulatory and Advocacy Committees, along with others in the solid waste management sector, plan to work with EPA to develop guidance for the regulated community, States, and Regions to clarify rule implementation issues. See further information below.

On November 15, SWANA issued an Advocacy Alert summarizing important developments relating to China’s proposed waste ban. The following are some of the highlights:

- In October, SWANA issued an update to state officials on the impact of the upcoming Chinese waste import ban on state & local recycling programs, a copy of which was provided to the Core Advocacy Group in an October 11 Advocacy Alert. The letter provides background information, details how the ban could impact state and local recycling programs, and suggests action items states should consider to respond to increased market uncertainty. SWANA has received favorable responses from several states, and some of them are implementing SWANA’s recommendations.

- According to unofficial reports, the Chinese government will soon be publishing updated waste import contamination standards different from those initially proposed in August 2017. Scrap paper imports would have a 1% contamination limit starting in mid-January 2018, instead of the 0.3% rate initially proposed. This is still a reduction from the current 1.5% level, and may be difficult to meet. Many in the industry considered the 0.3% rate impossible to meet, and therefore an effective ban. Plastic bales will remain at 0.5%, and ferrous and non-ferrous materials would go to 1%.

- Another issue that may be reaching a conclusion is the lack of renewed waste import licenses by China’s Ministry of the Environment (MEP). According to a report by the head of the China Scrap Plastics Association, officials in China have confirmed that plastic scrap import licenses will be issued for 2018 to those in full compliance with China’s environmental regulations and other import rules.

FEDERAL-EPA
The EPA’s 90-day stay for the New Source Performance Standards and Emissions Guidelines rules expired on August 29. In an emailed statement to Waste Dive, a spokesperson with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicated any states that fail to submit plans for Emission Guidelines under Clean Air Act section 111(d) "are not subject to sanctions." In the same statement, the EPA spokesperson said the agency intends to align reconsideration of the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) with the risk and technology review (RTR) for the same source category. "EPA has a court order to complete the RTR by March 13, 2020 and the reconsideration would be finished on the same timeline," the spokesperson wrote. The EPA is also considering whether additional steps could be appropriate during the reconsideration period, but did not offer specifics.

STATE – MARYLAND (Legislative)
The Legislative Session began on January 11th and ended on April 11th. The General Assembly will reconvene Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. See the May 2017 Legislative Update published in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter July 2017 newsletter for the outcome of proposed legislation related to solid waste.

STATE – MARYLAND (MDE)
No updates.

STATE – DELAWARE (Legislative)
The Legislative Session began on January 10th and ended after a special session on July 1st. No legislation related to solid waste was put forth for consideration during the legislative session. The next Legislative Session is scheduled to begin On Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

STATE DELAWARE (DNREC)
No updates.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (Legislative)
No updates.

Legislative and News Updates continues on page 5
News Updates
On October 25, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21) introduced the Renewable Electricity Tax Credit Equalization Act — legislation to extend tax credits for electricity produced from closed-loop biomass, open-loop biomass, geothermal, municipal solid waste, qualified hydropower facilities and marine and hydrokinetic facilities. The bill would make it so that biomass, geothermal, landfill gas, "trash facilities" and hydropower facilities are again covered under Code Section 45 and given a production tax credit for generating electricity.

A Delmarva Farmer article reported that Perdue AgriBusiness has invested $12 million in a new composting facility for poultry litter at its Perdue AgriRecycle facility near Seaford, Delaware. Composting represents a new approach to poultry litter disposal, which has traditionally been heated and pelletized into fertilizer. As the article explained, composting uses less energy, causes less wear on processing machinery, can treat larger volumes of poultry waste, and creates a smaller environmental footprint than pelletizing.

2017 SWANA International Road-E-O

The SWANA International Road-E-O is an annual competition that gives 1st and 2nd place State Road-E-O winners from across the United States the opportunity to show off their skills and compete against the best in the solid waste industry. The 2017 International Road-E-O, Magic on the Track, was held on October 28, 2017 at the Orange County Landfill in Orlando, Florida.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter would like to congratulate the PA Keystone Chapter for two first place finishes and one second place finish in the Heavy Equipment category. Prior to participating in the International Road-E-O, these three competitors won in the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Regional Road-E-O, which was hosted by MES at its Midshore II Regional Solid Waste Facility, and were then eligible to participate in the International Road-E-O.

- David Kessling - 1st Place (Track Dozer) Clinton County, PA
- Cole Alexander - 1st Place (Front End Loader) Clinton County, PA
- Cody Alexander - 2nd Place (Compactor) Clinton County, PA

A complete list of winners from this year’s International Road-E-O may be found on the Florida Chapter Webpage. The 2018 SWANA International Road-E-O will be held in Denver, Colorado.

SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Announcing Managing Composting Programs Course
March 13-15, 2018 (Course)
March 16, 2018 (Certification Exam)
Prince George’s County
Western Branch Composting Facility
6601 SE Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Additional details coming soon!
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.”