



VRA + SWANA

BACK TO THE SHORE,
FORWARD WITH SOLUTIONS

• 2026 CONFERENCE •

Wednesday April 8, 2026

9:00 AM	Golf Tournament	Red Wing Golf Course
Noon—5:00 pm	Registration Check In: pick up badge and drink tickets before the reception	Seaside Registration
Noon—5:00 pm	Exhibit Set Up	Salon A-C
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Industry Tour– SPSA	
4:00—6:00 PM	Young Professionals Reception and Tour of Distillery	Tarnished Truth Distillery
6:30 to 9:00 PM	Welcome Reception	Seaside Event Terrace and Salon D – E

Thursday April 9, 2026

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM	Salon D-E Breakfast Welcome/Keynote starts at 8:00 Welcome: VRA President SWANA Virginia President Keynote Address: Ryan Duckett, Geosyntec Consultants Let's See How Far We've Come: A Look at a 1974 Textbook on Solid Waste
8:45 AM to 10:30 AM	Concurrent Sessions– 105 minutes
A.I. and Automation: Curbside Collection rolls on	Jon Clary, Henrico County, Aaron White and Jennefer Klennert, HDR (25)- Optimizing Residential Collection Routing for Henrico County – A Collaborative Approach Michael Benedetto, TFC Recycling (25)- "Two Carts are Smart" Tony Gianni, Blue Legacy Innovations (25)- Smart Waste: Leveraging On-Board Scales for Performance and Sustainability M. Duane Wright, Fairfax County DPWES (25)- Leaf Improvements
In other news: Water is wet! Landfills & Water	Jennifer Robb, SCS Engineers (35)- From Contaminants to Compliance: The Willow Spring Treatment Journey Nathan Ivy, Concrete Canvas (35)- Using GCCM for Stormwater Management in Landfill Operations Jim Henderson, Heartland (35)- Innovative approach to on-site landfill leachate fluid management

Thursday April 9, 2026 (continued)

Facilities: Upgrading for the Future	<p>Matt Todd and Ashley Elzinga, FPI (invited), Michael Bennedetto (TFC), Chris Pilzer (WM) (55)- MRF Technology and Adding New Materials</p> <p>Vince Beyer, The Euclid Chemical Company (25)- LCSWMA: How they Selected the Most Sustainable Concrete Floor option</p> <p>Daniel Domato, HDR Engineering Inc. (25)- WTE State of the Industry: Capital Improvements</p> <p>Zach Trees, SPSA Waste Solutions (25)- Alternative Waste Disposal</p>
10:30 AM to 11:00 AM	Beverage Break in the Exhibit Hall
11:00 AM to 11:45 AM	Plenary
Rural MRFS: Feasibility Planning, Funding, & Design	<p>Salon D-E</p> <p>Annie White, RRS</p> <p>Matt Todd, RRS</p> <p>Dan Alsop, Revolution Systems (Invited)</p> <p>Amanda Doss, Person County (invited)</p> <p>Bailey Barr, Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority (invited)</p> <p>Matt Risko, Machinex (invited)</p>
11:45 AM to 12:15 PM	Break
12:15 PM to 1:30 PM	<p>Salon D-E</p> <p>Lunch and Plenary</p> <p>Updates from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</p>
1:45 PM to 3:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions (75 minutes)
Public Planning for the Next Wave	<p>Ryan Duckett, Geosyntec Consultants (25)- Organics Management: How it Fits into Public Planning & Virginia's Solid Waste Future</p> <p>Brenda Wise, Corsair Plastic Waste Chemical Recycling (25)- How to Eliminate the Plastic Waste Crisis</p> <p>Melissa McDonald, City of Fairfax (25)- Rewriting the Narrative: Making Solid Waste Planning a Community Story</p>
Industry Updates: PFAS and Air Permitting	<p>Paul Jackson, Pace Analytical Services, LLC (25)- PFAS Test Methods Update for Solid waste Professionals</p> <p>JP Verheul, Enthalpy Analytical, LC (25)- PFAS Regulatory Updates and Analytical Methods</p> <p>Lucas Nachman, Victoria Essex, Quinn Bernier, Jacob Smith, SCS Engineers - Maybe 45 minutes of time Panel Discussion – (25) Virginia Air Permitting and Compliance Updates</p>
Evolution inside and out: MRFs & Tech	<p>Chris Lund, GBB Inc. (25)- The Role of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the Circular Economy</p> <p>Dennis Bagley, Southeastern Public Service Authority (25)- Rethinking Waste Disposal</p> <p>Sarah Daschbach, AMP (25)- Scaling Recycling: Challenges and Opportunities in MSW Processing</p>

Thursday April 9, 2026 (continued)

3:15 PM—4:00 PM	Plenary Salon D-E Commodities and Markets Kate Vasquez and Dave Weitzman, RRT Design and Construction (45) Recycling Commodities and Markets
4:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Prefunction Reception in Exhibit Hall

Friday April 10, 2026

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM	Salon D - E Breakfast and Plenary Matthew Adams, Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program Plastic Bag Tax Projects in Fairfax County
8:45 AM to 10:00 AM (75 minutes)	Salon D - E Outreach: Making it Matter Nick Hassler, HDR Engineering, Inc. (25)- Seeing Solid Waste Facilities Through a Different Lens Steve Nesbitt, Arcadis US, Inc. (25)- MSW Management Alternatives Analyses - All Things Considered Melissa McDonald, City of Fairfax (25)- Trash the Confusion: Data-Driven Recycling Decontamination Made Easy
10:15 AM to 12:00 PM (105 minutes)	Salon D - E Plenary: How It Works! Research in Action Daniel Brooks, LaBella Associates (25)- Lithium Battery Safety Aaron White and Jeff Murray, HDR (25)- Geophysical Characterization of Subsurface Waste at HRSD VIP Site for SWIFT Tertiary Treatment Expansion JP Verheul, Enthalpy Analytical, LC (25)- PFAS Virtual Lab Tour Christian Ferguson, Tetra Tech BAS Inc. (25) How the Impacts of Littering Affect Recycling Revenues
12:00 PM	Salon D - E Conference Close: Cash Prize Drawing and Raffle Giveaways