

Draft SWAAC Meeting Minutes
Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
July 14, 2022

Attendance:

SWAAC: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Anne Johnson, Jesse Warren, Betsey Soulsby, Navarre Bartz, Monty Harris, Sage Bradburn, Peggy Gilges, Victoria Walsh
Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Elizabeth Jones, Isabella O'Brien, Phil McKalips
SWAAC members absent: Margaret Eldridge, Teri Kent
Guests: Adam Gendell and Annie White

Action items

- Anne, Annie, Peggy and Christine will meet about committee membership.
- Christine and Monty will reach out to schools about composting.
- EJ will report on Loudoun County hauler documents.

Old Business and Announcements

- Round of introductions for our guest and potential new members, Adam Gendell and Annie White. Adam has worked at Green Blue on packaging and composting. He now works for the Recycling Partnership on the PET Recycling Coalition initiative. His professional work is mostly at the national and international level. Adam hopes to learn more about what is happening locally. Annie White just moved back to Albemarle County. She has been working on sustainable packaging, recycling, recovery and composting for over 20 years. Most recently led the zero waste effort for Washington, DC. Presently Annie is working for Resource Recycling Systems on glass recycling and helping rural communities establish recycling programs.
- Adam Gendell and Kendall Dix have applied for membership to the SWAAC, leaving no more openings. Anne suggested that we review attendance. The expectation is that each member will attend at least 9 of the 12 meetings per year. Anne anticipates being in Asia this fall and suggests that Annie, Anne, Peggy and Christine meet to discuss how to move forward.
- In September SWAAC will be meeting in person.
- July 2022 agenda approved by all members present.
- June 2022 minutes approved by all members present.
- Christine and Jesse met with Jay Zook and the local GFL sales manager. We discussed partnering with GFL on messaging around glass and plastic film recycling. We also discussed the possibility of GFL hauling glass from large producers (breweries and wineries) in Albemarle County to the Ivy MUC at a price point similar to what would be charged to landfill the glass. We shared the list of interested parties and tonnages. There is a plan to meet again in two weeks to follow up.
- Christine has made contact with the representatives of the Albemarle County Schools Parent Council. She has also spoken to the vice principal at Greer ES about expanding the composting program.

- Anne and Monty were not able to meet about grant opportunities. Anne commented that EPA recycling grants are available but the application is complicated. Anne suggested looking into grants being offered by the Recycling Partnership and other organizations. There are grant opportunities through the Virginia Litter Fund. Anne suggested that we compile a list of our needs and map it to grant opportunities. Phil said that the DEQ litter grants are open to municipalities and their representatives. RSWA has received money from the non-competitive grants in the range of \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year. That money is put towards RSWA recycling. The Town of Scottsville or a representative could apply for the non-competitive grant on their behalf. Anne said that the EPA has an RFI seeking feedback on how the grants are administered. Annie promised to keep the SWAAC updated on grant opportunities. Peggy noted that the County does not have the staff to apply for some of these federal grants. Christine and Peggy could respond to the RFI to provide feedback on what would make the application easier.

County report (EJ reported on the information she received from Loudoun County about their hauler requirements).

- Loudoun County has made revisions to the four chapters of code that governs their solid waste program.
- Enforcement has been moved from General Services to Zoning. This is an indication that they have had to go to court for enforcement.
- The program has been streamlined so that it went from being administered by 4-6 people to one person.
- EJ noted that Loudoun has 30 haulers and that there are only 3 in Albemarle County.
- EJ will be looking more closely at the documents and will report back on what she has learned.

Planning and Vision Group

- The amount of trash received from out of state went down slightly last year. The amount of waste being deposited in Virginia landfills rose by 1%.
- Peggy regretfully reported on the passing of Randy Layman. He served on the original long-range Solid Waste Solutions task force and he was a local waste hauler who initiated the first recycling program in Albemarle County. He was a very valuable asset to the committee and a strong advocate for the creation of a local transfer station.

Operations Group

- Victoria is taking over the leadership of the group and a meeting can be expected sometime during the last two weeks of August.

Outreach and Education Group

- The group did not meet in June.
- There are new safety rules concerning the proximity to the containers at MRC for employees and Recycling Ambassadors.

- Christine needs to follow up on the work that Sage started on HOA outreach.
- Betsey suggested that we need to do more outreach to businesses so that they know what County services are available for their recycling needs. Peggy suggested that we ask Teri about advice on how to do this.

New Business

- Christine reported on the van der Linde (VDL) tour and how construction and demolition debris is being recycled. Christine asked if the C&D debris collected at the Ivy MUC could be sent to VDL for recycling. In 2019, Phil spoke with Andrea Johnson from VDL about pulling out C&D debris and shipping it to them. At the time, they charged \$53/ton and RSWA charged \$52/ton. The numbers didn't add up then, and now in addition to price point challenges there is no room on the Ivy tipping floor to segregate the C&D debris. There is so much traffic now that it is even difficult to segregate the metal.
- Christine asked about increasing the RSWA tipping fee as a way to pay the extra cost to have the material recycled. Phil commented that the point of building the new transfer station was to provide a service to the citizens of Albemarle County at a reasonable price. There is a balance between the number of customers and keeping customer costs down. It is difficult to charge a different fee for C&D and MSW.
- Peggy asked about the possibility of raising the RSWA tipping fee to be on par with VDL. Phil responded that there are many factors including tipping fees and fuel costs so it is difficult to determine how a nominal increase in the tipping fee would impact customers.
- Phil recommended that we ask for VDL's receipts for assurance about where the material is going. Anne commented that tools other than tipping fees should be explored to incentivize waste diversion. She said we need to make sure that the Ivy MUC remains economically sustainable. Anne has brought up the need for a state landfill tax in the Virginia Governor's Council on Plastic Waste Reduction. The funds generated could be used to help fund diversion initiatives.
- Phil said that there are businesses and organizations like UVA that are sending their C&D to VDL to meet LEED certification recycling criteria. Peggy said that one of the goals of the Planning and Vision group is to look at ways to incentivize C&D diversion.
- Christine asked if there is a possibility of accepting bulky non-food grade plastic items at MRC and the Ivy MUC that could be sent to VDL. Phil and Anne expressed concern about managing contamination. Anne suggested offering an Amnesty Day for bulky rigid plastics and marketing the material directly to a recycler rather than going through VDL. Phil suggested that we start with the recycler and work backwards.
- Christine mentioned that the VDL flyers about mattress and carpeting recycling have been posted at MRC.
- Phil had to leave the meeting early.
- There was a question about the future site of the sorting and baling facility.
- Christine finished reporting on the VDL tour. PVC piping is another material that is being pulled out for recycling, and they plan to start recycling asphalt shingles as a road base material.
- Christine will invite Andrea Johnson from VDL to speak at our August meeting.

- Peggy proposed that we continue to meet at the same time for our future in-person meetings. There were some questions about whether members could phone in and EJ promised to look at this option.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next SWAAC meeting will be held Thursday, August 11, 2022.