

SWAAC Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternative Advisory Committee
September 13, 2020 Online Meeting

Attendance

SWAAC: Anne Johnson, Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Jesse Warren, Margaret Eldridge, Tom Baker, Navarre Bartz, Teri Kent
Liaisons: Liz Palmer, Donna Price, Elizabeth Jones, Phil McKalips, Serena Gruia
Others attending: Betsey Soulsby
Absent: SWAAC: Teddy Hamilton Liaisons: Lance Stewart, Shirese Franklin

Action Items

- Anne to email Lance about Chapter 13 County Code revisions.
- SWAAC members to browse around waste and recycling pages on new County website and provide feedback.
- Education and Outreach subcommittee to provide more content about composting for the County's waste and recycling website pages.
- Phil and Anne to talk about introducing Better Bin developer to sustainability director at Kroger to help BB add UPC codes info for house brands into BB database.
- Planning and Vision to set meeting with Anne to discuss goals for the year.
- Anne to follow up re: polypropylene bin for political signage collection for recycling.
- Anne and subcommittee heads complete SWAAC update report for BOS.

Old Business

- August Meeting Minutes Approved.

County SWAAC web pages

- Navigation structure takes getting used to.
- Christine noticed that if you search "composting," nothing comes up. Serena suggested adding composting to search terms and tags. More content on composting is needed.

GPI presentation by Scott DeFife at August meeting

- Scott interested in convening a group of wineries and breweries from the TJPDC region in October to brainstorm better/more glass recycling, and has asked SWAAC to help facilitate. Anne will follow up with Scott.
- Phil does not see any conflict with RSWA glass recycling.
- Liz plans to call Scott re: VACO (Va. Assoc. of Counties)/state level grant to help build regional glass recycling. Ann Mallek is our representative to VACO.
- GPI has started a foundation to apply for grants; collection infrastructure could be subsidized by GPI.

- Tom suggested that front load or carts make more sense economically for collection. Roll-offs may be too expensive. Need to make case to these businesses that diverting glass to recycling from landfill will mean lower disposal costs for them.

Phil said that he had approached Time Disposal about working with RSWA to increase glass recycling, but there was not much interest on their end.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee

- Christine is the new lead for this subcommittee.
- Peggy and Christine did a webinar, “Recycling Right in Albemarle!” for JMRL. Will probably do another for Master Naturalists in November.
- Subcommittee goals for the year include creating a presentation geared toward school age kids for use in schools.
- The subcommittee will also plan a recycling tip for County social media each month. Serena asked for SWAAC members to help heighten awareness of tips or related County messages by reposting and sharing the County’s waste/recycling/composting messages on our own social networks.
- Litterati is an app developed by a UVA grad. We could introduce its use as a way for residents to document types and locations of litter around the County.
- Would like to survey community about recycling. Could work with other project teams that are planning to send out questionnaires about County services.

Operations Subcommittee

- Jesse, Tom, Phil, Liz and Donna are meeting. Next meeting Sept. 25 at 1 pm.
- Two goals for this year: Supporting the new Ivy MUC convenience center and figuring out last mile details for glass. How to get glass from regional breweries and vineyards to Ivy MUC so that it can be aggregated for shipping to Strategic Materials in NC.
- Phil asked for feedback about test version of Better Bin app. Need to make it clear that the app is only about RSWA recycling and composting programs—not curbside programs. Some concern that while major national brand products are identified by the app, there are gaps, such as house brands, goods from Trader Joe’s. Phil will talk to Better Bin developers about expanding the database to include house brands.
- Perhaps another practice run of the app should be conducted with people who are not as knowledgeable about recycling as SWAAC members or people who work in the field who have tested Better Bin so far.
- Make it clear to users that the app is still in development and that anyone trying it can help to improve it. Teri suggested that “citizen recyclers” should be encouraged that their action (using the app) contributes to improving it for others.
- Promotion of new Ivy MUC convenience center: banners in Crozet at library and WAHS, banner at McIntire, VDOT signage on secondary roads, PSA on radio, news story, RSWA press release.
- Liz mentioned a new source-separated recycling service in our area: Holly Disposal, based in Greene Co., happy to make use of source-separated recycling drop-off at Ivy.

- Assessing contamination in our recyclables. Can we come up with a method to audit and benchmark contamination of recyclables over time? Resource Recycling may be able to help us with a plan/method. Physical sort and weigh is the way it's usually done. Could we use time lapse photography? Could SMI tell us about the contamination levels of our glass? Tom thinks they are probably measuring it and could tell us.
- Anne invited Patrick ??? from Sonoco to speak to us about raising the quality of our materials.

Planning and Vision Subcommittee

- Teddy very busy right now, Anne happy to help with setting goals for the year.
- Status of state plastic bag tax legislation: Virginia's Office of the Tax Commissioner has not yet written guidelines for adoption of the tax by localities.
- PEC and other environmental groups support a bag tax, will be asking City and Co. to implement.
- Interest in planning communication to the public about the tax. Could be a source of revenue to fund much-needed additional convenience centers around the County.

Governance

- GBB has been interviewing Shirese, Phil and FES. Thinking broadly, working collaboratively with City. Next meeting with GBB will be in October. Currently working on tasks 1 and 2. When we reach task 4, 5 they will be involving SWAAC.
- The Climate Action Plan final adoption is scheduled for October 7.
- SWAAC needs to get its six-month report to the BOS.

Meeting adjourned 5:35 pm.

Next SWAAC meeting will be held Thursday, October 8.