



Let's Talk Trash

July 2017 Edition

Volume 17, No. 2

July 2017 What's Inside

**Shirlene Sitton—A Solid Waste
Manager with a Recycling
Pedigree 1**

The RAID Alliance 3

Important 2017 Dates 3

2017 SWANA New Mexico

Road-E-O Results 4

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 SWANA

Road-E-O Competition 5

What's Going on at SWANA? 6

NM SWANA Chapter to Host

Electronic Training Session

on August 1 8

Las Cruces Roundtable

Meeting: April 18 8

Shirlene Sitton—A Solid Waste Manager with a Recycling Pedigree

by Jack Chappelle, P. E., President, Engineering Solutions & Design



As the relatively new Division Director for Environmental Services in the Public Utilities Department for the City of Santa Fe, Shirlene Sitton has made a significant first impression. She has been updating the fleet, adding staff, adding SWANA training and certification, and implementing tracking programs. The division's staff, as well as residential and commercial clients, are impressed with the results. It is not surprising that Shirlene has been successful. She has a history of making successful things happen.

Shirlene Sitton was born in Houston, Texas. Shortly after her birth the family moved to Atlanta, Georgia where Shirlene attended school until the seventh grade when her family moved to Waller, Texas, where she graduated from high school. Shirlene attended Texas A&M University, graduating with her bachelor's degree in Renewable Natural Resources Conservation, which was a unique degree at that time.

One of Shirlene's best memories from her undergraduate education was participating in a field study at El Cielo

Biosphere Reserve in Mexico. The park offered the opportunity to experience many different eco systems from desert, to tropical forest, to cloud forest, and the changing environment's impact on these eco systems. This experience energized Shirlene and she found added emphasis to complete her undergraduate degree.

During her days in College Station, Shirlene worked for a time at the La Taqueria and Tortilla Factory, a popular local restaurant. This opportunity provided her first foray into the world of recycling. At the time, the restaurant was capturing cardboard, glass, steel and aluminum cans; and was the only entity recycling in the Bryan/College Station area. The restaurant's owner cared about the environment and allowed residents to bring recycling as well. This experience showed her that recycling could be accomplished in a small and busy space -- and that was before single-stream -- with each commodity even having its own container.

In 1998, Shirlene began her career working for the City of the Colony, Texas as the Recycling and Environmental Coordinator. While there, she also started the first Keep The Colony Beautiful organization. In this position, she was responsible for managing the trash and recycling contracts, developing and expanding recycling efforts within the community, and establishing an environmental learning center with a native plant demonstration garden.

continued on page 2

Shirlene Sitton

continued from page one

Shirlene also served on the Board of the North Texas Corporate Recycling Association (NTCRA), and the Texas Trails Network (TTN) She obtained a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife, and with the TTN hosted a trail building workshop, which resulted in several miles of hiking trail near Lake Lewisville. After her tenure with the City of the Colony, Shirlene went on to graduate school at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas where she studied Environmental Sciences. While there, she served on the board of the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration, and taught Environmental Science and Biology labs.

In 2002 Shirlene took a position with the City of Denton, Texas, as the Recycling Division Manager. She was responsible for further increasing the recycling effort for the city, where Shirlene affected a number of “firsts.” She led the effort to roll out the curbside collection of recyclables, an early “single-stream” program in North Texas, and a change for the city to cart-based collection. This endeavor incorporated a significant public education effort in order to provide carts for the entire community.

Because the curbside collection of recyclables was a single-stream program, a continual public education effort was implemented. Shirlene was in charge of the public education campaign as well as the follow-up with residents to ensure the carts were being properly utilized. Along with establishing the curbside collection of recyclables, Shirlene also worked to retain a company to collect the single stream recyclables.

While in Denton, she established many other diversion programs, including curbside household hazardous waste collection, parks recycling, special event

recycling, and electronics recycling. In 2006, she oversaw the opening of the Home Chemical Collection Center, which included a “ReUse Store” where residents could pick up “still useful” items that were collected through the program.

