

Summary

Project:	Arlington County Biosolids Upgrade	
Subject:	Biosolids Advisory Panel	
Date:	Thursday, July 18, 2024	
Location:	Teams	
Attendees:	Mary Glass, Arlington County Civic Federation Sandra Borden, Crystal City Civic Association John Bloom, C2E2/Energy Committee Steve Young, Joint Facilities Advisory Commission Paul Guttridge, Aurora Highlands Civic Association Joan McIntyre, Eco Action Arlington	Antron Sutton, Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant Mary Strawn, Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant Lisa Racey, Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant Fasil Haile, Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant Brian Balchunas, HDR Melanie Deggins, HDR Tucker Cotter, HDR Dan Stromberg, PC Construction Laura Simmers, PC Construction Joe Uglevich, Stantec

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overall Program Updates
3. Site Plan Review
4. Schedule Updates and Upcoming Site Activities
5. Communications Update
6. Open Discussion

Welcome and Introductions (A. Sutton and M. Deggins)

Antron Sutton provided opening remarks and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Antron asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves to the group. In addition to Advisory Panel members, meeting attendees included staff from the Water Pollution Control Plant, HDR, PC Construction (PC), and Stantec.

Melanie Deggins shared details of how to use the Teams virtual meeting platform. She also provided the group with a review of the meeting agenda.

Overall Project Updates (M. Strawn/F. Haile/B. Balchunas)

Mary Strawn reviewed the overall scope of the program and its goal of delivering a new Class A biosolids facility to Arlington County.

Mary explained the project team structure, including the relationship hierarchy between the County, the Program Manager (HDR), and the Design-Build Team (PC/Stantec).

A technical update was given including information regarding the completion of the design confirmation phase in July and the upcoming plan to start design.

Mary explained the purpose of the design confirmation phase. Several subcommittees have been established over the past few months to help answer the questions resulting from the design confirmation.

Mary provided delivery updates, explaining that the design-build project has begun, including the initiation of construction planning activities. Additional design and construction planning, and an RFP for gas utilization planning, is upcoming.

Fasil Haile gave an update on the County's on-going research collaboration with Virginia Tech. Over the past several years, graduate students at Virginia Tech have been conducting lab-scale studies to test the design parameters and understand how the future solids treatment processes will perform under different operating conditions. Upcoming research will help the County understand the impacts of the solids upgrades on the liquid treatment processes.

Brian Balchunas shared information about the long-term Renewable Natural Gas plans for Arlington County.

Brian provided funding updates, He explained that the County is researching the Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credit, but the strict timing requirements may be a hindrance to qualification for this tax credit. Brian stated that lack of guidance from the IRS and the potential risk of not having the required information may hinder moving forward with the process.

Brian provided an update on the Envision program. The sustainability subcommittee has been established and the Sustainability Management Plan has been updated.

Site Plan Review (D. Stromberg/J. Uglevich)

Dan Stromberg provided an overview of key decisions made during the design confirmation phase, including sludge storage, flare redundancy, boiler type, gas treatment, and Dewatering Building (DWB) disposition (the decision to build a new solids processing building). Dan explained that the DWB evaluation included multiple factors, including the impact to the community and environment. It was concluded that reusing the existing building would be more expensive and not a cost-effective solution.

Joe Uglevich presented the group with an overview of initial renderings of the new site plans from a birds-eye and street level viewpoint. The renderings demonstrated the location of the digesters and odor control facilities. These renderings are still preliminary.

Schedule Updates and Upcoming Site Activities (L. Simmers)

Laura Simmers presented the near-term project schedule, including site work planned to begin in August. She explained that the buildings that need to be demolished have been identified, the next phase will be developing the design of the early work package. The permitting process will begin over the next few months.

Communications Plan Update (M. Deggins/M. Strawn)

Melanie informed the group that the program’s communications plan is being updated to support Phase 2 of the program as it moves from design to construction. She explained that the updated plan will provide an updated approach to clearly and concisely presenting information to stakeholders. The update will focus on the construction phase and will include proactive outreach with the communities surrounding the plant. The updated communications plan will also include more outreach opportunities and trainings for plant staff.

The program team is soliciting feedback from Advisory Panel members and their organizations regarding ideas about increasing outreach to the groups that they represent.

Mary noted that the team can provide a presentation to individual organizations, if desired. The program is also partnering with the Arlington Art Truck in the Fall for outreach activities focused on “What not to flush” while also providing information about the Re-Gen program. The Art Truck is developing a bean bag game that will provide an interactive learning experience regarding disposal tips. The program team is planning to partner with the Art Truck at the County Fair and several other outreach opportunities in the coming months. Mary invited all Advisory group members to attend outreach events.

