

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
Draft

Summary of April 24, 2017 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members Present: Irwin Kim, Mike Hanna, Scott Dicke, Kimberley Fedinatz, Adanna Woodson, Sarah Meservey, Christine Ng, John Seymour, Mike Mesmer, John Bloom

Members Absent: Claire O’Dea, Gabriel Thoumi,

Guests: Danielle Arigoni, Joe Recht, Bill Browning, James O’Connell, Elizabeth McCarthy, Konny Kim,

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES)

1. Public comment

Danielle Arigoni provided public comment. She is a resident of Alcova Heights and noted that she is an advocate for investments that enhance the environmental performance and connectivity of Arlington. Danielle provided written and verbal comments on the National Foreign Affairs Training Center and the proposed changes to the perimeter. Ms. Arigoni’s comments are attached at the end of the minutes.

2. WPCB Solids Master Plan Update – Mary Strawn

Mary Strawn provided an update on the WPCB Solids Master Plan. She noted that the plant treats 25 million gallons of waste water per day. The youngest piece of equipment is 20 years old. Staff is creating a long term plan to deal with solids at the plant.

Currently it costs the County nearly \$2 million annually to truck solids from the Plant. 200,000 lobs of solids are trucked out daily. That requires 6 tractor trailers per day, 40 per week. The waste is land applied to agricultural crops.

Mary noted that the Master Plans provide long-term future direction. She noted that the last master plan was completed in 2001 to upgrade the liquid side of the plant. The focus of the current Master Plan to upgrade the solids handling process in a manner that:

- Replaces failing equipment
- Provides a sustainable solution that reduces the WPCP’s impact on environment
- Takes advantage of innovations in solids handling
 - Is responsive to community needs (noise, traffic, odor)

Ms. Strawn detailed what constitutes a solid, how the process currently works, and why an evaluation of the current process is necessary.

The Master Planning effort includes input from WPCP staff, DES staff, County Management, and community stakeholders. The process includes a study of existing infrastructure to determine changes needed, development of evaluation criteria for new technologies, and which technology will be implemented at the WPCP.

The timeline for the study period, design, and construction are noted below:

SOLIDS MASTER PLAN – TIMELINE



The selected long-term alternatives for further evaluation are noted below:

Name	Biosolids quality	Major features
Lime Stabilization rehab-only	Class B	What we have now; most trucks for biosolids hauling; no gas production odorous
Anaerobic Digestion (AD)	Class B	Biosolids volume lower; gas production; less odors
Thermal Hydrolysis (THP) + Anaerobic Digestion	Class A	Biosolids volume reduced further; more gas production; less odors
Anaerobic Digestion + Heat Drying	Class A	Least amount of biosolids; gas production (used in process—no export); less odors

The potential benefits to the County noted by Ms. Strawn are noted below:

Arlington Operations Energy Plan (2016):

“The wastewater treatment plant is the single largest energy user in County operations, consuming 13% of all energy use”

Arlington Community Energy Plan Analysis (2016):

“In 2007, total emissions from the WPCP were nearly 21% of the total government operations’ net emissions”

Community Energy Plan Analysis for the Solids Master Plan (2016):

“Offsetting either natural gas or electricity, AD and THP/AD will provide extremely significant reductions to the plant’s carbon footprint.”

OPERATIONAL PROJECTIONS

	Lime	Anaerobic Digestion	THP + Anaerobic Digestion	Anaerobic Digestion + Heat Drying
Solids production in 2021	259,000 lbs/day	155,000 lbs/day	115,000 lbs/day	43,000 lbs/day
Net gas production in 2021	N/A	192 million BTU/day	228 million BTU/day	N/A (no export)
Greenhouse gas impact for WPCP in 2020	N/A	-8% (natural gas)/-33% (electricity)	-9/-39%	+14%/-11%
Number of trucks per week in 2021	40	26	19	12

The recommendation for the handling of solids is noted below:

- Implement a future solids alternative with digestion (i.e. discontinue lime stabilization process)
- Proceed with THP + AD alternative

Rationale:

- Long term positioning for regulatory compliance
- Facilities within the region are at (or trending to) Class A
- Innovative technology to meet Arlington's and WPCP's energy reduction goals
- Benefit to the community – possible give back - soil amendment product

3. Meeting Summary Review – March 2017

Deferred until May.

4. Old/New Business

John Bloom -Noted the People's Climate March was to occur this coming weekend and encouraged others to attend.

