



July 15, 2008

Mr. John B. Wheeler, Chairman
St. Mary's County Commission on the Environment
P. O. Box 653
Governmental Center
Leonardtown, MD 20650

RE: Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

We received your July 11, 2008, correspondence and appreciate your comments and concerns. The quorum issue you raised is being addressed by this Board and we are considering several different By-Law changes. The County Administrator forwarded our initial thoughts to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) on May 8, 2008. For the record, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee did meet during the month of April.

Your concerns regarding SWAC's role is noted, but with an approved Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan and an excellent staff, we continue to move in a positive direction. We understand our Solid Waste Manager participated in your "Go Green" forum on March 1, 2008, and earlier this year our new SWAC Chairman conducted a Single Stream presentation at one of your meetings. Single stream recycling has been implemented at all convenience centers, our public school system and several of our parochial schools. We are also utilizing COMCAST and MetroCast and our local governmental Channel 95 to promote special events and recycling initiatives. To assist in both daily duties and help focus more on recycling educational efforts, we may also consider adding a Recycling Coordinator position in a future budget year.

We have established a formal Enterprise Fund, and on May 15, 2007, approved an Environmental and Solid Waste Service Fee. Our Department of Public Works and Transportation was publicly discussed and this Board agreed to a bio-diesel initiative with several fleet vehicles and equipment which began in June. Curbside recycling is already being provided by the Town of Leonardtown and several private vendors in high density areas. In rural areas, the cost effectiveness is minimal. Finally, staff has applied for the State permit needed for the Transfer Station, was successful in defending the appeal(s), and is currently awaiting issuance of same pending State Highway's final review.

Mr. John B. Wheeler, Chairman

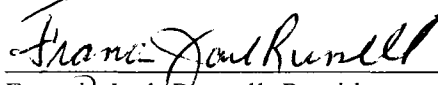
Page 2

July 15, 2008

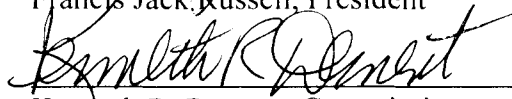
We trust that this information is helpful and appreciate your concerns. Please also be advised that we understand our recycling rate may be increasing this year by approximately two (2) percent. If you have any questions or additional comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

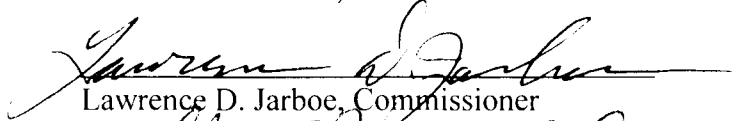
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**



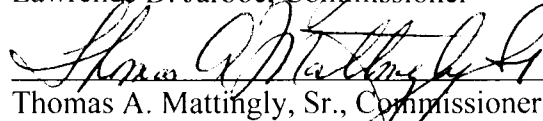
Francis Jack Russell, President




Kenneth R. Dement, Commissioner



Lawrence D. Jarboe, Commissioner



Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner



Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner

BOCC:GAE:cp:dg

T:All/Consent/2008/5771

cc: Keenan James, Chairman, SWAC
George A. Erichsen, P.E., Director, DPW&T