



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes November 13, 2014

Companies with attendees: KMG Hauling, IDS/Broad Run Recycling, Town of Herndon, VHI, Bates Trucking, Trash Away, CSI, PDS, McLean Trash

Online Participants: American Disposal

County Staff: Pamela Gratton, Joyce Doughty, Charlie Forbes, Alex Castillo, Jessica Smithberger

The meeting began at 5:14 pm.

Introductions/Welcome

Pamela greeted all attendees and welcomed them to the final meeting of 2014.

Placement of Refuse and Recycling Containers Near Storm Drains

In order to effectively present the Board of Supervisors' discussion regarding the subject matter, a video clip of their meeting was shown. To access the video, please use the link below. The discussion begins at 03:01:27.

http://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=296&meta_id=

Following the clip, Joyce Doughty led a discussion on the topic of the placement of containers near storm drains. She asked the company representatives if compliance with such a policy could be implemented, and if customers would respond positively to such restrictions.

Q: Is there a size requirement for the containers?

A: No, however, the policy would pertain to dumpster-sized containers found at multi-family residences and commercial locations, not the individual trash cans found at single family homes.

It was noted that property management companies would need to know about the placement requirements, and also be aware that the placement of containers needs to consider accessibility for the trucks.

It was also noted that the County should contact building managers and restaurant associations to increase awareness and promote compliance from business owners and property managers.

Joyce and Pamela acknowledged that potential conflicts exist within the Code, specifically that containers must be situated in well drained areas to prevent excessive water accumulation in



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those areas. Best management practices, especially those regarding enclosures for containers, will likely need to be enhanced.

Q: Will property owners be asked to remove pads that already exist next to storm drains?

A: It is a possibility.

Currently, a distance regulation could be implemented for new construction, but would be difficult to implement and enforce for existing locations.

Q: Regarding roll-off containers on construction sites, will watersheds be considered with the placement of those as well?

A: No answer yet – we hadn't anticipated any construction site issues at this time.

There will likely be locations where storm drain locations and ideal container locations coincide. Therefore, if a distance requirement is implemented, there would have to be language for exemptions and exceptions, but also language requiring best management practices in those situations.

A discussion followed on single stream recycling facilities' ability to pull items out of plastic bags. Using plastic bags for recyclables was argued as a measure to keep litter out of streets and consequently out of storm drains and watersheds. However, it was noted that these facilities, though capable of accepting materials in bags, don't prefer them to arrive bagged.

Another suggestion proposed that language require property managers and restaurants to inspect their own sites and make sure containers are acceptable. Other possible requirements include making companies have larger containers or requiring more frequent pick-up times. However, the Code currently allows the County to enforce "adequate capacity" regulations on commercial properties.

Q: Is there a minimum pick-up requirement for commercial properties?

A: Once a week for trash and recyclables. The Code can require larger container sizes if they are inadequate; however, County staff cannot visit every commercial site in Fairfax County to assess the cleanliness of the sites.

A comment was made that the most effective solution for policing the containers' capacities may be the haulers; however it was noted that such responsibility could result in a confrontational relationship with the customer, which would hurt business.

In the past, tenants have called the County to complain about the state of disposal containers. If the SWMP receives a complaint, staff will inspect the site and work with property management to remedy the situation.

Q: Will brokers be considered in these new regulations?

A: Staff is hoping that broker regulations will be included in the changes to the Code.

Pamela assured the attendees that County staff recognizes the difficulties surrounding this potential regulation, and that staff wants to work with management companies and haulers to establish best practices.

Litter Along Electronic Drive

Electronic Drive is the location of the Springfield Waste Management recycling facility. Charlie explained that lately there has been a surge in complaints to Supervisor Penny Gross about litter around that area. Staff has spent time there to assess the situation; we are aware of illegal dumping practices, some of which may occur when materials are rejected by the MRF. Charlie asked that haulers be on the lookout for such activity, be aware of what's going on, and also to contact the SWMP to report suspicious activity. He also asked the haulers to be conscious of litter and potential ways that their trucks may impact the accumulation of debris and trash in the area; the request was not accusatory, since there are factors other than commercial and County trash collection trucks that impact the amount of litter, but simply a request for awareness and consideration since the issue is receiving much attention from Supervisor Gross.

Changes to Chapter 109.1

Pamela reminded attendees that this is their last chance to comment on the proposed changes to Chapter 109.1 of the Fairfax County Code. She briefly reviewed the changes that were detailed in the August haulers' meeting, such as additional definitions, clarifications to current regulations, and the removal of information from the Code that will be set in separate documents (such as permit application details and requirements).

Pamela invited anyone who has concerns or questions about the changes to Chapter 109.1 to make an appointment with County staff to discuss the proposed changes. A public hearing is scheduled for January, and staff will take the changes to the Board of Supervisors on February 17, 2015.

2015 CTO Renewal

Jessica reminded attendees that the CTO renewal process will begin in January, with the first set of applications to be sent at the end of November. Each company will receive a letter that will include the required bond amount. It is a good idea for companies to begin preparing for vehicle inspections by providing Permit Office staff with a list of vehicles, which will allow staff to prepare inspection forms ahead of time. Now is also a good time to update statements of service to ensure that they comply with Chapter 109.1 and are distributed to all customers as the holidays approach. She also asked that the companies provide the name and contact information for the company representative who will be responsible for completing the renewal paperwork from start to finish, as this will aid County staff should we need to contact them.

Collectors' Issues and Discussion

Pamela brought up the issue of the approaching snow season and ensured companies that the County will do a better job communicating about relief to the once-a-week collection requirement. In order to do this, companies should have up-to-date and valid emails on file.

Q: Have you thought about changing the time frame for yard waste collection and starting it later in the year?

A: Pamela said that originally the time frame was set since people started cleaning up yard debris in March, which probably came more from residents and the Board of Supervisors than from hauling companies. However, the County can consider it. If the hauling community wants to see this happen, companies should write and make a case for a change, as County staff would need support before going before the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Next Meeting: February 2015 – location TBD