



**SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSULTANTS**

# WASTE OUTLOOK

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. • FALL 2019

## In This Issue

**Complete Turnaround of Guam Solid Waste System Achieved as GBB's Receivership Partially Ends**

**City of Huntsville, AL Launches New and Efficient Curbside Recycling Program**

page 2

**Sustainability Leader Jennifer Porter Promoted to GBB Vice President**

page 3

**Pennsylvania's Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority Measuring Impact of Recycling Policy Changes**

**Harvey Gershman Presented with SWANA's Lawrence Lecturer Award**

**Two Young Professionals Join GBB!**

- Eric Garvey
- Ricky Phillips

page 4

**Taunton, MA Moving Towards Sustainable Solution Blending Environmental Responsibility and Economic Viability**

**Remembering David Manning**

**Sustainability and Circular Economy Summit Webcast**

## Complete Turnaround of Guam Solid Waste System Achieved as GBB's Receivership Partially Ends



GBB's 11-year federal receivership over Guam's solid waste and disposal services partially ended on April 30, 2019 per a court order issued by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood

of the United States District Court of Guam. Administrative and managerial responsibilities over the Guam Solid Waste Authority's day-to-day operations were returned to the Government of Guam while GBB continues its work to complete establishing the post-closure oversight for the Ordot Dump.

In March 2008, the Chief Judge issued a court order appointing GBB as Receiver to achieve what the Government of Guam was unsuccessful in reaching during the previous 22 years - compliance with the Clean Water Act through compliance with the 2004 Consent Decree. When the Judge tasked GBB with implementing the Consent Decree, it required a 180-degree turnaround of a completely dysfunctional solid waste management system while closing a dump that had been open for nearly 70 years. The

*Continued on page 2*



*“The court is very proud of the work accomplished by the Receiver [GBB] over the last 11 years. The Ordot Dump has been closed, and the Receiver has installed the necessary systems to protect Guam's waters from this environmental hazard that had plagued the island for decades.*

*The Receiver has built a modern solid waste system for the island which includes a compliant solid waste landfill, a recycling program and a household hazardous waste disposal center.”*

*-- Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood in April 29, 2019 court order*

## City of Huntsville, AL Launches New and Efficient Curbside Recycling Program

Early this past summer, the Recycling Alliance of North Alabama (RANA), a newly formed division of the Solid Waste Disposal Authority of the City of Huntsville (SWDA), launched a new free, opt-in curbside recycling program. As SWDA outgrew its previous recycling collection program, RANA was designed to be an ever-evolving program to fit the needs of residents and be more efficient, cost-effective and user-friendly.



Available to all residents of the City of Huntsville and Madison County, representing approximately 125,000 households, the program's most noticeable improvements are the expansion of recycling collection service to about 20,000 households previously unserved, and the replacement of 18-gallon bins with much larger 95-gallon rolling carts, allowing both less frequent servicing and automated collection, which is much less labor-intensive than the manual collection of the smaller bins.

*Continued on page 2*

## Sustainability Leader Jennifer Porter Promoted to GBB Vice President



A sustainable development leader who joined GBB in 2017 as a Senior Project Manager, Jennifer Porter was promoted to GBB Vice President early this summer. She has more than 17 years of experience on sustainability initiatives for both governments and the private sector, with expertise in solid waste management, recycling, and composting program evaluation and development.

At GBB, she has managed multiple key projects including leading the team tasked with planning and implementing the development of a circular economy Sustainable Business Park with an ambitious goal to achieve 90% waste reduction by 2030, in Kent County, MI.

Early in her career, she was Conservation Program Coordinator for more than 6 years with the City of Portland's (Oregon) Office of Sustainable Development.

Based in the Catskills, New York, she can be reached at [jporter@gbbinc.com](mailto:jporter@gbbinc.com) or (347) 979-4992.

*Continued from page 1*

## City of Huntsville, AL Launches New and Efficient Curbside Recycling Program

GBB assisted SWDA's decision-making process with the initial analysis of residential collection services and the development of strategies/options to improve the waste and recycling management infrastructure, leading to a new innovative once-a-month collection program. GBB was then tasked with leading the planning, procurement, stakeholders and community outreach, public education, and implementation assistance efforts, in partnership with McNeely Brockman Public Relations, to establish RANA and launch the new program.

### Off to a Good Start

The new program has seen much success and participation over its first three months of operations. In June, residents were able to register for the program, and it had approximately 64,500 households participating in the first three months, up approximately 25,000 households from the previous program participation, with a set out rate over 80%.

