

Draft Meeting Minutes
Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
November 9, 2023

In attendance

Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Betsey Soulsby, Adam Gendell, Mike Kruse, Joe Szakos, Victoria Walsh, Kendall Dix

Absent: Teri Strother, Annie White, Margaret Eldridge

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Jamie Powers, Isabella O'Brien, David Rhoades, Phil McKalips

Guests: Chuck Delanoy

Worked on recycling in Quebec. Take plastic soda bottles and cut them up, resell the caps and labels, make rolls of film for resale. Oral B used recycled plastic.

Call to order

Done.

Establish a Quorum

Done.

Welcome/Acknowledge guests

Done.

Review agenda and approve

Done.

Review [October Draft Minutes](#) and approve

Done.

Announcements:

- Harris Teeter: Adam has discovered that all of our local grocers are participating in local food redistribution except for Harris Teeter, which is a subsidiary of Kroger. Harris Teeter had a policy preventing redistribution but they are changing the policy. Harris Teeter does try to compost and donate to Blue Ridge Food Bank.
 - Suggestion to call Harris Teeter and thank them.
- December 14th meeting will be held on zoom.
- Betsey requested a tour of a paper recycling plant in Ashland, VA. They said they'd be happy to host us. No open-toed shoes. Prefer early afternoon. 800 acre facility. Company based in Quebec. Recently reopened from a newspaper recycling facility. They make corrugated cardboard.
- County received a letter from a 4th grader who's concerned about plastic pollution
 - Would like the county to endorse the Break Free from Pollution Act
 - Brief discussion on the merits of BFFPA v. the REDUCE Act. General agreement that BFFPA is more ambitious but that both will have trouble passing given the current make-up of Congress.

Action Items/Followup

- SWAAC Charter changes

- Legal is determining whether the Board writes our charter or we write it ourselves.
- Student Engagement on SWAAC
 - Met with students who are interested in attending future meetings.
- New SWAAC member orientation materials
 - Christine has created a folder that's documents for new members to review. Lots of history

Discussion:

- Environmental Stewardship Chapter AC44 Draft Action Steps as it relates to SMM - Feedback
 - Met with the county to talk about clean fill. Want to know the status of [Chapter 13](#), the code on recycling and waste. SWAAC wants to be involved with changes to the ordinance.
 - Discussion about objectives of AC44:
 - If this goes out to 20 years, we can be more ambitious and shoot for zero waste .
 - The words "green" and "resilience" can be vague.
 - Jamie: There's a background chapter for each section of the comprehensive plan. They worked with Office of Equity and Inclusion to make sure climate and equity are woven in throughout
 - Revisions on individual objectives were offered to Jamie
 - Environmental services wants our feedback on objectives and potential action steps.
 - Opportunity to be specific, such as reusable items rather than single use plastics.
 - Discussion about the Dillon Rule and whether the county should be working with other counties to fight for more local control.
 - Level of specificity required: think of action steps as strategies. It's helpful to refer to climate action plan or reports that the county has already commissioned, such as GBB Study

County Report Out:

- Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach grant opportunity
- Jamie talked about the above EPA grant that the county will apply for.
- Part of overcoming doubt is explaining the recycling supply chain. Damage caused by companies claiming "single stream" = combined MSW and recycling.
- EPA wants you to echo what they're looking for. Reuse is nice but grant is asking about recycling
- Climate Action Grant Awardees
- Above item deferred for next time
- Phil: city needs to hold recyclers accountable through permitting requirements or contracts with haulers

Planning & Vision/County & RSWA Operations Group:

- Lead: Peggy Gilges, Members: Peggy Gilges, Adam Gendell, Kendall Dix, Teri Strother, Victoria Walsh, Annie White
- Update of Quick Reference Guide
- AC44
- Next meeting- Tuesday 11/14 from 4:00 to 5:00 in the county office building

Outreach, Communication & Education Group:

- Lead: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Members: Margaret Eldridge, Peggy Gilges, Betsey Soulsby
- Composting in schools
- Next meeting- the second Thursday of the month 5:30-6:30 at the COB room 235

Further Discussion:

Letter to Chesapeake: don't go to "single stream"/all-in-one-bin msw and recycling. Not in our charter but we can send as individuals

Rigid #5 Plastic Political signs are all going in trash. Metal and plastic film is recyclable.

Action Items:

- Thank Harris Teeter
- Add David Rhoades to SWAAC listserv
- Peggy will do a doodle poll for tour of paper recycling facility
- SWAAC members asked to make detailed comments on AC44 Objective 5 by November 30.
- Share CCC blog post about recycling
- Provide ideas to Jamie for how the county can communicate to public and increase faith in recycling and decrease contamination

Adjourn