Introductions & Announcements

Lisa McDaniel opened the meeting with introductions and an overview of the objectives for the meeting. This year’s retreat focused on the district’s interim goal to achieve 80 percent diversion by 2023 and the district’s goal to update the Sustainable Solid Waste Study that was completed in 2009.

Presentations

MARC SWMD Sustainable Solid Waste Management—Lisa McDaniel gave an overview of the district’s planning efforts. Missouri's Solid Waste Management Law of 1990 (SB-530) established a goal of reducing the amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills by 40 percent and required each county and city with a population over 500 to adopt a solid waste management plan. The statute provided for the creation of solid waste management districts like MARC's to help local governments meet this requirement. The district developed its first solid waste management plan in 1994.

Since that time, the district has:

- Evaluated the status of waste management programs and established four focus areas to guide district efforts (2003):
  - Regional cooperation: work together as a region on solid waste issues
  - Landfill capacity: new disposal facilities will be needed in the very near future
  - Waste diversion and minimization: increase the amount of waste recovered for reuse, recycling and composting
  - Local government action: advance programs and policies to promote the sound recovery and disposal of solid waste
- Studied alternative diversion scenarios through a phased-in approach to achieve 40, 60, and 80 percent and near zero waste reduction over the next 20 years (the 2009 Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study). In response to the recommendations outlined in the study, the district embraced a goal to achieve 80 percent waste diversion by 2023.
To measure progress toward the goals established by the district, staff gathers data from KDHE and MDNR tonnage reports to develop a disposal estimate for the region. Tonnage data reported by the region’s three municipal solid waste landfills, nine construction and demolition landfills and 12 transfer stations is compiled and adjusted to account for waste transferred into and out of the nine-county region for disposal. In 2017, it is estimated that the region sent approximately 2.25 million tons of waste (excluding “special waste”) to landfills. On a per capita basis, the region disposes of 5.49 pounds per person per day, which includes construction and demolition debris.

The 2009 Strategy for Sustainable Solid Waste Management study predicts 2017 disposal (under the 60% waste diversion scenario) at 1,545,570 tons. The estimated disposal tonnages put the region’s 2017 diversion rate at 36% under this scenario.

MARC SWMD 2009 Road Map: A Review—Nadja Karpilow reviewed the road map that was developed in 2009 to guide the region to 80% waste diversion by 2023. The road map identifies specific actions to attain 40% waste diversion by 2013, 60% waste diversion by 2018 and 80% waste diversion by 2023 within the categories of source reduction, recycling and composting, special wastes, policies, and regional studies. Nadja outlined the actions and grants awarded by the district that address the categories and the specific time frames.

Group Discussion

After the presentations, attendees divided into four smaller groups to discuss opportunities to achieve the 80% diversion goal and discuss considerations for future plan development. The groups were asked to think about the following:

- Infrastructure gaps and needs
- Trends in recycling and waste reduction
- Education needs
- Role of local government

The following is a summary of the smaller group discussions.

Infrastructure gaps and needs

Some of the infrastructure issues facing the region include:

- Near/long term future of landfill capacity
- Construction and demolition debris: not much recycling capacity
- More infrastructure is needed for construction and demolition debris.
  - Management could be required in RFPs
  - Work with USGBC.
- Need to expand food and organics management: there are few players in the market. Also need to look to opportunities to expand curbside collection
- Recycling: need for local end markets, particularly more local plastic remanufacturing.
- Biosolids: need more options for management
- More reuse opportunities would be beneficial for the region.

Trends in recycling and waste reduction

Recycling programs have changed significantly over the past few years. This group focused on recent trends that should be taken into consideration:
• Infrastructure has decreased in the past few years, but there is also a need to address management of new items such as solar panels, wind turbines and LEDs.
• Food waste is a large component of the waste stream.
• There needs to be more emphasis on source reduction versus recycling.
• Labeling to educate consumers on how/where to recycle/return should be encouraged.
• More participation in education efforts is needed: schools, haulers, others (NGOs).
• Don’t underestimate grassroots efforts that are making change (e.g., straws).
• Local ordinances can generate entrepreneurship.

**Education needs**

The group focused on the theme of what do we need to get the message out there:

• Message is more effective if limited to target items.
• Grant timelines are not well aligned for schools and educational institutions in general.
• Need to target HOAs and neighborhood groups.
• We need to think about what is our message. In other words, what is bringing us together?
• Messages should focus on “bite size” information or personal actions.
• Cost is a barrier to education.

**Role of local government**

Cities and counties play an important role in helping the district achieve its waste reduction goal. Both the 1993 and 2003 plans outlined specific measures for cities and counties. Looking to the future:

• Staff time is a challenge. Cities are encouraged to start small, whether it be education, grant assistance or contracting.
• Consider peer matching for local governments for solid waste and recycling issues.
• Cities are encouraged to convene an advisory group which gives a voice to its citizens on solid waste and recycling issues. The district’s survey could form the basis of interest and discussions.
• Convey benefits of contracting to city council members.
• Construction and demolition reuse and recycling should be incorporated into city contracts for construction projects.

**Old Business / New Business**

None.
Closing

The next Executive Board meeting will be held immediately following the Management Council meeting (11:00 am – 1:00 pm). The next Management Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12/5/18, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

MARC Solid Waste Management District

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Marie Steiner, Chair                        Lisa McDaniel, Secretary

Approved:      January 16, 2019