In January, the Authority issued a procurement on behalf of Carroll and Frederick Counties for the acceptance, processing and recycling of recovered material. Three proposals were received from qualified vendors. After best and final offers, Waste Management Recycle America’s market-based proposal for processing recovered material from both jurisdictions provided the lowest overall costs. The Carroll County Board of County Commissioners and the Frederick County Executive approved the regional contract award to Waste Management Recycle America (WMRA) through the Authority.

The contract commenced on July 1 and has an initial term of two years with three, one-year renewals available, at the Authority’s sole discretion. The lower pricing that the Authority was able to obtain through this multi-jurisdiction contract resulted in estimated savings of more than $300,000 per year between the jurisdictions.

In an effort to provide future flexibility and savings to each jurisdiction, the Authority procured transportation services for recovered material under separate contracts with Bousum Transfer.

A multi-year contract for transporting recovered material for Frederick County began in July 2019 and for Carroll County in July 2020.

The Bousum contract for Carroll County recovered material also includes loading operations at the County’s Transfer Station. Under the transportation contracts, the Authority can direct Bousum to transfer recovered material to any processing facility within a 100-mile radius of each jurisdiction’s respective Transfer Station.

WMRA will accept and process the single stream material, delivered by Bousum, at its Elkridge, Maryland material recovery facility. The jurisdictions will receive 75 percent of a blended commodity market value (based on each county’s respective material compositions) for single stream minus a processing fee of $95 per ton. Under the current market as of July 2020, Carroll County and Frederick County are paying $81.93 per ton and $77.57 per ton, respectively. The contract also allows for the Authority to deliver source separated cardboard to WMRA’s recycling facility located on Quad Avenue in Baltimore, MD. Based on the cardboard market as of July 2020, the jurisdictions are currently paying $4.88 per ton.

The MRN/SWANA Conference has been postponed and is tentatively scheduled to be held on June 24, 2021.
Jim Irvin, the Authority’s long-time chairperson, has retired! He joined the Authority Board in 1996 and became Chair of the Board in May of 2002. Jim began his career with Howard County in 1975 and became Director of the County’s Department of Public Works in 1989.

As DPW Director, Jim was responsible for all of the County’s public works infrastructure. He started the first permitted landfill and ushered in single stream recycling in the County, causing recycling participation rates to soar. Additionally, Jim provided leadership in overseeing emergency response operations during multiple weather events such as blizzards, snowstorms, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, derecho and a train derailment in Ellicott City. He was a critical member of the County’s emergency response and recovery efforts, including the 2016 and 2018 Ellicott City floods.

Under his leadership the Authority developed numerous waste facilities, engaged in a vast array of regional procurements and conducted a number of financings and re-financings – all providing significant benefits to Member Jurisdictions. His steady guidance and willingness to share his vast experience enhanced every project and will be missed.

Joe Siemek was appointed Director of Public Works for Harford County in 2016 and currently serves in that position. He joined the Authority Board in September 2016 and was elected Board Chair in July, replacing Jim Irvin who recently retired. As DPW Director for Harford County, Joe is responsible for planning, engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of County roads, bridges, water, sewer, solid waste, and stormwater facilities as well as construction management of all Capital Projects in Harford County. He manages more than 400 technical, administrative and field personnel in the Department, with an annual operating and capital construction budget of more than $170 million per year.

Before his appointment to his current position, Joe worked for more than 35 years in private consulting practice and government service, specializing in infrastructure and public works. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Maryland and Virginia. In addition to his work with the Authority, Joe is active in numerous technical and professional organizations, including the County Engineers Association of Maryland, Chesapeake Water Environment Association and the American Public Works Association.

Jeff Castonguay serves as Director of the Department of Public Works for Carroll County and has been with the County for seven years. He joined the Authority Board in November 2016 and was elected Treasurer in July.

