

Information you can't afford to trash

January 2020

Welcome

This is the first issue of WasteNews, a *mostly* quarterly newsletter from the West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board.

It's our aim to keep SWAs and other interested parties informed about issues on state, national and local levels that might impact the day to day operations of your facilities.

We hope that the words on this page help spark ideas and inspire discussion.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about anything you read here please don't hesitate for call us at 304-926-0448.

WasteNews

2020 Legislature Session Begins

On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, the 85th session of the West Virginia Legislature was gaveled in.

Every year there are bills introduced that impact solid waste authorities and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to access up to date information on those bills and their status. The WWSWMB's website will prominently display a link to legislative information at the top of our page <http://www.state.wv.us/swmb/>

Important days to remember:

- 1/8/2020 First Day of Session
- 1/27/2020 Legislative Rule Making Bills Due
- 2/11/2020 Last Day to Introduce Bills in the House
- 2/17/2020 Last Day to Introduce Bills in the Senate
- 2/23/2020 Bills Due out of Committee
- 2/26/2020 Last Day to Consider Bills on Third Reading
- 3/7/2020 Sine Die Adjournment at Midnight

Other sources of information include the West Virginia Legislative website at <http://wvlegislature.gov/>. The legislature provides a printable Information Packet containing contact information for both Senate and House members, District Maps, a State Capitol Map and other important information.

Links to live sessions allow you to listen and watch in real time as bills are being discussed.

The Association of West Virginia Solid Waste Authorities legislative committee will be monitoring activity and will be sending out information to Association members as needed. If you're not a member of the Association this is the perfect time to sign up.

SWA New Year's Resolutions Checklist

The New Year is a new beginning, a chance to start off on the right foot both personally and professionally. With that in mind we want to help you do that. Below is a [SWA New Year's Resolution Checklist](#).

As a Board member you have the obligation to fulfill your statutory responsibilities. That includes keeping your authority in compliance with all state laws.

SWAs are funded through taxpayer dollars, which requires transparency and accountability. Being out of compliance with the following will prohibit a SWA from receiving grant dollars from the WVSWMB and the Department of Environmental Protections REAP program.

Resolution #1 – Make sure your audits are current.

WV Code §22C-4-9(j) states,

“(j) The chief inspector and supervisor of local government offices shall conduct an annual examination on the financial report of county and regional solid waste authorities with an audit occurring every third year.

Additionally, the chief inspector, upon request by the Solid Waste Management Board, shall conduct an audit of any county or regional solid waste authority that operates a commercial solid waste facility as a part of the performance review required by this section. . . .”

Resolution #2 – Make sure your siting and comprehensive plans are current.

54CSR3-6 and 54CSR4-6 6.1. Each authority shall update the plan for its county or region every five (5) years. .

Resolution #3 – Make sure your bylaws are up to date.

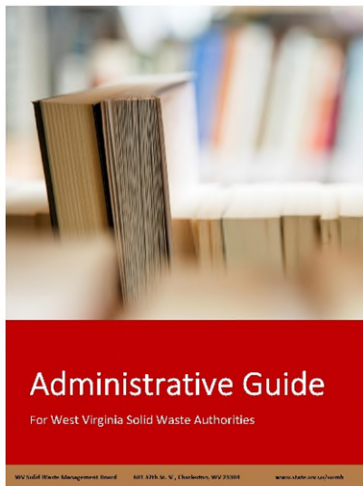
WV Code §22C-4-23 (4) Adopt, and from time to time, amend and repeal bylaws necessary and proper for the conduct of its affairs . . .

Remember, we are here to help you, to answer your questions and work with you to achieve all the above.

Important IRS Information

Effective January 1, 2020 the IRS has made changes effecting new hires and any employee who wishes to make changes to their withholding status. For information on this change and the new form visit www.irs.gov.

Hot off the Press – 2019 Admin Guide



The WWSWMB has completed an update to the Administrative Guide for Solid Waste Authorities. The guide is designed as a primer, with information of relevance to your duties as Solid Waste Authority Members.

Topics include:

Open Meeting Requirements

Executive Sessions

Bylaws

Labor Laws

Recycling Programs and Market Development

The Guide is available online at <http://www.state.wv.us/swmb/SWAs/guide.htm>. An easy download will allow you to print off sections or entire copies for you board members.



January Spotlight on Cabell County SWA

Despite tanking market and other economic challenges there are lots of great things happening around the state with SWAs every day. Each issue of WasteNews will feature a different Authority “In the Spotlight”. We’re hoping that by sharing what one Authority has been able to achieve you will get new ideas that you might be able to use in your communities.

This month we’re putting Cabell County Solid Waste Authority “In the Spotlight”. First the facts. Cabell County has a population of 96,319 (46,162 housing units) in a 285 square mile area. They are fortunate to have three incorporated municipalities: Barboursville (3,964), Milton (2,423) and Huntington (49,138).

They generate approximately 78,000 tons of waste per year – and here in lies the problem. Like many SWAs the Authority was determined to build a recycling program that kept most of that waste out of the landfill. In 2016 at their peak they had eight drop off sites with 32 8-yard bins located on public and private property. Every person in Cabell County was within a 15-minute drive from a drop off location.

According to numbers provided by Mark Buchanan, Executive Director, 2012 was the start of their recycling boom. They grew monthly tonnage from 75 tons per month in 2012 to 81 tons per month in 2016. And then it happened – The perfect storm. Although interest in recycling increased so did the price of recycling and on top of that the county and the Town of Milton pulled their funding. In 2017 Huntington pulled funding and recycling tonnage dropped to 51 tons per month.

Faced with the prospect of eliminating recycling in Cabell County for good the Authority didn't give up. They ran the numbers (yes, there was math involved). The big hurdle was, to sustain the program residents would have to pay. With the help of funding from the WV Department of Environmental Protection's REAP grant program and SWMB's grants they were able to put together a viable program.

The new program consists of two gated sites, one on Huntington's east end and one in Barboursville. REAP helped fund the gate hardware, software and cameras. Patrons pay \$75 per year (\$6.25 per month) to access the location. Sounds crazy but it worked. More than 600 patrons signed up for the 2017/2018 program generating nearly \$40,000 in revenue. As of September 2018, monthly tonnage averages 28 tons.

Determined to grow the program the Authority approached the County Commission in hopes of getting a recycling levy on the ballot in 2017. Strike 1. They tried again in 2018, this time with a plan supported by the numbers. Strike 2. But they were not out. Although the Commission trashed the recycling levy, they allotted \$100,000 to support the recycling program for 2018/2019 along with the promise that that if the demand for recycling remained strong the recycling levy would be placed on the ballot in 2020. The influx of cash allowed the Authority to drop the \$75 fee, at least for the time being.

Moral of this story – don't give up.

Mark shared the Cabell County story at the 2018 Educational Conference at Stonewall Resort. A copy of that presentation is available on the SWMB website <http://www.state.wv.us/swmb/swas.htm> check under Presentations. You can also contact Mark at mbuchanan304@gmail.com.