

## **SWAAC Meeting Minutes**

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

August 11, 2022

### **Attendance:**

SWAAC: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Sage Bradburn, Monty Harris, Victoria Walsh, Betsey Soulsby, Jesse Warren, Kendall Dix, Margaret Eldridge, Teri Kent, Ann Johnson, Adam Gendell

SWAAC members absent: Navarre Bartz

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Isabella O'Brien, Shirese Franklin, Phil McKalips, Lance Stewart, Elizabeth Jones

Others attending: Annie White, Robert Soper

### **Old Business and Action Items:**

- August 2022 agenda approved
- July 2022 meeting minutes approved
- Christine and Monty to work on the school composting.
- Teri updating the list of glass waste producers. Ops continuing to discuss getting contact info to GFL for these producers or helping arrange a meeting for interested producers to meet the GFL sales rep to get an idea of hauling expenses.  
Annie White to discuss whether a grant from the Glass Recycling Fdn. can help with this endeavor—grant deadline 9/30.
- Christine and Peggy to look into tabling at the farmer's market for the Keene convenience center.
- Christine and Teri to follow-up about recycling in schools.

### **Guest speaker: Andrea Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, van der Linde C&D Recycling, Troy, VA**

- van der Linde is a privately owned, state-regulated recycler of C&D waste and other materials not collected curbside. They do not handle hazardous materials or food waste.
- They receive from 200 to 500 tons of waste per day.
- Andrea walked us through all the materials they recycle currently: stumps generated by land-clearing--they sell the dirt that comes in with the stumps as topsoil; Wood from land-clearing and untreated construction wood is ground and may be used as mulch or fuel for paper mills. Other materials recycled are: cardboard; concrete, brick, block, rock (made into gravel); drywall (recently approved by EPA as a soil amendment); metal; some types of PVC (goes to Azek for decking); stripped wire; rigid #2 and #5 plastics, including construction buckets, children's toys, garden pots (goes to Butler Paper); plastic film (to Trex).
- Still-useful items that arrive on the tipping floor are set aside for resale, with proceeds going to charity.
- New recycling areas planned are: nylon and polypropylene carpeting, carpet padding, foam from mattresses and furniture cushions (to DC Foam); mattress shredding (for wood, foam and metal); asphalt shingles (for use over gravel roads as a dust

suppressant), densifying Styrofoam for recycling (currently goes to Avangard Innovative).

- Processing line: materials go from tipping floor to finger screens used to separate larger pieces, smalls drop through—small metals are captured using an electromagnetic screen. Hand-pulling from conveyor for desirable materials (cardboard, metals, clean fill), Air Knives remove undesirable materials— Tyvek or insulation, for ex.

#### Questions for Andrea:

- What percentage of waste is vdL able to divert? They are working toward their Recycling Certification with the Recycling Certification Institute in CA. The exact amount is hard to determine-- they receive some clean loads that are 100% recycled. From the C&D MRF they get between 51-55% diversion, by weight. Over the last 3 years, they are receiving less dirt and concrete, and are getting more lightweight plastics. If they include the clean material with the material from the MRF they figure they are able to divert about 76% of what they receive.
- What is the process for recycling mattresses? Do you have partnerships with hotels for ex., that dispose of mattresses every couple of years? New mattresses and old can never touch. They are trying to work with contractors to divert. Must be mattresses in relatively good condition. Some Richmond area landfills are not accepting mattresses or are charging high tipping fees for them. Richmond convenience centers reported receiving between them as many as 175 mattresses/day! Four states have legislation banning mattresses from landfills. (Note to SWAAC: CT, RI and CA have EPR laws for mattresses see <https://www.productstewardship.us/page/Mattresses> to learn more about these programs.) vdL is currently disassembling mattresses by hand. Cotton mattress covers can be marketable, but not polyester.
- Do they foresee recycling textiles? No.
- Who are their customers? All vdL orange dumpsters come to vdL for processing.
- Incentives to come to vdL vs. taking things straight to landfill? We are open to the public. Most people don't care, as they are looking for the most economical disposal. The vdL MRF tipping fee is in line with other tipping fees in the area. vdL gets most of the land-clearing debris, esp. stumps.
- How do you protect workers for ex. in processing Styrofoam? Workers all use respirators. The styrofoam densifier removes air, it isn't a chemical process.
- Will vdL do all the asphalt shingle processing? Yes, we will basically grind them, remove metals (nails) for recycling. VT, OH, MN have approved this product as a dust suppressant for gravel roads. Just sprinkle it over gravel, sun melts it.
- Landfilling of residual C&D waste goes to a special C&D landfill? Yes, it goes to a certified C&D landfill. It's very dry. It doesn't have leachate like MSW.
- Is there a characterization of residuals from the MRF? Yes, it's plywood (glues and resins prevent recycling it), insulation, Tyvek. We harvest corrugated plastic pipes but it takes a long time to accrue a sufficient amount for shipping. Every residual is disposed of responsibly.
- How many other state-regulated facilities for C&D are operating in VA? Besides us, Broad Run in Manassas, S.B. Cox in Richmond.

