

## Draft Minutes

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

February 10, 2022

Attendance: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Jesse Warren, Anne Johnson, Teri Kent, Navarre Bartz, Monty Harris, Sage Bradburn, Margaret Eldridge, Betsey Soulsby

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Lance Stewart, Elizabeth Jones, Isabelle O'Brien

Absent: Victoria Walsh, Donna Price, Phillip McKalips

### Action Items

- Peggy to send EJ word doc and pdf for updated Recycling FAQs for County website
- Peggy and Navarre to ensure most recent version of Quick Reference Guide is on County website
- Invite Lindsay Snoddy to report on composting and recycling in schools
- Jesse and Anne will meet with Jay Zook and Scott DeFife re: glass recycling
- Christine will communicate with Emily Kilroy and Serena Gruia about messaging on plastic bags.
- Navarre will update the quick recycling guide on Lithium-ion battery recycling
- Peggy will check to see if local pharmacies have instituted any take-back programs
- SWAAC and liaison members will review the hauler requirements section of the GBB study in preparation for March meeting

### Old Business

- January minutes were approved.
- The Governor's Plastic Waste Prevention Committee did not meet.
- Teri will be meeting with Lindsay Snoddy to get an update on recycling/composting in ACPS and to learn who the new contact person is. There is a concern about the lack of recycling in public schools.
- Evergreen is collecting recycling for the County office buildings. Employees bring their recycling to a central collection bin and Evergreen takes it from there.
- Discussion about FOIA meeting requirements. It was agreed that Jesse and Anne can meet with Jay Zook to discuss glass recycling. Anne will reach out to Scott DeFife to join this meeting.
- Christine will complete the plastic film recycling tip.

### Planning and Vision Group

- Peggy gave a GA update. Three product stewardship bills were laid on the table by the Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee and are unlikely to go anywhere this year. A bottle bill was introduced in the House, but the sponsor withdrew his support early.

### Operations Group

- The group did not meet this month due to snow day.

- Teri had a conversation with someone from Friends of Nelson. This group is looking for ways to get involved and may be helpful with glass recycling efforts.
- King Family Vineyard has closed the loop on their glass bottles. They are reusing wine bottles that are consumed on-site.
- Next meeting is proposed for noon on March 3rd at the County office building.

#### Outreach, Communication and Education Group

- Report on MRC. A new attendant has been hired and the plastics compactor is now running.
- Sage is developing a contact list of the County's HOAs for future outreach about recycling best practices. There are over 500 subdivisions in Albemarle County.
- Thanks to Margaret for arranging the Trex field trip. It was informative.
- Recycling Blog posted on C3 has had over 1200 hits.
- Christine and Peggy will be giving a presentation to the Sierra Club in March.
- Standing meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month 5-6 pm. The next meeting is on February 24 at 5 pm at the Northside Library.

Review of 2015 - **Discussion notes in red.**

Top Priorities for Immediate Implementation or Action Near Term (0-2 Years)

#### **Establish a Standing SMM Advisory Committee (Done)**

#### **Increase Recycling Options and Activities in Albemarle County**

- Provide RSWA appropriation increase to expand daily hours of operation at McIntire and Ivy MUC. **(Done)**
- Increase funding for custodial services and recycling/composting programs at County facilities  
**Ongoing- Custodial services for county office buildings are contracted and services are limited to removing garbage and emptying source-separated bins in copy rooms. Need to get more information about how recycling is handled in schools.**

#### **Institute and Support Education and Outreach Programs**

- Budget annually for educational materials and support to establish a community education program and coordinate with the City, TJPDC and UVA - work with County staff on messaging
- Ensure that uniform and correct terminology is used in marketing and educational materials

#### **Ongoing-**

- **Teri suggested that the outreach group develop four messages about recycling that could be run quarterly with dedicated messaging through the County and PSAs pushed through other media outlets**
- **Peggy recognized the litter awareness pilot program being spearheaded by EJ and County staff**
- **\$2,000/year is set aside for SWAAC support**
- **Still important to have a uniform and correct terminology**

#### **Create and Staff a County Materials Management Office**

- Appropriate additional funds for the SMM Coordinator position
- Future opportunity to tap EJ as a resource

### **Plan and Construct Ivy MUC Upgrades**

- Use existing capital funding and augment as needed to:
- Create a model recycling center (**Done**)
- Upgrade transfer station (**Done**)
- Establish some source separation of MSW brought in by small commercial haulers
  - Progress has been made for diverting yard waste.
  - Lance reported that the RSWA approved accepting clean/inert at a reduced tipping fee at Ivy MUC. Note that this is not landfill diversion or recycling, but Ivy has capacity that can be used for this purpose; the County recently changed its regulations to stop disposal of C&D in rural areas of the County.
  - SWAAC should hear from Phil about the success of segregating metals on the tipping floor.

