

COE agenda 3-2-16

Green Schools

-I emailed Kim Howe to inquire about the source of funding for Green Schools in order to determine why their recycling rate and accessibility of recycling containers have gone down recently.

Water Resources Final Report

-Kim sent out a link to the final report from the Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources. This thorough report discussed the various threats to our water resources and provided recommendations for future governors and representatives. The main recommendations seemed to be funding research to study the various sources of water in our state and enacting regulations that protect the sources of water.

Fresh Water Supply Presentation

-Mike sent out an email with a PowerPoint presentation attached that further discussed water supply concerns in our area. The PowerPoint was great, and I'm sure the presentation was exceptional. It delved a little further into specific aquifer concerns, noting that the increased population from BRAC moving jobs down to our base has caused significant rises in the amount of fresh water we are extracting from the aquifers, and that the population is expected to continue to increase in coming decades. Some other concerns included arsenic and saltwater entering the aquifers. Should we encourage residents living on well water to have their water tested? I found the presentation to be slightly unsettling, especially with regards to arsenic levels in the water in our area.

Yard Waste legislation

-Recently, legislation was presented in the House of Delegates. The title of HB473 is Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force. The bill establishes a task force to research and provide legislative and policy recommendations. The main focuses of the task force are the evaluation of current food waste recovery, the organic waste recycling capacity of the State, identifying generators of one ton of food waste/week, identifying infrastructure development sites, and determining what policies other states have successfully enacted. The task force will research both composting and anaerobic digestion as methods of dealing with yard and food waste. If they do recommend enacting regulations and state legislators follow the recommendations, this will have great implications with regard to our solid waste stream.

Annual Report

-We did not submit an Annual Report this year, so I will work on that so that we can submit it soon.

Meeting with Public Works

-I met with George Erichsen and Nick Zurkan to discuss composting, public school recycling, and various other topics. They are planning to recommend that a new transfer station be constructed and that it act as a processing center, allowing them to recover as much as they can from the waste stream.

George explained that landfills have had limitations made to curb certain items from entering. We banned tires, yard waste, electronics, and construction/demolition waste. With the legislation that I mentioned earlier, food waste may become a banned item in landfills in the future, so we agreed that a large scale composting facility may be necessary. We also felt that it may be a better approach to contact all tri-county commissioners and public works departments to plan a composting project as a united county effort.

Earth Day on the Square

-What do we have and what do we want/need. We also need to contact the appropriate party to reserve a table or two and a spot on the square.