

Membership Meeting

7:30 pm, Thursday, May 15, 2014

Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

APPROVED June 19, 2014

Call to Order/Welcome – First Vice President Wyse called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

The meeting began with the presentation and discussion about the Lorton landfill proposal. The Federation will not take a position on this issue but members are free to make their ideas known to the Board of Supervisors as the Public Hearing record is still open. Mr. Webb, Environmental Committee Chairman, described the format for the presentation. Since this is a contested issue, each side had twenty minutes to present its ideas, followed by ten minutes of rebuttal for each. Questions and answers followed.

Landfill Expansion Application from Envirosolutions Inc. (ESI)

Presenters for the landfill expansion were Conrad Mehan and Frank McDermott. Mr. Mehan addressed how ESI's application fit with the county's environmental objectives: Solid Waste Management Plan, Green Energy Triangle, Energy Sustainability Policy, and the Clean Air Act. Landfill accepts concrete, rock, brick, tree stumps, etc., items that cannot be recycled. It is the primary depository for the region. He showed photos of materials that are deposited in the landfill. LEED materials are delivered also, sorted and shipped for recycling or used onsite. Volume of material chart showed that:

- 24% of material received was from other recycling facilities.
- Dirt and other material have to be landfilled; that is about 49% of the material received and landfilled.
- 17% was clean dirt that is used on site.
- 34% was mixed debris (recycled 36% of that material).
- Aggregate (stone, concrete, etc.) was also reused.

Project was really about the green energy park on top of landfill: 3 wind turbines; mixed waste facility that will have 3 acres of solar on the site; methane recovery site— 2 million kW hours per year; and a geothermal site. Power generated can be used at the proposed soccer metroplex or other facilities in the area.

Conditions contained in the application are required to be carried out by ESI or there are penalties attached. The final use of the facility would be to develop an observation platform on top of the landfill to be used to educate the public about green energy. This would be a pilot project to show renewable energy as a project for the future. Electricity revenue would be shared with County on a 50-50 basis. \$13.2M would be shared with community groups. There are 5 phases of development of the project. Landfill would be planned to close in 2034. The berm would allow top of landfill to be developed for wind turbines and allow extra capacity for the landfill to operate. The landfill expansion would support a goal of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) of having construction/demolition/debris (CDD) disposal capacity available for 20 years.

Several organizations in the county support the expansion including 4 chambers of commerce, contractors, recycling environmental organizations, and some HOAs/ residents of South County.

Landfill was scheduled to close in 2018 but ESI is requesting to keep it open until 2034. The facility eliminates greenhouse gases (GHGs). If the landfill closes there will be a new recycling facility opened across the street and increased truck traffic, GHGs, etc. Discussed a letter from South Run Coalition, a group of 42 HOAs in south county, that support the landfill expansion.

South County Federation Opposition to Expansion

Homeowners who oppose the expansion were represented by Larry Clark and Nick Firth of the South County Federation. In 2006, an application was approved to expand the landfill. The community opposed it then, but negotiated a closing date of December 31, 2018, to have nice parkland be the final appearance of the landfill. In 2009, ESI could not obtain approval from Park Authority to accept the park. South County Federation voted against the expansion and approved a resolution to close the landfill.

ESI's proposal is a greenwash. This is a landfill on top of a landfill. ESI's plans are just recommendations about what will occur; none are approved for implementation. This is a marginal wind area, so the turbine demonstration will be marginally effective. Wind turbines are tall requiring 100-foot deep pylons. Some of the offerings have potential for other entities to provide – either public or private, but none are required to be provided by ESI. Small amounts of methane will be produced from the landfill because the material landfilled doesn't generate much methane.

The SWMP requires recycling. County needs to add CDD recycling policies. ESI should go ahead and build the recycling facility across the road. Because of its size, ESI cannot run 400 trucks through the proposed recycling facility as it does the current landfill. ESI needs to replicate the road controls for that facility also. The county needs to require LEED certification for all building.

Rebuttal to Opposition

Mr. Frank McDermott, attorney with Hunton and Williams, responded to the accusation that the expansion would result in millions of tons of CDD being landfilled. Additional material will be landfilled in the county rather than have to transport it miles south to other landfills. 395 feet is the new height of the landfill. If the SEA is not approved, the landfill will be closed at 412 feet. The berm view of the landfill will not ruin the view of the southern entrance to the county. Berm is a vegetative berm—green materials, not the colors shown in the photos. Berm will not be visible because the trees already there will block the view. Berm will be visible on Furnace Road only, not from residential areas. There are other things that can already be seen: the Covanta facility, a closed county landfill, and an active ash landfill.

There is not enough capacity in remaining local CDD landfills beyond 2 years of disposal. Prince George's landfill can only accept 125 trucks per day and it closes in 2025. Then disposal capacity will have to be located in central Virginia.

