

Solid Waste Reporter

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Recycling partnership benefits Brooke

By John Phillips, Staff Writer

Wheeling News (Reprinted with permission)



These bins at the Brooke County SWA facility are full of cans and paper to be recycled.

A public-private partnership agreement between the Brooke County Solid Waste Authority and Jay Valero of All-American Recycling of Colliers has proved satisfying for both parties and is benefiting the residents of the Tri-State Area.

Valero will operate the new facility constructed by the Brooke County Solid Waste Authority through funding from the state of West Virginia.

The recycling business is located off Harmon Creek Road in Colliers, and Valero is proud to show off the new 5,000-square-foot building that was financed through an \$81,600 grant from the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. Valero's scrap metal business is located next door.

"I manage the recycling process for the solid waste authority, who I have a cooperative agreement with," Valero said. "The building was completed in early August. We take in cans and paper." Valero is the lone employee of the venture.

All-American Recycling, which is situated on just under three acres, accepts materials for recycling programs from

Brooke County and the city of Weirton. Material is accepted during regular business hours from anyone who wants to drop it off.

Harry Reitter, vice-chairman of the Brooke County Solid Waste Authority, serves as the recycling director. He said the authority offers four recycling trailers, two in Wellsburg, one on Hooverson Heights, and one at the Weirton Wal-Mart. They have one spare, which Reitter said he is trying to get located in Follansbee.

"We've talked with the city of Follansbee officials, and we're hoping to get something set up," Reitter said. "I've been in my position now for three years and we're happy to be able to get this building up.

"Hukill Construction put down the concrete, and Arco Building of Georgia came in and constructed the complex. The electrical work was done by I.B.E.W. Local 246 of Steubenville, which donated \$3,000 worth of labor."

Valero segregates the material after it is brought into the complex, and then bundles it up. "Some of it is marketed locally, and some in the Fairmont area," he explained.

"We've applied for two more grants from the West Virginia Waste Management Board," Reitter said. "If we get those grants, we'll be able to buy shredders and two more trailers. We're also looking to get Brooke High School involved, and we would need some recycling boxes for the students."

Carol Dick, a teacher, and Paul Billiard, head football coach, have offered to assist in that program.

"We're also going after two more grants from the West Virginia DNR," Reitter said. "We're looking to get another baler, two storage trailers, a can sorter and larger paper shredder."

Reitter said that the authority "has a good working relationship with Valero. He's been doing a wonderful job. We've got a 15-year contract with him, which had to meet the approval of the West Virginia DNR."

All-American Recycling is located at 423 Harmon Creek Road in Colliers. The hours for the facility are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Valero graduated from Brooke High School in 1990 and in 1995 earned a degree in business management from West Liberty State College. He is married to Jenny Bowers Valero and the couple has two children.

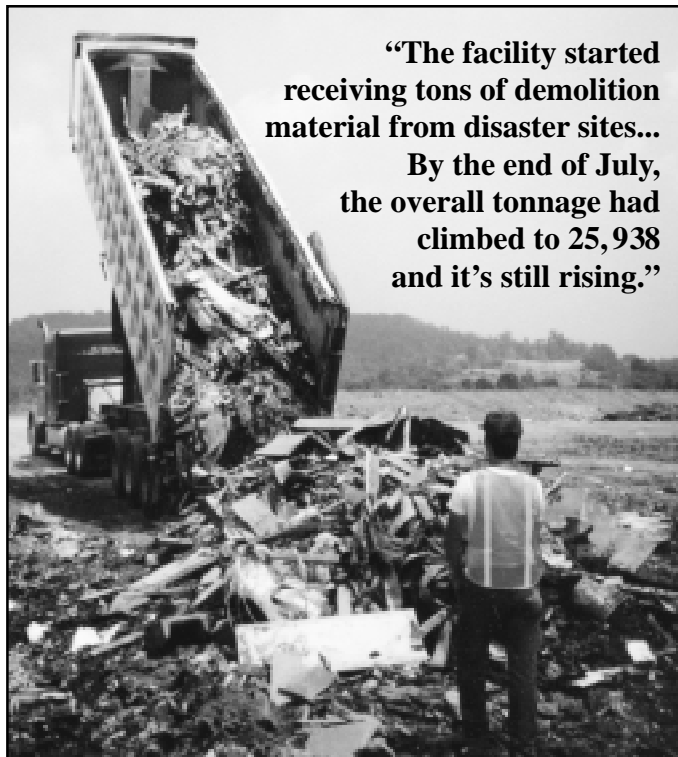
Raleigh SWA instrumental in flood recovery operations

By Al Babcock, Former Secretary, Association of W.Va. Solid Waste Authorities

Lanark, a small Raleigh County community near Beckley, has become the site of one West Virginia's premier publicly operated solid waste facilities. Being prepared for the unexpected is always a virtue. And because of that, the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority (RCSWA) is playing a major role in recovery operations for a large portion of the southern part of the state devastated by torrential rains and flooding. On July 10, the area was doused by 11 inches of rain in about four hours.

