



Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Thursday, April 11, 2024, 4-5:30 pm
County Office Building, 402 McIntire Rd
Room 235

Draft SWAAC Meeting Minutes

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

Attendance:

SWAAC: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Victoria Walsh, Betsey Soulsby, Kendall Dix, Teri Strother, Adam Gendell, Joe Sakos, Mike Kruse, Kaleigh Reno

SWAAC members absent: Adam, Victoria, Kendall

Guests: Chuck Delanoy, John

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Jame Powers, Isabella O'Brian, Phil McKalips

Review agenda and approved

Review [March minutes](#) and approved

Announcements:

Presentation and Q&A (15 minutes): Mike Kruse: Recycle Everything Recyclable - lessons on reducing waste with a locally owned car dealership.

- Working to reduce waste
- roof is covered with solar panels which cost millions
- Supported Clean Car Act
- Promotes sale of electric vehicles
- improved recycling by changing containers and improving signage
- Bag free recycling receptacle to prevent bag/film contamination and because black bags of recycling look exactly like black bags of trash
- CMA pledged to go "water bottle free" but simply switched to aseptic cartons which are ironically much less circular.
- Scrap metal goes through Gerdau - ferrous (iron, steel) go to the Gerdau mill in Petersburg to be made into construction beams.
 - Mechanics at neighbor dealership still choose to trash rotors, ostensibly because the garbage roll off is a dozen steps closer (and rotors are heavy).
- Tires shredded and likely sent to African export markets for use as fuel.
 - Not great end markets for tire waste in general. Alternative daily cover? Pyrolysis? Landfill might make the most sense today.
- Need markets for pallet waste. RSWA doesn't mulch pallets any more because nobody wanted the pallet-derived mulch due to uncertainty around the chemical treatment of the wood.
 - Van der Linde takes pallets and mulches and/or sells them to paper mills for fuel.
 - There's a group "TB Pallets" in Augusta who ostensibly takes in pallets for reuse.

- Upping recycled content in office paper. \$8.15 more per box re: 100% PCR.

Action Items/Followup (5minutes)

- Student Engagement on SWAAC
 - Teri talked to Leyla Gardner (?) who raised the challenge of the cycle of students and suggest to speak with Zach Landsman - Teri will speak with next month about joining the committee and maybe bringing students. Hope is that Zach will be official steward of SWAAC engagement with students.
- Charter
 - County legal gave feedback - mostly administrative/editorial, some substantive.
 - Removed language about SWAAC developing recommendations for County staff.
 - It was noted that there is an existing SWAAC-dedicated webpage on the county's site that houses public information, etc.
 - Legal wants SWAAC to have one-year terms of each Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, expressed opposition to the current arrangement of Co-Chairs.
 - Secretary should be accountable for meeting minutes but doesn't necessarily need to be the one taking the minutes - can delegate.
 - Emphasis on formal acknowledgement that SWAAC meetings must be public for FOIA purposes.
 - Christine moved to accept the proposed changes to the Charter, Victoria seconded the motion, no opposition was expressed and the motion was approved.

RSWA News (10 minutes):

- Baling facility is 100% designed, will go to bid, construction should start this year.
 - "Paper sort" at Ivy MUC aimed at Summer 2025.
- Northern Convenience Center will go through initial approvals in FY24, design in FY25, construction in FY26, opening July 1 2027.
- County has requested RSWA up its tip fee from \$54 to \$58 per ton of MSW and C&D, vegetation from \$50 to \$54 per ton. Increases are viewed as modest and not even exceeding recent increases to the consumer products index.
- Shoosmith landfill got turned down by DEQ to expand and expected to close within 5 years. Will impact GFL and Van der Linde.
- Republic transfer station in Zion Crossroads is also closing.
- McIntire will close May 1st to conduct maintenance and upgrades. Only closed minimally - maybe only one working day.
- Ivy MUC to close June 10th to replace a scale - hopefully just 2 days of work.

County Report Out (10 minutes):

- Plastic Bag Tax
 - Sierra Club asked Peggy about County enforcement - even friendly enforcement - of the plastic bag fees.

- AC44
 - Jamie says that new draft of AC44 should go out for public comment by the end of this month (re: action steps).
- Policy recommendations / legislative priorities due by August.

Work Plan Reports (25 minutes):

- Hauler Requirements -Peggy/Victoria/Chuck
 - Want to review the GBB report on hauler reqs, haven't met yet.
 - Need to look at current ordinance that will need updating to conform with AC44
- Organics- Teri/Kaleigh
 - Met and discussed scope on current landscape, consumer awareness, identifying the biggest generators, barriers, move to solutions phase, including communications, engagement, behavior change. Emphasis on linkages between food waste and climate.
 - Need to wrangle balance of focus on yard waste and food waste.
 - Belief that food waste vastly outweighs yard waste, perhaps 3:1.
- County procurement policies - Mike/Betsey/Chuck
 - Want to learn benchmarks on paper procurement tonnage and characteristics.
 - SPLC was mentioned as a potential resource.
- AC44-Christine/Adam
 - Looking at other chapters and have surfed through and made comments and recommendations in google docs.
 - Noted that Goals and Objectives are fairly set in stone. Adam and Christine working to recommend Action Steps. Noted that the Parks & Rec Goals and Objectives didn't give much launchpad for incorporating SMM tenets.
- Legislative Priorities-Kendall/Joe
 - Meeting right after SWAAC's June meeting.
 - Working to rightsize scope. Christine recommends taking on "top three". Don't want to risk overwhelming the process.

Work plan prioritization, sharing notes, and calendar deadlines (10 minutes)

- Everyone agrees to determine the next meeting and workplan in the coming week.

Adjourn