Shirlene’s success during her time with the City of Denton encompassed yet another “first.” Through a public-private partnership she helped to secure a contract with Pratt Industries to construct a materials recovery facility (MRF) at the city’s landfill property. She worked to have the property renamed “ECO-WERCS” in order to reflect its function as a Resource Recovery Park, rather than just a landfill.

Shirlene’s interest in non-profit and professional advocacy continued in Denton, as she continued to serve on the NTCRA board, as well as the Keep Denton Beautiful, and the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) boards of directors. With a passion for learning, she attended almost every WASTECON and Blue Box/Road to Zero Waste/SWANAPALOOZA conference during her tenure there.

In 2015 Shirlene left the City of Denton to become the Environmental Services Division Director for the City of Santa Fe. In this position Shirlene has undertaken the effort to revitalize the division. She has added staff, updated equipment, and improved training – all of which has returned the Environmental Services Division to its place as a dynamic part of the City of Santa Fe.

Shirlene has been a SWANA member for more than 15 years. She has been active with the New Mexico’s Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA since arriving in Santa Fe in 2015. She was also an active

SWANA and TXSWANA member while in Texas. As a Director on the Roadrunner Chapter’s board, Shirlene brings new energy and is an integral part of the various programs SWANA provides. SWANA has been instrumental in helping prepare her for the various positions she has held and she pushes the importance of SWANA whenever the opportunity presents itself.

As an avid gardener, lover of live music (particularly from the state directly east of here), and a motorcycle enthusiast, Shirlene is comfortable with herself and has the skills to make people feel comfortable around her. She’s a valuable asset in New Mexico’s solid waste and recycling industry and will be a mentor to many.

published by

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION

OF NORTH AMERICA,

NEW MEXICO

ROADRUNNER CHAPTER

6110 Bellamah Ave NE

Albuquerque, NM 87110

505.363.4795

www.nmswana.com

The RAID Alliance

by Steve Miceli, District Manager Waste Management of New Mexico

I know what you are thinking... and no, the RAID Alliance is not a multi-departmental law enforcement agency devised to perform “raids” on unsuspecting criminals although that would be totally cool, too. What the RAID Alliance actually does is help the New Mexico Environment Department keep the 5.4 million acres of New Mexico public lands free of illegal dumping that smears our landscape with trash, tires and debris, a tough challenge for a state that ranks 5th in size, but 36th in population. The RAID Alliance was established by the 2005 New Mexico Recycling and Illegal (RAID) dumping act. The RAID Act focuses on addressing the tough challenge of protecting the health and welfare of the environment and of current and future residents of New Mexico by preventing and abating illegal dumpsites; promoting environmentally sound methods for reuse and recycling; managing scrap tires; and encouraging economic development, community development, and collaboration that promotes the efficient and sustainable use of resources and sustainable recycling, to support a cleaner and healthier environment.

The RAID Act recognizes that state and local agencies provide enforcement actions against illegal dumpers, these agencies need financial assistance to clean up illegal dumpsites all over the state. Each year, the RAID Alliance is responsible for distributing close to \$1M in grant funds to help cleanup illegal dumpsites, manage scrap tires, and establish and improve recycling programs at all levels. Two thirds of the grant funds are earmarked for scrap tire management, and the remaining one third is earmarked for illegal dumping and recycling.

Municipalities, counties, tribal nations, pueblos, and tribes, land grant

communities, cooperative associations, and solid waste authorities are eligible to apply for RAID grants. RAID grant applications are normally due in January of each year. The RAID Alliance is responsible for scoring each application, and then meet in a public forum to determine which applications will receive grant funds. To ensure the process is fair and appropriate, the Alliance is made up of representatives from state government, local government, a solid waste authority, an industry waste generator, a tribal government, a nonprofit organization, a recycling company, a retailer, an agricultural producer, a soil and water conservation district, a waste management company, and the public at large. Members of the RAID Alliance are unpaid volunteers and are appointed to two-year terms by the Cabinet Secretary of the Environment Department.

The New Mexico Environment Department's Layne Duesterhaus is the appointed leader of the Alliance and is tasked with ensuring the RAID grant program is implemented properly and in compliance with the RAID Act. Not only is Layne responsible for the grant award process, but he must also manage and track each funded project through completion.

