

Draft SWAAC Meeting Minutes
Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
October 14, 2021

Attendance:

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

Liaisons: Liz Palmer, Donna Price, Phil McKalips, Shirese Franklin, Lance Stewart, Elizabeth Jones

Others Attending: Betsey Soulsby

Absent: Teri Kent

Action Items:

- Teri and Anne will discuss preparing a news story about illegal dumping in Albemarle. Pending
- Lance and EJ will share GBB case studies with SWAAC when able. Pending
- Anne will share information about October PWPAC meeting.
- The operations working group will brainstorm about promoting glass recycling at County recycling centers and/or discuss pilot curbside program for glass with City in urban area.
- Phil will see about using RSWA's Facebook page to promote glass recycling at RSWA facilities.
- Peggy will send the SWAAC's letter in support of the plastic bag ban to the BOS. Done 10/19.
- Link to updated "Quick Reference"/County Recycling, Reuse, HHW Guide to be provided to SWAAC. Done.
- Christine will start to assemble a list of local haulers with contact information and information about where they take waste and recycling.

Old Business:

- September SWAAC minutes approved.
- Monty confirmed that there is no legal requirement in Virginia to bag alcohol.
- Illegal dumping should be reported to the police, as they track dumping sites. If dumping is in progress, take photos/film it and get the license plate number of any vehicle involved. Some localities use cameras to catch illegal dumping. Items dumped in VDOT right of way will be cleaned up by VDOT. On private land, property owners have that responsibility. If on public parkland, contact Parks and Rec.
- Re GBB report, Lance said case studies include Teddy's recommendations and above and beyond. He can give us an update after the next Planning Team Meeting.
- Jay Zook of GFL will attend our December meeting to talk about their service and answer any questions we may have.
- Christine is working with Teri to update C3 blog post on local recycling.
- Neighborhood Disposal is using Republic for recycling. They state that they recycle glass in some locations.
- Scottsville Disposal is looking into providing recycling. They take waste to Zions Crossroads.

- Liz asked if we could find out which small haulers are using the RSWA transfer station at Ivy. Christine will start to put together a list.
- Anne gave update on the Plastic Waste Prevention September meeting. November report will cover how to most effectively roll out plastic bag tax and EPS ban. Considering offering a range of fees for plastic bags; the higher the tax, the greater the compliance. Considering using revenue from EPS non-compliance to help small vendors with cost of non-EPS food containers, which tend to be more expensive. MRFs in VA are not considered waste facilities therefore not required to report metrics. Contracted haulers can be required to report “mixed recyclables” but don’t break out types of materials so not very helpful.
- Albemarle Co. plans to incorporate the plastic bag tax into FY2023 budget process. SWAAC should investigate best practices for introducing bag tax. First bag taxes in VA will be in Roanoke, Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria and Fredericksburg as of Jan. 1, 2022. Bag tax needs to be coordinated with City, possibly TJPDC since other area counties may like to do the same.
- Working group meetings—two can meet without notice, agenda, minutes.
- Truth in Recycling legislation passed in CA to address frustration consumers have about what actually is recyclable or being recycled.

County report, Lance

- Update on Southern Convenience Center. Public meeting generally went well. Good support for the facility, but some concerns with traffic impacts at Plank/250 intersection, Post Office entrance/exit, 20 South. VDOT will compare with other sites to check out concerns. Looking at traffic calming features such as a flashing yellow light at Rt. 20 intersection. David Benish and staff recommend approval. Planning Commission will meet on 10/19 at 6pm. Petition posted at Post Office in opposition but not many signatures.
- Ed Brooks coordinating community litter pick up in the Esmont/Scottsville and Keene areas the last weekend of October. Will combine with community event at Yancey, making it more of a family event.

Planning and Vision Group report

- Discussed letter from SWAAC to BOS in favor of plastic bag tax. Since County moving forward, revise letter to indicate support for introduction of the plastic bag tax as part of FY2023 budget planning. Add that taxes collected can also be used for local clean-ups and environmental education.
- Liz sent plastic bag tax FAQs that SWAAC reviewed to NBC29.
- MOTION: To approve the letter from SWAAC in support of the plastic bag tax, with revisions suggested by Liz and Donna. Anne moved, Navarre approved, letter approved unanimously.

Operations Group report

- Ops still working to get Nelson to participate in glass recycling aggregation at Ivy.
- Owens-Illinois may pay more for our glass than Strategic Materials.

- Jesse to discuss possible curbside pilot with Kristel Riddervold of the City. Ops would like to get details on what City requires in its contract with haulers re: glass.
- Ops interested in the feasibility of curbside glass pilot with 1x/month pick up at the curb.
- School compost: Christine, Monty and Teri talked with Lindsay Snoddy. Back of house composting rolling out. Teri and Christine prepared signs for staff in schools about how to compost and why we promote composting.
- Monty and Teri are working with C3 on promoting composting in the private schools. Monty said that the Blue Ridge School has a top-notch program. Betsey spoke to a representative of Regency about setting up composting there.
- Eric/Black Bear can be very helpful with outreach and education.
- Jesse asked Andrea Trimble of UVA's Sustainability office to talk to SWAAC in November about EO77 and how it's going at UVA.
- Shirese Solid Waste Planning Unit update approved by the TJPDC and sent to the DEQ for approval. The next one is not due for five years, but we need to start now to make real progress for the next report.
- Education for small haulers. Liz spoke to Ridge Schuyler at PVCC and he will talk to Stephen Davis at Charlottesville Investment Collaborative (CIC) about entrepreneurial aspect of getting into waste hauling/recycling and diversion. Jesse shared SWANA links on education with Rich Hopkins, Assoc. Dir. of Grounds.
- Next meeting Thursday, 10/21 at noon.

Paper Sort report, Phil

- RSWA Board approved expenditure for a preliminary design/budget for a new Paper Sort facility to be operational in FY2023/4.

Education and Outreach Group

- Seeking more volunteers to work as recycling ambassadors.
- Discussed what media can be used to educate in advance of plastic bag tax. I love Cville media network was a new suggestion.
- Can we get info about glass recycling in HOA newsletters? And otherwise help dispel misinformation and distrust about recycling.
- Trex field trip: Margaret and Christine can set up a tour of their facility in Winchester. Christine will send around a doodle poll.
- Next meeting: possible litter pick up at McIntire while we meet?

Meeting adjourned at 5:30. The next meeting will be held on November 18, due to County Veteran's Day holiday on November 11.