Scott Dicke noted that for the first time in a long time the Solid Waste Subcommittee is fully staffed. Scott thanked Mike Mesmer for his new role as chair.

Mike Hanna brought up Mosaic Park. He noted an issue where parking spaces needed were lost in order to incorporate a protected bike lane. He noted that the issue is ongoing but the current proposal to resolve the issue results in no net increase in impervious area.

Jon Seymour noted the letter on Williamsburg Lights. The County Board wants the three most affected Commissions to review and provide an opinion on the topic. John noted that he is open to draft a letter on behalf of the commission to note whatever the consensus of the Commission is.

Irwin Kim noted two upcoming meetings on the 4MRV planning process. He noted that Jason Papacosma gave an update on stormwater. Parks staff presented on May 2nd to talk more in detail about the park and possible plans.

Sarah Meservey noted that NRJAG hosted a biophilic DC event. Sarah noted concern about the Lubber Run project and possible design impacts.

Adanna Woodson – Noted that there are 4 concepts for Lubber run currently being vetted. Ms. Woodson noted the benefits and drawbacks of each plan including impacts to trees, open space, building height, etc. The next steps are for the project to take all input and desired attributes of each concept and blend them into one combined concept.

Christine provided an update on the EA process. She noted a meeting with staff that included Claire and Gabriel. Currently staff is meeting with stakeholders to get interests and feedback. Staff are still gathering input at this point. Staff hope to bring this forward to the Commission, hopefully in June. The idea of the commission being more involved in PFRC or other processes was floated.

Mike Mesmer provided an update on the Solid Waste Subcommittee. Only about 4 members from the committee were in attendance. The bylaws are being revised for the first time since being drafted originally in 2003. Mr. Mesmer noted that the County is trying to implement zero waste by 2038. He noted that in 2027 the waste hauling fees will be increased. He noted the importance of staff to get ahead of these changes to serve the community and reach broader waste goals.

Written comments provided in advance by Danielle Arigoni on 4/23/17:

- *Good evening. My name is Danielle Arigoni, and I am a resident of Alcova Heights neighborhood, and an advocate for investments that enhance the environmental performance and connectivity of Arlington.*
- *I want to apprise you of a recent development involving the proposed expansion of the National Foreign Affairs Training Center.*

- *In November, GSA released a draft EA outlining plans to expand the boundary of this 71-acre superblock to enhance security. That proposed eliminating an existing, frequently used 1000-foot long path (currently on GSA land), and replacing the existing chain link boundary fence with a more fortified version.*
- *In response, I started a petition which attracted nearly 250 signatures in 10 days. The petition asked GSA to preserve and protect the existing path, and consider options to increase connectivity around the site by creating a new boundary path between S. Quincy and S. Oakland. Such a path would connect a bifurcated Alcova Heights community, and increase access for residents to reach Barcroft Elementary, Alcova Heights Park, and TJ Middle School/Community Center/new elementary.*
 - *The current point-to-point distance is .7 miles; with this new path, along the perimeter the distance be just .2.*
 - *Such a link is already envisioned in the County Master Transportation plan.*
- *The idea of a new path is not welcome by all area residents, however; many of the fence line property owners and some individuals from the apartment buildings on 5th Street are concerned about the perceived loss of privacy and new potential safety threats.*
- *Nevertheless, the petition resulted in the engagement of representatives from Rep Beyer's office and the County Board -- both of whom presented at a special meeting of our neighborhood association in February. We then voted 3:1 in favor of exploring the possibility of a new path, and created a committee to lead that effort. I am one of seven members of that group, but am not representing them tonight.*
- *So, where do things stand now?*
- *The "final EA" released by GSA confirms that the existing path WILL be eliminated. The County seems committed to upgrading a nearby, inferior path to restore some of the lost connectivity.*
- *In a related move, the County is engaged with GSA in a possible land swap that would have GSA cede land to the County for construction of the new perimeter path. The current idea is that GSA would move back the construction of their secure fence by 20', and cede the resulting boundary land to the County to construct a new, roughly 1000-foot long path.*
- *One week ago, the committee met with several staff from the County and GSA to tour the property line and discuss options. The committee posed a set of questions about lighting, security, design, maintenance, etc., to the County on behalf of area residents, and are awaiting responses.*
- *My ask of you now is that you support our efforts to construct this path by proactively engaging with the County Board to capitalize on this unique, possibly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to extract a community benefit from the NFATC expansion, and add an important link to the County's trail system.*