As a member of the RAID Alliance for the last 4 years, I can attest that the Alliance does a remarkable job reviewing applications and ensuring the most deserving projects are funded. Since 2005, over \$11M in grant funds have been awarded, resulting in countless illegal dumpsites cleaned up, hundreds of thousands of scrap tires properly managed (many removed from arroyos all over the state), and numerous recycling programs initiated and enhanced. This program

has made huge strides in beautifying our state, protecting our environment, and preserving our natural resources. The success of the RAID Grant program is largely due to the efforts of many government and community officials, selfless citizens, and the thankless efforts of our NM Environment Department. In addition to allocating grant funds, the RAID Alliance also works hard to promote recycling and enhance recycling infrastructure and methods. I challenge everyone who reads this article to join the RAID Alliance in this effort by volunteering some time to your local organizations, counties, towns, villages, cities, etc. in their efforts to cleanup illegal dumpsites and areas around your community. I also challenge you to recycle and passionately promote recycling, especially with children. Together we can make New Mexico a more beautiful place to work, live, and play.

IMPORTANT 2017 DATES

AUGUST 1

eTraining Session:
“Transforming a Landfill into a
 Model of Sustainability”
 CABQ Open Space Visitors Center

SEPTEMBER 19-22

Landfill Operator Certification Course,
 Eastern New Mexico University
 Roswell, NM

OCTOBER 17

Regional Roundtable
 The Nancy Rodriguez Community Center
 (Tentative Location)
 Collection Issues and New Technology

NOVEMBER 13-16

Transfer Station Operator Certification
Course, Eastern New Mexico University,
 Ruidoso, NM

DECEMBER 8

Annual Meeting and
 Regional Roundtable
 Embassy Suites Hotel—LaVentana Room

2017 SWANA New Mexico Road-E-O Results

by Shirlene Sitton, Environmental Services Division Director, City of Santa Fe

Participants from all over New Mexico participated in the 2017 Road-E-O which occurred on May 6th in Santa Fe. The two obstacle courses were set up at the Caja del Rio landfill, one for heavy equipment operators that normally work at landfills and one for the traditional trash trucks (front load and side load) that collect trash and recycling from curbside programs. Drivers of any skill level are encouraged to participate.

In addition to winners based on the type of vehicle used, one overall winner from each category, landfill equipment and trash trucks, was chosen based on overall points awarded by the judges. The driver and operator with the highest score will represent the NMSWANA at the International SWANA Road-E-O Competition in Orlando FL later this year. In total, we had 24 participants from eight different solid waste operations in New Mexico with the following eight winners:



OVERALL WINNERS:

Chris Francisco – Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency
Matt Lujan – City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Division

LANDFILL COMPACTOR:

1st Place: Chris Francisco – Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency
2nd Place: Angelo Mares – Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency

LANDFILL BULLDOZER (DOZER):

1st Place: Angelo Mares – Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency
2nd Place: Manuel Griego – Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency

TRASH TRUCK (FRONT LOADER):

1st Place: Matt Lujan – Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency
2nd Place: Orlando Tom – City of Gallup Solid Waste Department

TRASH TRUCK (SIDE LOADER):

1st Place: John Francisco – North Central Solid Waste Authority
2nd Place: Kris Lopez – City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Division

2017 SWANA New Mexico Road-E-O Results

continued from page 4



Overall Winners in 2017 SWANA Road-E-O Competitions

Matt Lujan	Charles Fiedler	Chris Francisco
City of Santa Fe	NM SWANA President	SFSWMA
Equipment Competition		Landfill Competition



1st Place Front Loader
John Francisco, NCSWA



1st Place Side Loader
Matt Lujan, City of Santa Fe



2nd Place Front Loader
Kris Lopez, City of City Santa Fe



2nd Place Side Loader
Orlando Torn, City of Gallup

SAVE THE DATE!

2018 SWANA Road-E-O Competition

by Randall Kippenbrock,
Executive Director, SFSWMA

Mark your calendars!

The Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency will host the 2018 NM SWANA Road-E-O competition on Saturday, May 8, 2018 at the Caja del Rio Landfill in Santa Fe.