**Table 2.** Additional Priorities for Near Term Implementation or Action Near Term (0-2 Years)  
Implementation Strategies Impact

### **Expand and Increase Special Collections**

- Budget annually for maintenance of secure collection repositories for:
- Pharmaceutical diversion program
  - Need to address the proliferation of Lithium-ion batteries. Important to educate the public about the importance of removing them and how to properly recycle them.
  - Navarre will update the quick recycling guide
  - Sage expressed concern about access to pharmaceutical collection- Peggy will check to see if any local pharmacies have instituted take-back programs within the past couple of years.

### **Launch a Public Discussion on Creating Additional Recycling Centers**

Much has been accomplished- the new Ivy Convenience center is open, with a model source-separated recycling area. Keene convenience center has been approved and there is a capital project request for a convenience center in the northern part of the county.

**Assess Implementation Impacts Using Established Metrics-** RSWA collects data. The GBB study provides guidance for hauler requirements and gathering metrics.

### **Grow Municipal and Public-Private Partnerships**

- Leveraging existing resources programs with local businesses
- Ongoing-
- Three private composting companies operating in Albemarle County.
  - As of December 2021 all ACPS have the opportunity to compost back of the house cafeteria food waste through contract with Black Bear Composting.

- SWAAC is working to establish partnerships with wineries and breweries for glass recycling.

**Review/amend Albemarle County Code Chapter on Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling**  
Ongoing-

- Important to review GBB study and move forward with Chapter 13 update of hauler requirements.

**Support Economic Development -**

- Focus on business development/ financial benefits of community participation

Ongoing-

- Important to work with composting companies.

Table 3. Recommendations for Implementation Within the Next Five Years Mid-Term (0-5 Years)

**Increase Recycling Options and Activities in Albemarle County**

- Establish a county-wide composting program and partner with the City
  - Need to look into the possibility of offering compost drop-off locations similar to the City program.
- Encourage HOAs to adopt curbside single-stream recycling
  - Ongoing work to establish HOA contact list for outreach and education.
- Establish incentives & drivers to separate recyclable and compostable materials
  - Need more education on composting
  - Bear concerns with composting in rural areas
  - Pursue drop-off sites for composting
  - More to be learned from GBB study

**Extend Recycling Collection in Urban Areas**

Ongoing Education Outreach to HOAs

**Expand and Increase Special Collections**

- Improve centralized universal, household hazardous waste (HHW) and e-waste collection  
This has largely been accomplished especially with year around acceptance of paint
- Consider door-to-door HHW collection program
- Improve/expand hazardous materials collection (unused or leftover paints, solvents, pesticides, cleaning and automotive products, and other materials) Done

**Support Economic Development**

- Consider economic development opportunities with recycled materials -Yet to be pursued
- Determine what businesses are doing and where improvements could be realized in recycling & composting

Opportunities for businesses to share best practices

- Green Business Alliance

- C3 Better Business Challenge

### **Foster Rural and Special Services**

- Carefully plan and establish rural recycling centers (ongoing- Ivy MUC, Keene CC, and a future CC in the northern part of the county)
- Create a framework for curbside single stream services in the rural parts of the county  
Private haulers have expanded curbside recycling services in the rural parts of county

Summary of discussion to establish the following top priorities:

1. Establish better metrics. Need to establish a baseline to be able to measure improvements. This is key to climate action goals. Strong need to update Chapter 13 hauler requirements to get metrics.
2. Establish composting and recycling in ACPS. This is an important step in establishing habits and educating future generations. (*Establish drop-off compost locations in urban areas similar to City program*)
3. Paper sort infrastructure improvements needed to provide more space and equipment upgrades to sort and bale recyclable materials. Lance shared the Paper Sort Study.
4. Need to address the proliferation of Lithium-ion batteries. Important to educate the public about the importance of removing them and how to properly recycle them. This could be part of a quarterly recycling tip along with one on plastic films and glass recycling.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm. Next meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022.