Several attendees experienced issues with Microsoft Teams during this meeting.

Questions and Responses

Question	Response
John Bloom: Is Arlington’s effort to find a partner on this, all about RINs?	Brian Balchunas: Short answer is its all-encompassing. We want someone who can help with RINs, marketing the commodity, and greenhouse gas accounting. We will also consider options outside of the renewable fuels program.
John Bloom: That’s very interesting. Is there anything you can share, through a document or memo, about what you learned through the RFI?	Brian Balchunas: Yes, we want it to go through the County leadership first. A lot of groups want their responses to be confidential, but we should be able to put something together about what we learned. Mary Strawn: There were four responses, which indicates industry interest, and that we’re moving forward to the RFP stage.
Paul Guttridge: Is the current CIP budget at \$210 million? And are people pursuing state	Mary Strawn: Yes, the current CIP budget is \$210 million. Revolving loan funds are still a

<p>revolving loan or bipartisan infrastructure law funds? I know they are at DC Water, though they aren't part of a state.</p>	<p>possibility. Funding options are being coordinated with the County's Department of Management and Finance, who makes the ultimate decision.</p>
<p>Sandra Borden: Which building is going to be taken down this summer?</p>	<p>Joe Uglevich: The Bio-building which houses the abandoned incinerator. The building was pointed out in the rendering. It has been primarily vacant for about 25 years. The Bio-building will be demolished next summer (2025).</p>
<p>Steve Young: Since the building coming down has been vacant, is there any possibility for a quick environmental study could be done to determine whether building is occupied by native bats or birds? I would ask Alonso Abugattas (Dept of Parks and Rec).</p>	<p>Mary Strawn: That is a good idea, and we will follow up with Alonso.</p>
<p>Joan McIntyre: Are you looking at reusing any of the building materials? Will this help with Envision?</p>	<p>Dan Stromberg: We will definitely try to salvage as much material as possible.</p>
<p>Joan McIntyre: Why do certain IRA tax credits have to be done this year?</p>	<p>Brian Balchunas: It's part of the federal code. Some qualified credits do not have to start this year, but biogas specifically is called out to require construction to begin by the end of 2024.</p>
<p>Joan McIntyre: Will the gas produced be able to fuel the digestion process?</p>	<p>Brian Balchunas: Yes, the cleaned-up gas will be one alternative to fuel the process. The amount of gas we will need is about 33% of what the process creates. There are incentives to putting the gas in the pipeline first.</p>
<p>Joan McIntyre: For landscaping, consider dedicating some areas to native plants and grasses</p>	<p>Mary Strawn: We will use the Department of Parks and Recreation plant specification list, which has many native plant options, for planting. We will pass that on to the Design Builder. There will be a more detailed landscaping plan. The amount of green space will likely change, but we're going to look for opportunities to do as much landscaping as possible.</p>
<p>Steve Young: One thought, when a new hospital facility was recently constructed, they set up a time lapse web cam which was really fun to follow along. I think it was a great idea and potentially very low cost.</p>	<p>Mary Strawn: That is a great idea. WSSC did something similar for their biosolids upgrades project and I think we should if we can as well.</p>
<p>Joan McIntyre: Two things to make sure you prepare regarding outreach. Please address PFAS and find ways to highlight the environmental sustainability goals.</p>	<p>Mary Strawn: Understood regarding PFAS communication.</p>

<p>Steve Young: Agree on PFAS. Please also consider green rooftop opportunities.</p>	<p>We are designing roofs for future compatibility with solar panels. We will consider whether green roofs could be compatible.</p>
<p>Steve Young: I know Teams has been hard to work with tonight, but this has been very informative and helpful for me. Thank you.</p>	<p>Mary Strawn: Thank you. Melanie will follow up with a question about other outreach opportunities. We will work on getting the meeting minutes out and following up with Paul to see what he missed.</p>
<p>Joan McIntyre: One thought related to resiliency, because these processes produce their own fuel, renewable gas is something that should be considered as another element of resiliency for the site.</p>	<p>Mary Strawn: It may be worth thinking about our approach in how we communicate reframing the resiliency goal.</p>

CHAT:

- Steve Young to everyone: 6:58 PM
 - Are you planning to do some risk analysis especially of the exposed gas infrastructure? I see Dominion Power hardening some of their substations and screening off viewability of their equipment. Is there a vulnerability of exposed gas equipment? *(Joe Uglevich: Other projects have required that this equipment be access controlled which is not an issue here as the site is secured. As far as visual screening is concerned, that is something we can look into. Mary Strawn added that other areas of the fence line have more robust visual screening.)*

- Mary Glass to everyone: 7:28 PM
 - Thanks for the comprehensive updates.