
Virginia Old Dominion Chapter



Newsletter

www.swanava.org

President's Message

Volume 2010, Issue 2
Summer 2010

By Steven Yob, President Old Dominion Chapter



In this, my first year as president of the SWANA Old Dominion Chapter, I would like to highlight some of our key initiatives and ask for your help in making those things better. Over the past several years the SWANA Virginia Board has put a lot of thought into what we do and how we can best serve our members. Two things stand out, our training programs and our advocacy with the VA DEQ.

Last year, as a SWANA VA's Vice President and the training chair, I was pleased to preside over training programs conducted in several locations state wide. We covered landfill topics, collection issues, assisted with CEUs for the VRA conference and of course covered safety and the regulations. In every session our members and guests gave us good grades for the programs we put together.

We have also embarked on a program to assist the VA DEQ as valued stakeholders with drafting regulations that affect our industry and our citizens. We have been pleased to represent you on Regulatory Advisory Panels and in other forums with the agency and to make sure that your concerns are heard.

Looking ahead I see the need to continue with these programs. Our members expect that we will help them serve their customers through program excellence and environmental advocacy. I also recognize that in these difficult times we must be considerate of our member's economic challenges and try to assist them without undue hardship.

In 2010 we continue to offer a variety of training programs that I hope you will be able to attend. New this year is a single fee irrespective of member status; not all of those who need CEU credits can be SWANA members even if their department head may be. Having a single fee irrespective of member status is one way we can hopefully make things a little cheaper for you. We are also offering programs that cost as little as \$25, essentially the cost of the refreshments. The SWANA Board decided that in this way we can attract more of our members and their co-workers without creating a financial burden. When we all get together and share our ideas we all learn or as the saying goes, when one teaches two learn.

Our work with the VA DEQ has led to recognition that SWANA is an important stakeholder and that we can assist the DEQ in making the regulations better and also help them with program acceptance. SWANA participation assures that there is concurrence on the needs and the reasons behind the regulations that are enacted. We are hopeful that the DEQ will continue to work with us and further this relationship.

One other program I would like to mention is our scholarship program. In this program we have been able to assist college bound high school seniors with a monetary award to help them with their first year of study. Our member participation has steadily risen and each year we have been able to pay out more money and have better candidates to reward. This is only possible since our training program has grown steadily and produces some money in excess of its costs.

In closing let me express my fond wish that you can continue coming to our events and building on our successes. Each of you has enriched my understanding of our industry and I eagerly look forward to the next opportunity to share our experiences.

Inside this issue:

Governor Tours Covanta	2
Training Committee	3
VA Beach Conference	4
News From the "DEQ"	5
Safety Message	6

SWANA CEO Skinner tours Covanta Fairfax Energy from Waste Plant



Left: Representatives from Japan, along with SWANA CEO John Skinner and Jeff Smithberger.

CEO John Skinner and Jeff Smithberger, Director, Solid Waste Collection and Recycling, Fairfax County, VA recently led a tour of the Covanta Fairfax Energy from Waste Facility with a delegation from Japan. The delegation, hosted by Dr. Skinner, toured the facility to learn how Energy from Waste is performed in the United States. The Covanta Fairfax facility processes over 3,000 tons per day of waste into approximately 80 MW of electricity, one of the largest facilities' of its kind.

Virginia's Governor Tours Covanta Plant on May 12



Left: Scott Drew, Manager of Covanta Fairfax, shows Virginia's Governor Bob McDonnell the tipping area of the Covanta Fairfax Facility.

The Governor has previously expressed interest in Energy from Waste alternatives, and toured the facility, to learn more about the processes and energy production potential.

© 2010 Office of the Governor of Virginia

Groundwater/Stormwater Training Success in May!



Left: Attendees listen to Richard Doucette from VA DEQ.