*Continued from page 1*

## Complete Turnaround of Guam Solid Waste System Achieved as GBB's Receivership Partially Ends

Consent Decree, signed between the Government of Guam and the United States Environmental Protection Agency on February 11, 2004, ordered the Government of Guam to close the Ordot Dump, cease all discharges into the Lonfit River, open a new municipal solid waste landfill facility, and develop and implement recycling and hazardous waste strategies to reduce the volume of materials going into the landfill.

Inheriting a solid waste management system plagued by serious operational, financial, and administrative problems; known and unknown environmental issues; and decrepit facilities, GBB assembled a multi-disciplinary team of solid waste, procurement, landfill engineering, financial, and communication experts to develop a turnaround plan and present to the Court a roadmap to accomplish the Consent Decree projects and reform Guam's solid waste management system.

Working with GovGuam, the U.S. military bases, private waste haulers, and other stakeholders in Guam, GBB has closed the Ordot Dump, opened a new sanitary landfill, implemented cart-based waste and recycling services, bulk waste collection services, opened a new household hazardous waste facility and upgraded Guam's residential transfer stations, in full compliance with the requirements of the Consent Decree. This has been accomplished under the guidance of the Court and in consultation with the U.S. EPA and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

Detailed information about the Guam Receivership and the turnaround of the island's solid waste management system can be found at:

- **Overview of the Guam Solid Waste Management Receivership**  
(PowerPoint presented to the U.S. District Court of Guam on March 6, 2019)  
[www.gbbinc.com/GBBReceivershipOverview](http://www.gbbinc.com/GBBReceivershipOverview)
- **Transforming Guam's Solid Waste Management System from the Ground Up**  
Article by Chris Lund, GBB SVP, published in WasteAdvantage magazine  
[www.gbbinc.com/LundWasteAdvantageJune2015](http://www.gbbinc.com/LundWasteAdvantageJune2015)



*"The entire Receiver Team is pleased to have had the opportunity to build a modern solid waste system for Guam. The island now has the opportunity to build on our work and maintain this system, but it will require continued focus of the fundamentals.*

*We are very proud of our work to close the Ordot Dump and build the necessary systems to protect Guam's environment, and we look forward to completing our post-closure work on the Ordot Dump in the coming months."*

*-- - Chris Lund, P.E.  
GBB Senior Vice President &  
Receiver Senior Project Engineer*

## Pennsylvania's Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority Measuring Impact of Recycling Policy Changes

In the summer of 2018, shortly after changing the requirements for curbside recycling to only allow the “big four” recyclables (flattened cardboard, plastic bottles and jugs with narrow neck openings, metal food and beverage cans, and glass jars and bottles) -- a major departure from the previous recycling requirements -- the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) tasked GBB with performing an initial characterization study on the collected recycling stream.



About a year later, this past August, GBB performed a nearly identical study to compare the results, help measure the effectiveness of the policy and education efforts and adjust - if necessary -- education programs and enforcement going forward.

The final statistical comparison analysis has not been finalized, but some initial observations from the waste sort are as follows:

- More than 70% of the Single Stream material from both sorts are part of the “Big 4” items.
- There does appear to be less newspaper and fiber than during the previous sort, meeting a LCSWMA goal to focus on the “Big 4”.
- Due to rains during the sort, some of the loads were wet, which degraded some of the cardboard. Ways to keep materials dry prior to delivery to the Transfer Station may need to be considered.
- Percentage of actual trash (food, textiles, etc.) was very similar to the previous sampling, although there were less diapers (from 6 to 3 pounds of diapers)! 🌱

## Harvey Gershman Presented with SWANA's Lawrence Lecturer Award

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) awarded Harvey Gershman, GBB Founder Owner Associate and Co-Founder, the prestigious 2019 Lawrence Lecture Award at WASTECON 2019, in Phoenix, AZ. The award is presented annually to an individual recognized as a leader and expert with a substantial, significant, and sustained contribution to the field of solid waste management / environmental protection.



As the 2019 Lawrence Lecture Award winner, Harvey was part of the line-up of keynote speakers at WASTECON as part of the Pathway to Innovation conference theme. He provided his firsthand take into the evolution of solid waste management since the '70s; lessons learned along the way; insight into key projects that have resulted in sustainable, efficient integrated waste management systems and accepted by their communities and leadership; and words of wisdom along with some interesting anecdotes based on his extensive industry experience!

