



Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Thursday, July 13, 2023, 4-5:30 pm
County Office Building, 402 McIntire Rd
Room 235

SWAAC Meeting Minutes

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
Date 7/13/23

Attendance:

SWAAC: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Victoria Walsh, Betsey Soulsby, Kendall Dix, Teri Strother

SWAAC members absent: Margaret Eldridge, Adam Gendell, Annie White

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Donna Price, David Rhoades for RSWA/Phil McKalips, Lance Stewart

Other attendees: Mike Kruse, Evergreen Recycling

Old Business and Action Items:

- July 2023 agenda approved
- June 2023 meeting minutes approved

Guests: County Climate Action Dept. Interns: Cynthia, rising 4th year, at UVA, Environmental Science major, and Gabby, graduated from UVA with a B.A. in Environmental Science, is now a Master's student at Batten School of Public Policy. They are working on GHG measurements - filling in the gap year for the emissions data (2018-2022).

Updates from co-chairs Christine and Peggy

Looking at the charge— want to add an advisory youth representative for a one-year term (minimum 8 month and maximum 12 months). This would be a non-voting position. One to two youth representatives. Lance suggested they could have a less formal role, less formal guidelines in a separate paragraph of the charge.

SWAAC Rolling Work Plan [shown on screen] (using the Natural Heritage Committee's form as a template)

- Key Action Items
- Who
- Next Steps
- Progress, Completion, Measurements of Success

Jamie will share the Climate Action Department's priorities for SMM at the August meeting, so SWAAC members will be able to use those to build a work plan at that point.

Secretary duties - Teri needs to make a signup sheet.

Jamie mentioned other community groups – such as NAACP, IRC, should know about SWAAC's work, e.g. talk about what SWAAC does at a monthly meeting. And it would be nice to have more diversity on the committee.

Membership-wise Mike Kruse is interested and Joe Szakos. Did Caetano from C3 ask Cultivate? Teri will check.

Betsey will meet with Ed Brooks at Yancey Community Center in general and about composting.

One of our goals is to reach out to underserved communities.

One of our goals is to reach out to Youth - potential places for a youth rep. include Office of Sustainability at UVA; ESO (Environmental Student Organization) - sometimes they have presenters; Society of Women Engineers.

Check with John Coles or ACES whether there is a list of existing groups to connect to. Victoria - will reach out to University students (C3/Teri can help with their list of contacts); Christine - High School; Mike Kruse - CHS kids Green Bacon Group.

Jessie Brookins, DEI head at County would be a good person to ask.

What is our offer in return for SWAAC membership? Direct line to decision-makers; influence policy ideas; address climate justice issues through solid waste and alternatives. Ideas are generated here and have the potential to move forward.

Mike Kruse mentioned CHS's student-led effort on composting – the kids approached him. Victoria suggested a Journalism group or class could cover.

Annual Report needs to be delivered to the board each year. Christine looked at all minutes to come up with Annual Report action items. Thanks, Christine!

The requirement for subcommittee meeting is to post an agenda in advance for general public viewing, but we don't have to provide minutes for the meeting.

Group discussion on challenges:

- Confusion on mtg requirements is resolved
- Quantifying successes - working on this and work plan will help
- Concerns about member participation - we can have two Zoom meetings per year as NHC does

- Teri mentioned follow-up on the part of members (herself included) - the work plan should help

Remember we were successful at encouraging the County to avoid artificial turf fields at Darden Towe. The fields will be improved, but artificial turf will not be used..

Draft Minutes need to come out sooner so that action items are remembered and worked on. Let's clarify the procedure/rules for the minutes, but it would be helpful to have action items posted as soon as possible to keep momentum going.

County Report Out (Lance)

Southern Convenience Center Ribbon Cutting went well.