- How can we let our community know that there are options for recycling problematic items rather than landfilling them? We hope to work with other facilities like Ivy to divert as much as possible. Maybe we can work together to develop recycling jobs, more recycling opportunities in central VA.
- Andrea invited SWAAC members and others to tour the vdL facility. We have solar energy on the roof of our large MRF and enthusiastic employees.
- Robert Soper attended our August meeting. He recently moved here from the Portland, OR area, where “recycling is a big deal,” and is interested in learning more about how he can recycle more in Charlottesville.

### **Old Business, continued**

- Discussion with GFL will be discussed under Ops report out.
- Re school composting and recycling, we have the latest report from Black Bear, and John Coles told Christine that the ACPS is planning to put recycling bins in classrooms and common spaces this year, to be managed by custodial staff. Monty and Christine will follow up on compost.
- Lining up grants for recycling/composting. Can one of the work groups take that up?
- Meeting about SWAAC membership. Anne has been a wonderful, inspiring contributor and led SWAAC for two years as Chair. Anne will step down to make way for Annie, but will still participate as she cares so much about Albemarle’s progress. Anne should send a resignation letter to EJ. Thank you, Annie, for your willingness to join us and bring your expertise! Currently we are one member over. Lance will provide options for how to address that.

### **County Report Out**

- Lance told us that EJ will be moving on to a different county department, and this is her last meeting with us. Litter pick-ups that EJ got going this year with ACPS will continue. EJ will get the SOP hauler requirement document for FES before she departs, and her replacement will help us with implementation. There is the possibility of budgetary impacts for hauler requirements. FES budget process for next year will begin next month.
- RSWA authorized purchase of a new baler. Lance has discussed with the Charlottesville Director of Public Works, Stacey Smalls, bringing a request for funding for a new baling facility this year. City’s climate goals include waste-related goals like the County’s. New baler may arrive Oct./Nov.
- Southern/Keene Convenience Center. Contract has been awarded for construction. Some local concerns still. Many people don’t understand this is not a transfer station, but primarily a recycling facility. Emphasizing making responsible recycling and tag-a-bag waste disposal easy and affordable, helps to prevent illegal trash burning and dumping. Make use of any community events to spread the word, share information that this is a

positive development, such as tabling at Scottsville farmer's market and other community events.

- Additional new road tractor authorized by RSWA for hauling from convenience centers.

### **Planning and Vision**

- City passed the plastic bag fee. Kristel Riddervold is the lead for this in the City. County's main point person is the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Jacob Sumner. He's coordinating with the City on communications planning. Bag tax will go into effect in City and County on Jan. 1, 2023. FES is not going to be engaged but Communications will be.
- Fredericksburg expects \$40,000 revenue this year from the bag tax.

### **Operations**

- Victoria is taking the lead on this group and is in the process of planning a meeting for Aug. 25.
- Jesse met with Jay Zook and John Childress about glass hauling and messaging around getting glass and plastic bags out of the single-stream curbside collection. GFL is willing to be a hauling partner for glass, and will send a sales rep out to the sites to get a better idea of what the hauling would entail. Do we have a current list of all the high glass-waste producers in the area? A sales rep could go out and understand what would work for these companies.
- Teri said a City Schools parent has been talking to her about wanting to bring recycling back to City schools. Christine will work with Teri on letting City schools know that the County is going to be making a big effort on both recycling and composting this year.
- Annie White works with GPI, Glass Recycling Fdn. Jesse has already been in touch with Scott deFife. The glass aggregated in the region would go to Strategic Materials in NC. Bottle to bottle recycling would be ideal. VA glass furnaces don't have wine bottle molds –yet.
- Annie has agreed to join Ops. GRF grants deadline 9/30, she could help if we want to apply.

### **Education and Outreach**

- Meeting August 25.
- Christine prepared our Annual report to the Board of Supervisors.
- The direction staff has been given on in-person meetings is that committee members may call in on occasion, but cannot vote in that case.
- Teri wants the County to be better able to quantify our progress on SMM. Christine suggested Teri could wordsmith that recommendation for inclusion in the report if she would like.
- Annual report approved with Kendall and Adam abstaining, since they just became members this month.

This is the last meeting Shirese Franklin will be attending. Isabella will be taking over for her from the TJPDC.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Next SWAAC meeting will be held **in person** Thursday, September 8, 2022, 4-5:30 in Room 235 of the County Office Building.