Jeffrey D. Castonguay
Newly Appointed Authority Treasurer

As DPW Director for Carroll County, Jeff oversees close to 300 employees and ten department bureaus (Airports, Building Construction, Engineering, Facilities, Fleet Management, Permits and Inspections, Roads Operations, Solid Waste, Transit, and Utilities). He has worked in the civil engineering profession for more than 30 years, in both the private and public sectors. In addition

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Charles Glass was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan in June 2020 as Director and Chairman of Maryland Environmental Service (MES). As Director of MES, Dr. Glass serves as an ex-officio Authority Board Member. He replaces Roy McGrath, who was recently selected by Governor Larry Hogan to serve as his Chief of Staff.

Dr. Glass previously served as Deputy Secretary at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Prior to his role at DNR, he served as Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Analysis and Planning and Director of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access at the Maryland Department of Transportation. Dr. Glass’ credentials include serving more than 20 years as a research and engineering professional in academia and in the consulting engineering industries. Throughout his distinguished career, he has held positions as a teacher, researcher, and consulting professional in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Steve Walsh joined the Authority Board in August 2016. In May, he retired from Baltimore County after 30 years of service and stepped down from the Authority Board. Steve is now serving as Deputy Director for the Harford County Department of Public Works in charge of the Division of Highways.
In the last issue of WasteWatch, the Authority provided a project progress report on the rehabilitation of the RCC Dam at the Reichs Ford Road Landfill in Frederick, MD. This project, undertaken at the request of the County, is now complete.

Work at the Dam began in late April and continued to the middle of June. ProShot Concrete Inc., of Alabama won the public procurement for the construction services managed by the Authority and provided crew and equipment to complete the project. Geosyntec Engineers, Inc. won the on-call engineering procurement for the assessment of current conditions, design of repairs and construction oversight of the repairs. Geosyntec is also responsible for certain weekly reporting under the governing permit for the project.

As a first step, ProShot removed a six-inch deep portion of concrete from the entire dam face, using a cold planer attached to the end of the track-hoe arm. The removed concrete was first used as a working pad for the project at the base of the exposed dam and was later transported to another area of the Landfill for possible reuse. ProShot then drilled holes and installed anchors into the dam face, a process designed and directed by Geosyntec. The Geosyntec specifications also required installing drain strips behind the dam face, to intercept water that drains from the dam face and into a pipe at the exposed base of the dam. Any accumulated water would then flow into the dam's existing stormwater management collection area. The work began on one end of the dam and proceeded across the face, with multiple phases occurring at the same time. Once the face material was removed, the ProShot crew worked efficiently to install anchors and metal mesh to reinforce the concrete. Drain strips were installed and terminated at the base of the exposed dam.

ProShot then applied a specified depth of new shotcrete (concrete applied via high velocity air) to the dam face and applied a knife-edge finish. The finish is smoother than an untreated shot finish, but not the same as a float finish, which is typically applied to sidewalks and driveways. As each planned area of the face was completed (roughly 50 feet wide), concrete trucks from a local company came in to place the shotcrete. Two members of the crew directed the pumping of concrete from the truck through hoses via an air-pressure pump. Several more crew members worked to assist with the shotcrete application. Shooting the concrete was a well-orchestrated effort as crew members moved in unison over the prepared area while moving a heavy hose filled with concrete. The depth of the shotcrete was predetermined using a new survey (to align with the design of the repairs) and was set via guide pins and piano-wire. Geosyntec was onsite daily to verify that the work being performed was consistent with the design/permit requirements and to resolve field questions as they arose. The crew used scaffolding to reach the

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taller portions of the dam face for the shotcrete application. A member of the application crew also smoothed the shotcrete and captured excess shotcrete for a consistent finish.

ProShot also removed the stormwater pipes that went over the dam face, and temporarily removed and reinstalled a safety fence at the top of the Dam. Final inspection of the work took place on June 18. A representative of the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Dam Safety Program was present for the walk, accompanied by managers from Frederick County, ProShot, Geosyntec and the Authority. The County, Geosyntec and the Authority agreed that ProShot had completed the project’s punch list items. Geosyntec now has 60 days to complete the final permit report and update the original Landfill plans to reflect the repair work. All that remains is for the grass to start growing in the newly stabilized area where the work took place.