

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Attendance:

SWAAC: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Victoria Walsh, Betsey Soulsby, Joe Szakos, Kaleigh Reno

SWAAC members absent: Mike Kruse, Kendall Dix, Adam Gendell

Guests: Chuck Delaney, Zach Landsman, Teri Strother

Liaisons: Jim Andrews, Jamie Powers, David Rhoades

Bea LaPisto-Kirtley was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Peggy Gilges. A quorum was present.

Christine Hirsh-Putnam moved, with a second by Victoria Walsh to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Betsey Soulsby moved, with a second by Victoria Walsh, to approve the May Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Teri Strother said that UVA is hiring several positions.

Zach Landsman, a UVA PhD student, has joined the committee; he is waiting for his formal appointment by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. He is working on a plastic recycling project, working to be certified by Precious Plastics, looking to make furniture (and other longer term products).

Christine Hirsh-Putnam and Betsey Soulsby are discussing with the Albemarle County Environmental Stewardship (ACES) advisory group concerns with single-use serving ware versus washable processes. There has been progress with more schools working to pay more attention to recycling and composting programs. More teachers are also doing recycling projects in the schools. There is a need to talk to the county about using less paper and also collecting more (used) paper for recycling.

Ting Pavilion events do not have recycling. Peggy Gilges is trying to follow up.

The new charter was approved for the Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. Betsey Soulsby moved, with a second by Victoria Walsh to elect Christine Hirsh-Putnam as Chair and Betsey Soulsby moved, with a second by Victoria Walsh to elect Peggy Gilges as Vice-Chair.

RSWA News report from David Rhoades:

**There is a new inbound scale at the Ivy location; the electronics for the new scale died after seven hours. After the initial repairs, there have been additional issues with the scale and it is currently in need of repair again.

**They will be grinding mulch soon; 3,014 tons of woody debris will be made into mulch.

Jamie Powers gave a report on Climate Action Progress related to Sustainable Materials Management. In adopting the 2020 Climate Action Plan, this is a plan for the community to do things – there are 135 action steps for a wide range of actors: the government, businesses, farmers, community members, etc. Although

they are required to do so every two years, they expect to have a greenhouse gas inventory published every year. They are still working to improve the ways to collect data about waste. Transportation is 47 percent of emissions; stationary energy is next; agriculture next; and solid waste is about 5 percent. New methodologies will probably result in the solid waste percentage to increase.

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors set a net zero goal by 2050. Smart goals for the waste sector are 50 percent for organic recyclables. Currently, two staff people work on these issues. There are four strategies in the waste section of the CAP, with 20 goals. All these materials are available on the county website. There are conversations with the City of Charlottesville and UVA to leverage ways to reduce organic waste.

There is \$100,000 to grant for something related to Climate Change; the grantees have to be 501 (c)(3) organizations. The grant application process is closed; grant decisions have not been made. There is no appropriation at this point for future grants.

Gabe Dayley will be leaving at the end of 2024.

Jamie Powers reported that major areas include more energy efficient construction; developing regulatory processes to promote density; standards for building affordable housing units; and, utility scalable renewal energy projects. Hopefully, specific goals will be done by the end of the summer.

Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors for 2023/2024 is due in September.

Work Plan reports were made by each working group:

- Hauler Requirements -Peggy/Victoria/Chuck: have contacted Loudoun County
- Organics- Teri/Kaleigh: met with Loaves and Fishes and professor at UVA; have received consultant's report to the City of Charlottesville
- County procurement policies - Mike/Betsey/Chuck: met and talked about prices and will meet with county officials to discuss it further
- AC44-Christine/Adam: still in a holding pattern.
- Legislative Priorities-Kendall/Joe: met with Delegate Katrina Callsen and Delegate Amy Laufer and did research on legislation that was filed for the 2024 legislative session

We will focus on legislative priorities at the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.