Because the authority's leaders had the foresight to establish a two-year reserve of air space at the landfill in Lanark, they were able to answer the urgent call for help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The facility started receiving tons of demolition material from disaster sites in Wyoming, Monroe, and McDowell counties and parts of Raleigh County July 17. On the first day, the landfill disposed of five times its normal daily tonnage, or approximately 2,500 tons. By the end of July, the overall tonnage had climbed to 25,938 and it's still rising.

The nature of emergency enabled the RCSWA to receive the necessary federal and state permits in less than a week to accept all kinds of demolition material. The debris ranged from the proverbial kitchen sink to appliances, household goods, building materials of all sorts, hazardous items, household trash, and unrecoverable personal treasures. Thank you, RCSWA members for being proactive rather than just reactive.



“The facility started receiving tons of demolition material from disaster sites... By the end of July, the overall tonnage had climbed to 25,938 and it's still rising.”

Now, for the rest of the story! Originally, this article was intended to recognize one of West Virginia's better publicly owned and operated landfills. And now you know why.

Ask the people in the four-county area: “Where is all the debris going?” In all likelihood, you will get a unanimous and unqualified answer: “To the Lanark landfill, of course.”

Why? That is because of the trust and support the RCSWA has built up with the public since the entity was created. In the truest meaning of the term “solid waste,” the 400-acre Lanark landfill is a full-service facility that has been operated as a business enterprise. Such operations have caused many state public landfills to close their doors.

The RCSWA covers the entire waterfront, beginning with a very successful countywide litter control program, a composting operation for yard waste, a recycling center with the capability of handling a wide variety of materials, and a state-of-art disposal area with an



environmentally sound double-composite liner system.

In addition, the authority offers county residents not having trash removal service a free day once a month.

In reflecting on the history of the RCSWA, Executive Director William Patton cited the following three main reasons for its success.

1. *The five-member board of directors comprises individuals with various backgrounds and no individual political agendas.* The members and their professional talents are John Wooton, attorney; Gary Bledsoe, engineer; John Bailes, optometrist; Leon Lucas, heavy equipment businessman; and Paul Barley, retired landfill operator.

2. *Professionals were selected for all services, based on their experience and reputation, in the fields of engineering, site selection, landfill design, accounting, and computer literacy.* Then, the RCSWA followed their advice.

3. *The RCSWA chose employees for their skills and experience.* The RCSWA currently has 30 trained employees.

After receiving, studying, and evaluating the professional reports, the board determined it would take about \$4 million to close the outdated landfill, which had operated for more than three decades, and to construct a new state-of-the art

Raleigh SWA instrumental in flood recovery operations

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facility that would provide one-stop service to the local watershed. The construction of the new landfill was completed in 1994.

To obtain the money for the project, the RCSWA approached Beckley area bankers rather than turning to government sources. That turned out to be a prudent move and enhanced public support for the project. Believe it or not, the RCSWA paid off the indebtedness in less than four years. That took a lot of courage, faith, and vision on the part of all parties.

Later, the board applied for and received a grant to purchase a tub grinder for the recycling program.

To date, the RCSWA has invested about \$10 million in the operation. And it is still debt-free!

As you drive to the landfill's entrance off Ragland Road, you have the feeling you are approaching a health clinic or an office complex. The facility houses the authority's administrative offices. It has ample parking because it also serves as an education building. As a part of its public relations program, the RCSWA makes its conference room available free to the public. The facility is the beginning point for tour groups who want to learn more what happens to their garbage and refuse. With its first aid station, the room serves as a training area for employees.

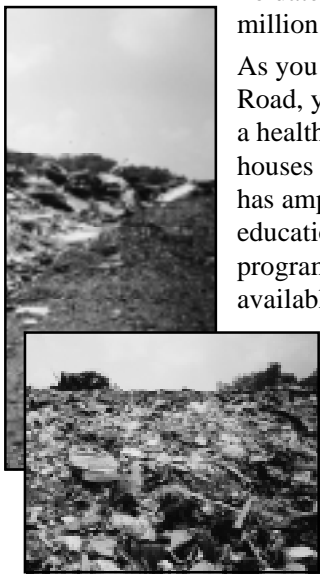
The welfare of the 30 employees is very important to the management team. By paying a good wage with full benefits

and providing safety helmets, shoes, and goggles, the RCSWA has little trouble retaining staff. In addition, the authority prides itself on maintaining a clean and environmentally safe workplace.

