



Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Thursday, September 8, 2022, 4-5:30 pm
County Office Building, 402 McIntire Rd
Room 235

Attendance:

SWAAC: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Victoria Walsh, Betsey Soulsby, Jesse Warren, Kendall Dix, Margaret Eldridge, Teri Kent, Adam Gendell

SWAAC members absent: Navarre Bartz, Monty Harris

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Isabella O'Brien, Phil McKalips, Lance Stewart, Repp Glaettli

Others attending: Annie White, Gabe Dayley

Old Business and Action Items:

- September 8, 2022 agenda approved
- August 2022 meeting minutes approved
- Victoria agreed to act as secretary. Members will take turns recording notes for the minutes during the meeting. Victoria will write up the minutes and send a draft to members for review. [See template](#)

Guest speaker: Joe Szakos on waste diversion for building materials

Joe has been working with Habitat for Humanity to develop a pathway to divert usable building materials from landfill disposal to use in building / renovation projects. This expands Habitat's offering from accepting materials to actively seeking out and picking up materials. These are frequently unused materials and may occasionally include repairable power tools.

Potential outlets for these materials include

- Habitat for Humanity
- Other contractors? *liability may be an issue
- Smaller woodworking shops
- UVa architecture school students / projects

Joe is currently running one truck one day a week and looking for opportunities / resources to scale. Gaps and opportunities:

- Increased storage/sortation space for recovered items
- Additional, preferably renewably-powered, vehicle
- Awareness to increase number of participating contractors
- Partner with tool library
- Coordinate with demolition projects to harvest used materials

County Report Out

- Notes on in person meeting rules
 - Teleconferencing is not supported
 - Members must be present to vote
 - Having someone on speakerphone during the meeting is not disallowed
 - Members listening in remotely will not be counted as present for meeting
- SWAAC appreciates EJ's support and wishes her the best in her new endeavors. Our new point of contact for posting on county calendar is Repp Glaettli (rglaettli@albemarle.org)
 - Reminder: meeting time, location and agenda for all meetings are posted publicly. Information should be sent to Rep 5-7 days before the meeting.
 - The county calendar may be accessed here: [County Calendar | Albemarle County, VA](#)
- Schools composting update:
 - Crozet Elementary has a new principal. They are expected to continue the program. Monty will be checking with two other sites for status.
 - Greer is using compostable utensils and reusable trays. Christine will be speaking with parents' association to increase awareness.
 - Black Bear bins are now posted at every County school, all cafeteria staff have been instructed on use.
 - 1st graders will be conducting a pilot for composting their food waste and also learn about compost in garden program.
- Data on diversion rates: Arlington and Loudoun County have successful programs, their SOP under review to see if we can adopt any best practices. Note – Fiscal year is July-June and budget requests are made in Oct. TBD – what is the scope of data we'd like to track?
- Fall litter pickup is in planning stage, Peggy will follow up for details.
- Southern Convenience Center construction starting imminently. Projected opening in Spring, expect to have a date soon. Plan is to have a table at Farmers' Market to increase awareness.
- Sustainable materials management is a climate issue, part of the Climate Action Plan; we need to keep communication open on this. SWAAC has requested a materials manager. Could it be a source of data? Is there an opportunity to partner with TJCPD for this as a regional effort?

Bella reports that there are 2 new EPA grants to support 1) education and outreach 2) infrastructure support. How would we propose using these to make progress with waste reduction / increase composting and recycling?

Planning and Vision

- Looking into compost application to farmland for carbon sequestration- could TJSWCD grant be used to support a pilot so impact could be measured?

Operations

- No news, starting up regular in person meetings
- John Coles from ACPS will be invited to the next meeting.

Education and Outreach

- Need for awareness of bag tax implications? Removal of fruit/vegetable stickers before sending scraps to compost
- Update county website list for waste diversion opportunities

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Next SWAAC meeting will be held **in person** Thursday, October, 13, 2022, 4-5:30 in Room 235 of the County Office Building.