The Virginia Old Dominion Chapter hosted a training seminar on May 26th in Fairfax County. Attended by nearly 30 persons, the event covered Surface Water, Groundwater and Greenhouse Gas Reporting. The training event was held at the Covanta Fairfax facility in Lorton and field training was performed at the adjacent I-95 Landfill. We had many fantastic speakers, including Susan Mackert and Richard Doucette from the Virginia DEQ, and Jim Johnston (SCS Engineers) and Carmela Tombes (AWS Labs) and Eric Magdar (ARM Group). Many thanks to Amarjit Riat and his staff from Fairfax County for hosting the event and feeding all the attendees with a fantastic lunch.



Left: Steve Yob sits on the front row and pays close attention to surface water issues.

The Time to Register is NOW!

**The Virginia Chapter's Annual Conference
July 14-16, 2010
Virginia Beach, Virginia**

**Download the Registration Forms
At
SWANAVA.org**

**So, what are you waiting on?
Make Your Hotel Reservations**

VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT HOTEL
& Conference Center

1-800-468-2722

Quick Agenda Reminder:

- **Welcome Reception on Wednesday, July 14; 6:30 pm**
- **Conference Sessions all day Thursday, July 15**
- **Conference Sessions half-day Friday, July 16**



News Regarding the "DEQ" and New Fees

Many of you have heard that the General Assembly initially started the session this year with a bill to add a "trash fee" to all tons of waste disposed in the Commonwealth (SB 235). That bill ultimately failed, but a portion of that process still remains as a method to fund the Virginia DEQ. It now appears that the DEQ was asking for comments on a straight 80% increase in fees across the board keeping the same fee structure.

SWANA VA expressed opposition to SB 235 during the 2010 General Assembly Session, and we also expressed concerns regarding the substitute language, which would increase annual solid waste permitting fees, leaving the impending financial impact on public and private landfill an unknown. We had ideas on a solution to the funding shortfall and presented it to both DEQ and the Governor's Office.

SWANA also commented on this by the DEQ deadline of May 27: *SWANA feels that the current fees structure established by Virginia Code Section 10.1-1402 and thus 9VAC20-90-130 is not equitable to all solid waste facilities. For instance, fees directed at industrial and construction, demolition and debris (CDD) landfills are not structured similarly to those for sanitary landfills, when each is burying waste. A straight increase across the board as proposed in the amendment does not address the current inequities.*

Key features of the SWANA proposal are as follows:

- The fees recover 60% of DEQ's direct costs for the permitting program
- A flat \$/ton fee is applied to all landfills, including Sanitary Landfills, Construction and Demolition Debris Landfills, and Industrial Landfills (our initial estimate for 2010 is \$0.14-\$0.16 per buried waste ton). This is an equitable fee, which represents a very small percentage of the overall revenue/cost per ton for disposal incurred by customers.
- Increases in existing fees for energy recovery, composting, medical waste, material recovery and transfer facilities which have minimal impact on a per ton and per customer basis.
- Proposed fees and Projected Revenue are contingent on DEQ meeting certain efficiency levels
- An annual performance report of DEQ permitting and enforcement activities is prepared by March 1 of each year to provide accounting of the use of all funds and actual metrics on the productivity and efficiency of DEQ.

To read the complete letters that SWANA VA sent on this matter, please log onto our web site, SWANAVA.org.



SAFETY MESSAGE



Are Your Drivers and Operators Paying Attention?

Complacency in the job. Are you complacent toward safety? You know who you are.... You have 10+ years of experience; you know what you are doing; you know how to do it; you almost can perform your task on auto-pilot. Do you see a Red-Flag here??? Now envision performing a repetitive task, like driving or operating a compactor back and forth all day long.

How can you as a supervisor, or co-worker defend against complacency? Start by making sure you discuss all issues of safety at the job site. Report near-misses. How often do you hold Safety Meetings with your workers? Do you know how many lost time accidents that your group has had over the last year?

Make safety awareness an important part of each day!



www.swanava.org

8090 Villa Park Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23228

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL-IT PLUS