The annual event will provide operators of solid waste collection and landfill equipment an opportunity to showcase their skills.

The event will also promote professionalism on the part of operators and create a spirit of competition and goodwill throughout the participating solid waste authorities, municipalities, counties and tribal communities.

Stay tuned. New developments of the 2018 Road-E-O competition will come out over the next nine months.

2017 SWANA New Mexico Road-E-O Results

continued from page 5



1st Place Landfill Dozer
Angelo Mares, SFSWMA



1st Place Landfill Compactor
Chris Francisco, SFSWMA



2nd Place Landfill Dozer
Manuel Griego, SFSWMA



2nd Place Landfill Compactor
Angelo Mares, SFSWMA



Los Alamos County
2017 SWANA New Mexico Road-E-O



North Central Solid Waste Authority
2017 SWANA New Mexico Road-E-O

What's Going on at SWANA?

by Danita Boettner, P.E.,
SFSWMA and NMSWANA's
International Board
Representative

WASTECON

WASTECON/ISWA preparations and planning are accelerating. Nearly every day, we are adding new content to the website and/or posting something on social media about Baltimore. The majority of the educational sessions and tours are locked in and posted on SWANA's website" swana.org/Events/WASTECON.aspx. We already have people from 36 countries registered! We believe that with the Early Bird registration scheduled to expire soon, we will see a lot of people, particularly ISWA members, register over the next few weeks. We don't want SWANA members to not have their choice of hotels, so it's time to register and make hotel/flight reservations. You can register here: swana.org/Events/WASTECON/WASTECON2017Registration.aspx.

SWANA has arranged discounts on United and Southwest Airlines, as well as Amtrak. This will be the first time that the ISWA World Congress takes place in North America since 1998 – based on the response from exhibitors and attendees at Waste Expo, it's going to be HUGE!

ISWA Scholarship Fund – About 15 – 20 chapters have made contributions, with most of the contributions in the \$1,000-\$1,500 range. SWANA hopes that other chapters will make similar donations. In addition, a long-time IB member has made a significant personal contribution to the ISWA Scholarship Fund, and SWANA will shortly be unveiling a webpage on which individuals can make contributions that will be combined with the SWANA contribution to the ISWA Scholarship Fund.

continued on page 7

What's Going on at SWANA?

continued from page 6

The New York Times published a Letter to the Editor (LTE) submitted earlier this month by David Biderman, Executive Director and CEO of SWANA, in response to an article on New York City's efforts to divert food waste. The LTE, which was reviewed and approved by SWANA's NY chapter IB rep, can be found here: www.nytimes.com/2017/06/09/opinion/diverting-food-waste.html.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Michelle Leonard and David Biderman serve on a U.S. Department of Commerce Advisory Committee (ETTAC) that promotes environmental goods and services provided by U.S. companies. Last week, the "Waste Working Group" held a call and SWANA will be taking the lead on developing Tool Kits that can be used to encourage potential purchasers overseas to upgrade their solid waste infrastructure. They identified 5 countries for which they will develop toolkits over the next 6 months, with Brazil being the first country. This activity will help us promote WASTECON to international attendees, and post-WASTECON, help position SWANA and its members as subject matter experts on solid waste-related topics.

RECYCLING

As some of you may be aware, earlier this year, China imposed "National Sword" in response to the low quality of imported recycled scrap and waste it is receiving from other countries. This contributed to the decline in recycled commodity prices in April. Subsequently, there are strong rumors that China is planning on announcing restrictions and bans on imported scrap and waste, which could take effect in 2018. Waste Dive wrote about this yesterday, and the articles at the following links provide some additional information:

www.wastedive.com/news/isri-rumors-of-chinese-scrap-import-ban-being-taken-very-seriously/444909/ and resource-recycling.com/recycling/2017/05/23/national-sword-upending-exports/ Yesterday, David Biderman sent a memo to the Executive Committee, SMM Technical Division Director, and the new Advocacy Group, summarizing the issue and potential SWANA actions. SWANA staff is having preliminary discussions with other stakeholders and federal officials to better scope the extent of the issue, which will help assist in determining a course of action.