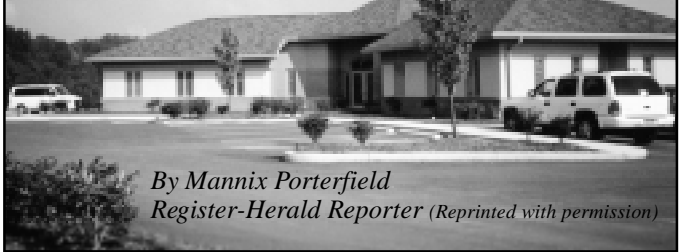
Family members are not forgotten either. At the RCSWA's annual picnic, the children have an opportunity climb on and ride on the equipment. What a treat for them! Last winter, families were treated to sleigh rides.

In addition to its proximity to the hard-hit communities, a main reason that FEMA selected Lanark is the fact in March, Governor Bob Wise and DEP Chair Mike Callaghan awarded the RCSWA the 2001 Environmental Award for Municipal Class B Landfill. That kind of award doesn't just drop from the sky; it is earned for excellence.

The award was the icing on the cake for the authority and its staff. The deserved award proved that aside from operating a successful landfill, the RCSWA has the highest regard for preserving the site and the adjoining land in an environmentally friendly fashion.



Raleigh landfill wins top environmental honor



*By Mannix Porterfield
Register-Herald Reporter (Reprinted with permission)*

When it comes to landfills, none is any better in its class from an environmental standpoint than Raleigh County's facility. Proof lies in an award given the landfill recently by the state Division of Environmental Protection.

This marks the second annual such presentation, and Raleigh County might have captured the first one except the facility was unaware of its existence, director of landfill operations James Allen says. "We had to submit a package that pretty much highlighted all of our achievements throughout the year, with photographs of our site," Allen said.

Raleigh County's landfill, as with most others in the state, was Class B a year ago, meaning it accepted a maximum of 10,000 tons monthly. Since then, however, the landfill has been placed into the top category, Class A, for facilities allowed to handle in excess of 10,000 tons, and both Allen and Bill Patton, executive director of the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority, are confident of taking next year's prize.

"We're going after that one next year," Allen said.

Patton said the landfill achieved a perfect score during a DEP inspection leading up to the award. Patton, Allen, and two solid waste authority board members, Leon Lucas and Paul Barley, were handed the black glass-etched plaque by Gov. Bob Wise and DEP Secretary Michael Callaghan at the governor's office.

"We knew we were in the running," Allen said. "We just didn't know if we were going to place first or not." Once a month, the DEP pays landfills a visit for unannounced inspections. "What we did is, we implemented programs every year, as far as our leachate treatment ability, and improved the overall appearance of the site," Allen said.

One violation DEP inspectors look for involves leachate, but no infractions were uncovered at the facility—period.

"That's highly unusual," Allen said. "Most landfills get one or two during the year. "It's called a notice of violation. And they can be serious, depending on the cause. If you're expelling leachate, it can be a serious violation. It can be \$10,000 a day."

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17 SWAs receive grants

By Carol Throckmorton
W.Va. Solid Waste Management Board

The Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) has announced that 17 local Solid Waste Authorities (SWAs) will \$299,329 in grants, as a result of action taken by the SWMB and approved by Governor Bob Wise.

The SWMB Grant Program is designed to assist local SWAs in managing municipal solid waste within their counties. Recycling, a theme of many of the approved projects for fiscal year 2002, will go along way to further West Virginia's goal of recycling 50 percent of the municipal solid waste stream by Jan. 1, 2010.

