

SWAAC Meeting Minutes
Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
September 9, 2021 Online Meeting

Attendance

SWAAC: Anne Johnson, Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Navarre Bartz, Jesse Warren, Margaret Eldridge, Teri Kent, Monty Harris. Peggy Gilges

Liaisons: Donna Price, Phil McKalips, Shirese Franklin

Others Attending: Sage Bradburn

Absent: Liz Palmer

Action Items:

- Teri and Anne will discuss preparing a news story about illegal dumping in Albemarle. Pending
- Phil will contact Atlas EPS recyclers in Martinsville about picking up styrofoam
- Navarre will share Albemarle's "quick reference" guide with all SWAAC members
- Monty will continue trying to contact ABC about any state bagging requirements.
- EJ will share GBB case studies with the SWAAC members once the study has been finalized in addition to providing a formal presentation to SWAAC. EJ has been busy with COVID vaccination requirements.
- Lance will share times and dates of meetings associated with the Southern Convenience Center (done via email on 9/21)
- Anne will share a presentation from the last Plastic Prevention Advisory Council meeting
- The operations workgroup will work on a media alert to promote glass recycling at the County recycling centers
- Phil look into glass recycling messaging through RSWA
- Christine will try to contact managers at GFL to invite them to the next SWAAC meeting and discuss partnering on glass recycling messaging. (No luck yet after multiple tries by phone and email)
- All SWAAC members agreed to identify and/or recruit at least one new member.
- Liz will look into how working groups can hold a virtual meeting

Old Business:

- Navarre completed Albemarle's "quick reference" guide
- Lance reported that he met with the County Attorney about the GBB study and associated ordinances (hauler requirements).
- Monty contacted Scott Defife and Owens Illinois (OI) about glass recycling. A virtual meeting with representatives from OI has been scheduled.
- Christine and Teri met and made plans to update the C3 blog about what happens to items in curbside recycling
- Anne reported on the Plastic Prevention Advisory Council August meeting. Presently, there is no remote access and the meetings are not recorded.
 - Presentation by Amy Gray from Newport News about enforcement program to curb litter and illegal dumping using cameras and a dedicated special collectins force.
 - VDEQ presented information about reporting. Virginia MRFs are considered recycling facilities, not waste facilities so they do not need to be permitted and they do not need to report.
 - The next meeting will be a policy discussion specifically concerning EPS and the plastic bag tax
 - The state does not have data on total plastic waste generation or the amount of plastic pollution entering the environment. There will most likely be recommendations for gathering this data.

- Advocacy opportunity occurs when the meeting happens. The next meeting is on September 28th

County Report: Lance provided this update

- There will be two meetings associated with the Southern Convenience Center (SCC). The first is a virtual public engagement meeting on September 30th with a paper mail notification in advance of the meeting to area residents. The second meeting on October 19th involves a formal presentation to the planning commission who will need to take action to determine whether the planning department plan for the SCC is in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. Participation and support from SWAAC members at the meetings are welcome.
- A future convenience center in the northern part of the County will be up for consideration by the BOS
- GBB and Hauler requirements are in progress The County is in the review of the final report. They will look at the hauler requirements recommended by SWAAC and the case studies in the GBB, then consult with the County legal team to see what requirements can be implemented. The requirements will then need to be processed into legal code. The City of Charlottesville is 8 weeks behind the County in completing its report. Liz asked that SWAAC get a copy of the City's report.
- "Love Albemarle" litter awareness campaign being developed by a cross-department group that includes community development, environmental facilities, parks, and rec, schools, communications, and equity and inclusion offices. The pilot program will include four events during the fall. Each event will take place in a different quadrant of the County and will have a different litter focus (roadways, furniture, and appliances, trails, waterways, and stormwater). This will be carried over to an educational campaign during the winter and a joint, collaborative effort with the City of Charlottesville in Sugar Hollow in the spring. Partners include Rivanna Conservation Alliance and ACPS student cleanup events that happen before sporting events. The program will be evaluated for the following year to look at future funding needs and/or partners. EJ will keep the SWAAC updated on the program.

Planning and Vision Group: Peggy and Navarre

- Discussed implementation of the plastic bag fee.
 - Peggy sent finalized guidelines from the Va Department of Taxation
 - SWAAC members were asked to provide feedback on Plastic Bag Fee FAQs.
 - The timeline for implementation needs to be coordinated with the City
 - The city of Alexandria held a virtual public meeting. Retailers want help explaining the purpose of the tax in the form of an education campaign.
- GFL
 - Peggy brought up discussions she is seeing on Next Door concerning GFL customers who seem to be unhappy that GFL is limiting trash pick up to one bin each week and not accepting overflow. Much confusion with schedule changes.
 - GFL is being transparent about the type of plastic accepted and no glass
 - Time Disposal is now part of County Waste which is a subsidiary of GFL
 - Teri asked what role can/should SWAAC play in helping citizens understand changes in curbside recycling by private haulers. Everyone agreed that it is important to do what we can to inform the public.

Operations Group:

- Productive August in-person meeting.
- Glass Recycling- concerned about price dropping below zero, but will continue to do necessary outreach to Nelson County and others
- Monty is continuing work on composting in the schools
- EO77- learning lessons in trying to transition away from single-use plastic
- Solid Waste Planning update- Jesse and Phil are working with Shirese to review and help out with some of the tables and graphics
- Discussed the opportunity for glass recycling now that GFL is being more transparent about glass
- Discussion about formulating a media alert to encourage glass recycling at MRC and IMUC. All agreed it would be ideal to partner with GFL in creating the messaging.
- How can we help citizens navigate the services provided by haulers
- Next meeting at COB picnic tables on September 23 at noon

Education and Outreach Group:

- Recycling Ambassadors:
 - Betsey continues to be a volunteer extraordinaire. Recruiting new volunteers and showing up consistently for several hours each week.
- Litter Events
 - The group will support the [“Love Albemarle” Campaign](#)
 - Schenks Branch (creek adjacent to MRC) would be a good candidate for a cleanup event
 - Next meeting at COB picnic tables on October 1st at 5 pm

Other matters:

- New officers: Christine and Peggy volunteered to co-chair and to take turns recording minutes. Anne nominated Christine and Peggy to act as co-chairs and Navarre seconded this motion. All members voted in favor.
- Need to recruit four new members by December 2021.
- Anne shared informational slides from the most recent Plastic Prevention Council meeting
- Thank you to Anne for her service as chair for the last two years!

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2021.