



## Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee



### Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2023, 4:00 pm  
County Office Building, 401 McIntire Rd  
Chris Green Room 420

#### Attendance:

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

SWAAC members absent: Margaret Eldridge, Annie White, Monty Harris and Navarre Bartz

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Donna Price, Lance Stewart, Repp Glaettli, Isabella O'Brian

Margaret Bloom, Mike Kruse, and Jamie Powers were welcomed as guests

#### Old Business and Action Items:

- January 12, 2023 agenda approved (Kendall moved; Peggy seconded; all were in favor)
- December 8, 2022 meeting minutes approved (Kendall moved; Peggy seconded; all were in favor)

#### Guest speaker: Margaret Bloom, Panorama Paydirt

- Have been doing windrow composting (~4 months processing time), which is optimal for green waste. Panorama includes leaves collected (free of charge) from the city and has recently seen more green waste coming in from landscapers.
- Shifting to more aerated static pile (ASP) composting, which is better for processing food scraps (~2 months processing time).
- Not yet operating at full capacity with the existing six ASP bunkers but seeing many opportunities for growth; preparing to build another set of six bunkers.
- Experiencing some issues with consistency of food waste feedstock streams.
- Moving into a new operations office that will allow tours, educational sessions, etc.
- Panorama currently supplied with food scraps by four approved customers: RSWA, Natural Organic Process Enterprise (N.O.P.E.), Life Cycle Organics, and Snowing in Space.
  - Panorama may consider adding more.

- Pursuing the development of a Master Composter program to match the Master Gardner, etc programs.
- Panorama's front-end pre-sorting is effective at removing most contaminants, though Panorama imposes contamination limits on incoming feedstock.
- Tip fees are charged for green waste and food waste.
  - Food waste tip fee is ~\$2/ton less than landfill tip fee at Ivy (though only pre-approved entities can supply to Panorama).
  - Green waste tip fee pricing is variable but for higher volumes is generally at a larger price advantage versus landfill tip fees.
- Panorama's compost meets the criteria for "organic" designation and their process has high enough temperature to destroy seeds.
- Want to work with Black Bear and others to promote International Compost Awareness Week (first week of May).
- Kroger has expressed interest in delivering food waste to Panorama but their volumes are too high for Panorama's current capacity.
- Panorama isn't averse to taking food scraps with compostable packaging. BPI-certified foodservice ware has generally been non-problematic; there are lots of uncertified and lookalike items that show up, but those items haven't been prohibitively problematic.

#### **County Report Out:**

- IT is able to support AV setup for remote guest speakers.
- SWAAC charter can be amended; amendments must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- Isabella continues to investigate the viability of applying for an EPA grant.
  - Phil is pursuing a SWIFR grant for the baling facility.

#### **Planning and Vision:**

- Last meeting: Thursday Jan 5th (Peggy, Adam, Kendall)
  - Discussed best practices and considerations for organics diversion from the GBB report, including case studies relating to biosolids processing, organics collection practices, landfill bans on organics.
    - Lance shared an update on the City's ongoing study with GBB, which has had some intentional pauses and delays due to changes within City government; current status of the project is TBD.
  - Discussed hauler permitting and the potential to require private haulers to meet emission standards, offer curbside recycling and/or composting subscription collection, and more.

#### **Operations:**

- Has not met since last SWAAC meeting; plans to meet on January 26th.

#### **Education and Outreach:**

- Discussed plastic bag tax and reusable bags.

- Jim and Donna indicated that the magnitude of pushback from residents has been relatively small.
- It was noted that paper bags are not subject to the fee and there is observational evidence that paper bag volumes are growing disproportionately to any growth of reusable bag usage.
  - Some grocery stores are voluntarily charging \$0.05 per paper bag.
- Scheduled to meet Jan 12th evening (following SWAAC meeting)

**New Business and Discussion:**

- February meeting: Adam will present on PET recycling.
- March meeting: Craig Wittig from The Recycling Partnership will present on their community grant partnerships.
- Peggy and Christine's offices of chair and vice-chair are set to expire in June and neither will seek another term.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30

Next SWAAC meeting will be held **in person** Thursday, February, 2023, 4-5:30 in Room 235 of the County Office Building.