At their next meeting on July 19th, the Board will consider a resolution for a site for the Northern Convenience Center. One of Brookhill's proffers is on the table for the County to accept if they want. It's bacon shaped - quarry and forested. Had a study on different uses - boys and girls' club, vehicle maintenance, schools, and also did a convenience center at the Northernmost part. Centrally located, accessible northern area. Board will consider a resolution at their next meeting; then accept the proffer would be the next step; design firm under contract. No residential neighbors, the only neighbor is the quarry. Very buildable site. Great news.

Re: Haulers who create litter by failing to secure or cover their loads: Lance mentioned this is a perfect example of the potential of a County ordinance update to add hauler requirements. The County could add enforcement, require inspection of trucks, stickers – all those weeds have resource needs.

Any word on grant application on baling facility? Will hear "Late summer, early fall" City and County have it in the CIP Capital Improvement Plan - would save 2 million dollars. Contract for design was approved by the board.

David Rhoades, RSWA

Southern Convenience Center: Customer base is a slow build. Right now - only 50 visits/day. Average 10/people per day for tag-a-bag. Will do a customer survey soon. Love the design of this convenience center. Ivy's has been open three years, and receives 100-120 visits/day now. RSWA did a mailer to community members in Keene area. Green Mountain Store sells tag-a-bag stickers. Retailers make \$1 for every \$2 tag-a-bag sticker they sell. Talk to your store about selling tag-a-bag stickers. Recycling is more popular than tag-a-bag.

Planning and Vision/Operations:

- Raleigh MRF (where our rigid plastics go) can take #5s now. David stated that he did not believe it would be possible for RSWA to add any new materials for recycling without an updated baling facility.

- Owens-Illinois is seeking more recycled glass for cullet. Would they be a better option than Strategic Materials for our recycled glass?
- Also working on the updates on the Recycling Guide on the County's website.
- Next meeting: first Tuesday 4-5pm (want to change the meeting time).
- Peggy will send around a poll.

Education and Outreach:

- Composting in schools:
 - 13 are collecting; 9 are not; 5 are participating in the lunchtime composting program. We now have a spreadsheet.
 - Will meet with John Coles.
 - Want to make a toolkit.
- Outreach to underserved communities
- Christine will pitch the idea to help composting - Piedmont Master Gardeners.

New Business and Discussion:

Donna Price - Went to a High-growth County Coalition meeting today. General election starts in 70 days. The House of Delegates will come down to 8 delegates. Control of the Senate will come down to 2 seats. Be thinking about the General Election and implications on climate action/progress. Data centers are a big issue: Prince William County has 33, Loudoun has 141 data centers. Keep in mind these are 8-story data centers that need water for cooling, create noise, and consume large amounts of energy. Industrial solar and crypto mining also came up. Farm bureau talked about individual property rights. County is currently evaluating solar ordinance - some people say the market should decide where it goes. Where should we come down on all of these issues? Data centers are bringing an incredible amount of money. Hugely complex. Fall elections are important. Decision-makers need to hear feedback from the community.

Future consideration for this committee— expect a break early June or late July due to County BOS holiday at that time.

Action Items:

- Teri will check to see if Cae asked the Cultivate Charlottesville group about sending a member.
- Teri will create a Secretary volunteer sign up form.
- Betsey will meet with Ed Brooks at Yancey Community Center in general and about composting.
- Check with John Coles or ACES whether there is a list of existing groups to connect to about youth members. Victoria will reach out to University students (C3/Teri can help with their list of contacts); Christine will reach out to High School; Mike Kruse will reach out to CHS kids Green Bacon Group.
- Let's clarify the procedure/rules for the minutes, but it would be helpful to have action items posted as soon as possible to keep momentum going.
- Peggy will send around a poll for the Operations/Visions group.

- Christine will pitch the idea to help composting in schools to Piedmont Master Gardeners for their volunteer hours.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31pm

Next SWAAC meeting will be held **in person** Thursday, August 10, 4-5:30 in Room 235 of the County Office Building.