NATURAL GAS TRUCKS

SWANA partnered with NGVAmerica in 2016 to develop a white paper concerning safety issues associated with natural gas-fueled garbage trucks. NGVAmerica indicates that as a result of the VW Diesel Settlement, funding is available to help defray the additional costs associated with purchasing NG garbage trucks. Members should look into taking advantage of this opportunity.

MENTORMATCH

SWANA recently started a new program to support the professional development of our members. MentorMatch is an on-line tool that helps match mentors and mentees who share similar interests. We have a growing number of SWANA members interested in being mentored, and need more members to volunteer to be mentors. I hope that several of you will mentor the young professionals (YPs) and others seeking your expertise and wisdom, and that you will tell other experienced, long-time SWANA members about this terrific new opportunity. More info is here: community.swana.org/mentoring.

NSPS/EG LANDFILL EMISSIONS RULES

As you may have read, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency has issued a letter stating it intends to issue a stay of the NSPS/EG regulations governing emissions from landfills. This request was made by SWANA, Waste Management, Republic and the National Waste and Recycling Association, who are the joint plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging these rules, which were issued in July 2016. The stay is a significant advocacy victory for SWANA. A thank you to the members of the LFG/Biogass Working Group should be extended to those who have been managing this issue for years, and in advance, for your future work on this important topic. Waste Dive's summary is here: www.wastedive.com/news/epa-plans-to-issue-90-day-stay-on-nsps-eg-landfill-rules/442535/

AFFINITY PROGRAM

The purpose of SWANA's new Affinity Program is to provide members and affiliated companies/local governments with useful services and to return a small royalty to SWANA. The Board has delegated the responsibility to negotiate the Affinity agreements to David Biderman and a committee. Please consider some of the terrific new Affinity Program partners/vendors. Information about the various Affinity partners is here: swana.org/Resources/AffinityProgram.aspx.



NM SWANA Chapter to Host Electronic Training Session on August 1

by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

The New Mexico Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA will be offering a training session for FREE on August 1, 2017. This program, titled “Transforming a Landfill into a Model of Sustainability” discusses a variety of programs initiated by Pitkin County, Colorado to provide the community with several material management options while preserving precious disposal capacity. Following the webinar, attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the presentation information and compare it with operations of other facilities.

Pitkin County diverts nearly 60% of incoming material for either recycling or reuse. In order to conserve disposal capacity in an area of high land costs and shrinking land availability, the County

has implemented a number of programs to encourage material diversion and reuse, while also creating a product that has positive economic value. Specifically, the webinar describes multiple diversion and reuse programs, including: single-stream recycling at public convenience centers; large scale composting operations; creating a soil and aggregate product from dirt and rock formerly destined for landfill disposal; latex paint recycling; a “Drop and Swap” re-use area; and a year-round electronics collection and recycling program.

In order to promote public education, the County has also developed a Living Lab Workshop series. For example, free workshops are provided to the public at the landfill, with an emphasis placed on using hands-on techniques toward

materials management and sustainability. In addition, NMED/SWB has reviewed the content of this Training Session and determined that it meets the definition of “alternate training”. Therefore, participants can earn two (2) credit hours (i.e., CEUs) for attendance, which can be used by Certified Operators toward the renewal of their Operator Certification. (Note: Renewal of Operator Certification requires 24 hours of approved course work within 3 years of previous Certification issuance). As part of the overall training event, a light lunch and refreshments will be served.

Registration details for this Electronic Training Session are include on the home page of the Chapter’s website: www.nmswana.com

Las Cruces Roundtable Meeting: April 18

by Charles Fiedler, P.E., LEED AP Senior Project Director, Gordon Environmental/PSC

SWANA their Spring Roundtable Meeting in Las Cruces. We were the guests of the South Central Solid Waste Authority. Patrick Peck, Authority Manager, hosted the event that included seven participants from all over the state and beyond. We had a lively discussion regarding how to minimize waste in recycling collections and took a virtual tour of the newly constructed Chaparral Collection and Recycling Center that recently opened. We also toured the Authority Transfer Station in Las Cruces.