- **Lawrence Lecture Keynote (42-minute video):** [tinyurl.com/GershmanLawrenceLecturer](https://tinyurl.com/GershmanLawrenceLecturer)
- **Lawrence Lecture presentation (PowerPoint presentation):** [www.gbbinc.com/GershmanLawrenceLecture2019](http://www.gbbinc.com/GershmanLawrenceLecture2019)
- **SWANA's Press Release:** [tinyurl.com/LawrenceLecturer](https://tinyurl.com/LawrenceLecturer)
- **Interview (3-minute video):** [tinyurl.com/SWANAGershman](https://tinyurl.com/SWANAGershman) 🌱

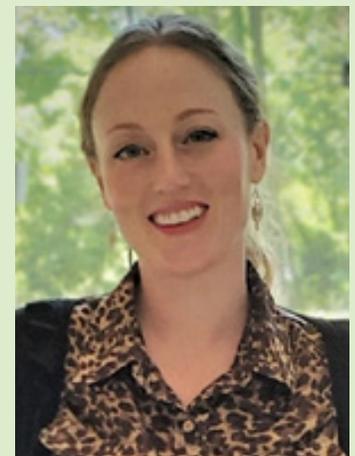
## Two Young Professionals Join GBB!

**Eric Garvey**  
Project Engineer I



A Process Engineer with 4 years of experience, he works on GBB assignments that include solid waste management system evaluations, equipment / facilities reviews, design development, cost projections, feasibility studies, and material characterizations. 🌱

**Ricky Phillips**  
Intern / Consultant I



A recent graduate with a Master of Science degree in Sustainable Communities from Binghamton University, she joined GBB as a summer intern and subsequently became a Consultant I. 🌱

## Sustainability and Circular Economy Summit Webcast



In mid-August, GBB Project Manager Corinne Rico attended the 2-day Sustainability and Circular Economy Summit, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, in Washington, DC.

The agenda featured insights on how to form innovative cross-industry collaborations, execute on upcoming sustainability commitments, and anticipate and address the next frontier of sustainability issues.

For those who could not attend, a 3+ hour video of key presentations can be streamed online for free at (scrolling down the middle of the page):

[tinyurl.com/USCCF](https://tinyurl.com/USCCF)



**SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSULTANTS**

2010 Corporate Ridge  
Suite 510  
McLean, VA 22102  
703.573.5800  
hello@gbbinc.com

[www.gbbinc.com](http://www.gbbinc.com)

## Taunton, MA Moving Towards Sustainable Solution Blending Environmental Responsibility and Economic Viability

With a landfill expected to cease operations in the spring of 2020, the City of Taunton, MA has been evaluating short- and long-term alternatives for the disposal of its residential waste and processing of recyclables with GBB's guidance. In early 2019, GBB began a two-prong strategy: a procurement to engage a contractor for interim disposal/processing in the short-term, and another parallel procurement process for waste conversion or other technologies to provide a long-term, permanent sustainable solid waste management system.



GBB Vice President Jennifer Porter at September 10, 2019 Taunton City Council Meeting. (Image Source: Taunton Municipal Network)

At an early September meeting, after review, evaluation and financial analysis of multiple alternatives, the Council moved to advance the most cost-effective and risk-averse option: negotiations with the contractor recommended by the evaluation committee, out of 4 proposals received, for the short-term solution covering 12,000 tons of MSW and 5,000 tons of recyclables annually.

The request for information and qualifications for innovative long-term solutions yielded 7 responses ranging from various technologies to long-haul transport and disposal. The GBB Project team is evaluating the responses and moving along the multi-step procurement process towards the selection and implementation of a sustainable solution that is both responsible environmentally and economically viable.

## Remembering David Manning

David Manning, a long-time friend, public servant, and colleague, died on August 4, 2019. David and GBB have had 20-year relationship. He was first our client in Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County where he guided the re-engineering of the solid waste management system there including implementing the Curby recycling program, redeveloping the district energy system, which serves so many major downtown public and private facilities, and lowering the overall cost of its solid waste disposal.



After leaving Metro Nashville government, David served as GBB's Representative when we were fortunate to be selected to be the Receiver for Government of Guam's solid waste system appointed by the Federal District Court Chief Judge. With David's leadership and financial acumen at the helm, we accomplished great things in both Nashville and Guam.

Professionally, David had a work ethic that was second to none, with an impressive depth of knowledge, and the ability to keep things simple, even in complicated situations or when facing complex challenges. Multiple articles commemorating his service to the citizens of Nashville and Guam capture the breadth and importance of his long-lasting accomplishments.

More importantly though, is that he was kind, respectful, a good listener and a gentleman. He was always striving to do the right thing. He will be missed - GBB's thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

May David Rest in Peace knowing so many jobs were so well done. Thank you, David.