The Maryland Recycling Network and SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter held their annual joint conference at the Turf Valley Conference Center in Ellicott City, MD, June 21 and 22. The theme of the conference was Materials Management: The Next Generation. While some of the excitement during the event was from a severe storm and tornado warning, which led to the evacuation of the meeting areas, participants were treated to timely talks covering the larger recycling markets and trends in materials processing and solid waste management.

Dylan de Thomas, editorial director for Resource Recycling and Ted Siegler, partner with DSM Environmental Services, Inc. set the tone and theme of the conference during the opening plenary session. They covered topics ranging from market development to contamination trends in collected recyclables. These themes were further echoed and developed in talks by Lisa Skumatz, principal & founder of Skumatz Economic Research Associates, Inc., and Nate Egosi P.E., president of RRT Design & Construction/RRT SIGMA.

Ms. Skumatz discussed the challenge of managing contamination in a municipal system and provided some examples of how municipalities can work with citizens to reduce contamination, such as driver inspections, education and drop-offs for challenging materials. Mr. Egosi covered trends in processing equipment and provided attendees with insight on pricing considerations for material recycling facilities.

Richard Keller, recycling manager for Maryland Environmental Service (MES) provided updates on the larger market for recyclables and explained how MES markets materials for its clients. He said that there are fluctuations in markets and there is a need for coordinated and significant efforts at the local and federal government levels for preferential purchasing of recycled materials in order to push recycling forward. Nancy Faulkner, marketing manager for MES, covered organics recycling in the State and stated that there is a lack of composting infrastructure, which is affecting the overall composting market and the ability to divert materials. Andrew Cassilly, resource conservation manager for Harford County Public Schools and a delegate to the Maryland General Assembly for District 35B (Cecil and Harford Counties) and Pam Kasemeyer, managing partner, Schwartz, Metz & Wise, P.A. provided a legislative update on the 2016 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session and a forecast for 2017. The Maryland Recycling Network has provided a recap and a link to download some of the presentations at: http://www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org/2016-conference-recap.

Board members from each organization, including Authority staff, spent several months planning for the Conference. The Authority once again provided sponsorship support.

“There is a lack of composting infrastructure, which is affecting the overall composting market and the ability to divert materials.”

Nancy Faulkner, marketing manager for MES
The Maryland Department of the Environment and the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority have teamed up to provide a two-season statewide waste composition analysis of residential and commercial trash delivered to various municipal drop-off sites throughout the State of Maryland.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Consultants, one of the Authority’s on-call engineering firms, was selected to conduct the waste sorts. They began the first season of this project in July 2016 with a waste composition analysis of seven landfill sites and one transfer station. A sampling of residential and commercial trash was conducted in order to estimate the types and quantities of recyclable materials that remained in the waste stream and approximate the percentage of all materials disposed as trash. A second sort in the same jurisdictions will take place in October 2016.

The following municipal host sites for this project are:

• Carroll County, Northern Landfill
• Washington County, Forty West Municipal Landfill
• Garrett County, Garrett County Landfill
• Baltimore City, Northwest Transfer Station in July, Quarantine Landfill in October.
• Charles County, Charles County Landfill
• Cecil County, Cecil County Central Landfill
• Calvert County, Appeal Landfill
• Somerset County, Somerset County Landfill.

Additional Analysis
To increase the sampling diversity of rural, suburban and urban regions throughout the State of Maryland, MSW Consultants will provide an aggregation of the data from these two sorts, along with data from other local waste sorts that have been conducted during the past five years in jurisdictions not represented in this study. The additional waste composition data will be collected from the following jurisdictions, if possible:

Prince George’s County, Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Wicomico County, Mid-Shore Counties, and Frederick County.

The final statewide waste characterization report will be published in early 2017.
On March 17 of this year the Harford Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility closed its doors after serving much of the waste disposal needs of Harford County for nearly 30 years. The WTE Facility provided steam to Aberdeen Proving Ground and produced enough electricity to offset the facility’s internal needs. During the last few years of operations, the County and the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority staff reviewed options for the plant’s future. With the agreement for steam purchase by the Army approaching an end, the County elected to enter a long-term contract with Baltimore County for the transfer and disposal of all collected waste and the transfer and recovery of curbside recyclables in order to meet its solid waste management needs.

In February, the Authority, in consultation with the County, requested proposals from qualified companies to provide marketing for salvage and re-use of process equipment, parts and recyclable materials (through in-house expertise or a reputable auction firm), and for the phased demolition and removal of the Facility’s foundation structures. The procurement process for these services overlapped the decommissioning activities at the Facility.

After a joint County/Authority committee reviewed the submitted proposals, the Authority issued Best and Final Offer requests to the proposers, along with questions for clarification. Once all requested information was received and evaluated, a recommendation was made to award a six-month contract for salvage and demolition to Neuber Environmental Services Inc. SCS Engineers was selected to be the oversight engineer and will be responsible for checking the salvage and demolition firm’s work against the contract and invoices.

The first step in the salvage process was for Neuber and their selected auction firm, Myron Bowling, to host an industrial auction. The auction was held on August 25. Items included in the auction ranged from hosing, piping and fans to assorted rolling stock used at the plant. Proceeds from the auction will be used to offset the cost of demolition. Once the saleable items are removed from the site, the planned demolition of the facility will take place.

The second phase of the project, to remove buried steam lines, will take place at a later date, subject to the County’s direction. 
In an effort to conserve paper and save the costs of printing and mailing, the Authority is asking you to provide an email address to continue receiving our quarterly newsletter, WasteWatch.

Beginning with the Winter 2017 edition, we will notify you, via the email address you provide, when each new issue has been posted to our website with the link included. Please indicate your interest in continuing to receive our newsletter by sending an email to us at:

authority@nmwda.org

Thank you for your response and for helping us with our conservation effort!