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Following are the county SWAs receiving grants, grant amounts, and designated projects:

- Boone County** – \$18,895 to buy a recycling trailer.
- Braxton County** – \$10,500 to purchase equipment.
- Brooke County** – \$20,000 to purchase equipment.
- Calhoun County** – \$20,000 to continue operation of Restoration Station.
- Jackson County** – \$20,000 to buy equipment.
- Logan County** – \$20,000 to conduct a cooperative recycling program with the cities of Logan and Man and Smith Recycling, Inc.
- Marion County** – \$19,600 to continue community recycling program.
- Mercer County** – \$20,000 to continue recycling collection program.
- Mingo County** – \$20,000 for recycling awareness and public education program.
- Monongalia County** – \$20,000 to implement a consistent county recycling pickup service.
- Morgan County** – \$20,000 to expand existing recycling program.
- Pleasants County** – \$5,215 to computerize inventory management system for recycling center.
- Putnam County** – \$19,532 to develop a program to encourage appliance recycling in Putnam, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Cabell counties.
- Roane County** – \$20,000 to continue operation of recycling center.
- Taylor County** – \$5,587 for recycling education and recycling program development.
- Tucker County** – \$20,000 to enhance existing composting program.
- Wayne County** – \$20,000 to buy a truck.

Taylor SWA open house features recycled items

By Sandra McClure, Director
North Central W.Va. Recycling Cooperative Inc.

The Taylor County Solid Waste Authority (SWA), in conjunction with the Great Paper Cha\$e and the North Central W.Va. Recycling Cooperative Inc., hosted an open house celebrating America Recycles Day at Tygart Lake State Park Nov. 1.

Community leaders, business people, educators, board members, and state officials attended.

Various items made of "recycled-content" materials were displayed. Items included recycling containers used in Taylor County classrooms and in state and local parks. The county SWA gave away a recycled-content bench.

During the past year, the Taylor County SWA bought 1,050 recycling containers for classrooms and businesses that will be used to collect office paper for the Great Paper Cha\$e program. Other purchases include six benches for Tygart Lake State Park, three benches for the community, two swing sets and a typhoon slide assembly for local parks, 40 hurdles for the county's middle school, and 18 32-gallon recycling receptacles for county parks. All were made from recycled-content materials.

The Taylor County SWS is committed to recycling and to buying recycled items.

Join us for next year's
conference



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As I see it...Web site should improve communication

By Michael Grunau, Chairman, Association of W.Va. Solid Waste Authorities

I have recently returned from our 13th annual educational conference in Snowshoe. We had a record attendance, and I am pleased to say that the vast majority of comments were favorable. The surroundings, entertainment, and food were outstanding as were the topics of both the general and breakout sessions. I believe our attendees enjoyed meeting and exchanging ideas with one another, the exhibitors, speakers, and members of the various governmental agencies who were well represented. Our growing group of collegiate attendees numbered more than 40; they took an active role in all areas of the conference.

With the election of officers and directors at our business meeting, the board is set to complete another association year. While our conference is actually in the middle of our fiscal year, I always look at it as the start of our activities year. For those of you who attended the conference, I wish to thank you for taking the time to attend. For those who missed it, I encourage you to plan to attend our next one.

The balance of this year and the next will be especially busy. We are developing support programs for member authorities and planning additional activities to enhance your membership. The only negative I see is that we do not have as many members as there are authorities and that some of our member authorities are not as active in the association as they could be. I believe much of this can be attributed to lack of ongoing and consistent communication between us.

With this in mind, we plan to complete and integrate our very own Web site. Once it is up and running, I believe we will be able to access a wealth of information that can be used in enhancing our ability to work within our counties.

I hope you will all have a good year, and I hope you will feel free to call upon me for any assistance I can give.

Raleigh landfill wins top environmental honor (continued)

The landfill rests on 450 acres and operates four lined cells equivalent to about 20 acres. "Right now, we're looking at an expected life of 40 to 50 years," Allen said. "But we have land available for 100 years."



The Raleigh County SWA landfill received the 2001 Environmental Award after earning a perfect score in a Division of Environmental Protection inspection.

In the past year, the landfill expanded its recycling mission to embrace items picked up in Beckley after that city's service was halted due to a shoddy roof at its center. Allen said the landfill has embarked on a more ambitious anti-litter program, thanks to a recent legislative act that lets landfills use money collected in tipping fees to send crews offsite for such work.

The same measure provides for additional law enforcement assistance, already pledged by Sheriff Danny Moore.

Toward the same goal, the landfill has installed a series of hidden surveillance cameras across the county to catch residents engaged in illegal dumping of refuse. As of July 1, Allen said, the landfill is prepared to perform roadside cleanups.

"There are a lot of things we want to promote," he said.

"We want to expand our recycling department more."

The Solid Waste Reporter is a broad-based source of information on solid waste management issues for West Virginians. Representatives of the following organizations contribute to this newsletter through editorial planning and preparation and/or financial support: the West Virginia University Extension Service, the Solid Waste Management Board, the Association of West Virginia Solid Waste Authorities, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection, and the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

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