Green energy cannot happen until there is a place to allow it to happen. The Park Authority walked away from Overlook Park, not ESI. South County Federation wanted a Recreation Center at a cost of \$50M which ESI could not afford upfront.

Rebuttal Against Expansion

In 2006 there were plans described and agreed to, but the park has not been realized. Now ESI has an application to expand the landfill and close in 2034. Will that agreement be implemented? Turbine generated power will be used by the landfill and not the community. ESI must get a new permit from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to expand the landfill. Mr. Clark displayed photos of what the balloon tests showed about the height of berm. The landfill filling will be stopped at 395 feet but closing materials will be placed on top of that. The berm will be visible to homeowners. Oppose the SEA.

Questions

Q: One needs many acres for viable solar power and wind turbines installations. What are these projects actually powering?

A: It is a demonstration project. Green energy triangle would work in coordination with county properties in an energy park. Wind and solar would be sold to the grid. Methane would be donated to county –who could either sell it or use it for county facilities. There are various options about how the power will be used.

Rebuttal--Windmills and solar projects are viable. Why do we need a demonstration project? Put it where it works, not here.

Q: Negative comments were made to discredit the South Run Coalition (earlier in the discussion). Why?

A: There were no viable names and no legal documents establishing it. (NOTE: Federation had received list of HOAs and “leaders” names, but without positions, addresses, or phone numbers).

Other comments:

What look has been given toward technology improvements in the future? There needs to be a compromise from South County and ESI to make this work? What compromise can Lorton make?

ESI could use its current capacity by 2022. Green energy is important. Put solar park at the source where it can be used at Lorton Arts Center. The vote at the Planning Commission was 6 to 4 to approve the application.

The recent task force “negotiation” between South County and ESI was mischaracterized. South County did not make concessions during the negotiation. ESI unilaterally reduced landfill height and closing date.

Mt. Vernon Sierra Club has changed its position from support of the application to being against the landfill expansion.

The discussion among some attendees continued after the presentation closed, but moved to the outside hall because the remainder of the membership meeting continued.

► **Administrative Matters** – Ed Wyse

Approval of the March Membership Meeting Minutes –Moved by Ms. Hossain with Ms. Trainer seconding. The minutes were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Federation 2014–2015 Budget–Board had previously reviewed the draft budget and now presents it to membership. Mr. Schlegal reviewed the significant points of the budget. The motion to approve the 2014–15 budget was moved by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Soule. The 2014–15 budget was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Citizen of the Year Banquet Report – Ms. Hossain described an excellent program for this year’s event with three members of Congress attending along with the awardees. A lessons learned file will be compiled for use next year. A few invoices remain to be collected for donations and meals.

Library Committee—Ms. Kaplan

During the recent budget review, there arose a need for a resolution to develop a new strategic planning resolution about the libraries. The beta plan has been suspended. Ms. Kaplan provided a history of the failings of the current strategic plan. 460,000 holdings have been reduced. On June 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a meeting to discuss the community survey that will be administered to residents. Federation members are encouraged to attend and make their ideas known. Literacy for children and adults should be the focus of the new strategic plan. Business librarians are needed also. Approval of the draft resolution was moved by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Soule. Discussion included:

- need to add schools to list of stakeholders.
- Will add language including “but not limited to.”

These friendly amendments were accepted. However, a suggestion to include “economic feasibility of the strategic plan” was not accepted but a further amendment was not made.

The future of the library system may be to close or reconfigure parts of the library system. Residents need to be aware of the situation. The cost per check out of an electronic book is \$3.40; while it costs \$.20 for a paper book per checkout. Metrics include circulation rate. Mr. Soule called the question and it was seconded by Ms. Trainor. The resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote. Ms. Kaplan will revise the resolution and submit it to President Jackson to submit to the Board of Supervisors.

► Old Business/New Business

No old business.

New Business–Ms. Hossain, Chair of the nominating committee, offered a nomination for each of the positions, except Recording Secretary, and there were no nominations from the floor. The votes for the positions were voice votes except for president.

Election of Officers for 2014–15

President	Mr. Tim Thompson	27 For 10 abstentions
First Vice–President	Mr. Ed Wyse	Unanimously approved

Second Vice-President	Mr. William Barfield	Unanimously approved
Corresponding Secretary	Mr. Fred Costello	Unanimously approved
Recording Secretary		
Treasurer	Mr. Matthew Bell	Unanimously approved

There was no other business for the membership and no district council reports.

► **Adjournment**

The Federation Membership meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meetings: Board Meeting, May 22, 2014, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale;

Membership, June 19, 2014, State of the County, Installation of Officers and Picnic, Annandale Park