

## **SWAAC Meeting Minutes**

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

October 8, 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, Lance Stewart, Elizabeth Jones, Shirese Franklin, Serena Gruia

Others Attending: Betsey Soulsby

Absent: SWAAC: Teddy Hamilton, Liaisons: Phil McKalips

### **Action Items**

- Anne J. to create master folder of SWAAC documents in Google docs.
- EJ to ensure County clerks know that SWAAC can now have up to 12 members.
- SWAAC/Anne J. to draft letter to the Planning Commission regarding our view on amending County regulations guiding the management of C&D waste.
- SWAAC members to review new County website presentation of SMM information if you have not already.

### **Old Business**

- October Meeting Minutes Approved

### **Education and Outreach Subcommittee**

- Christine has drafted several “Recycling Tip of the Month” subjects. The first is devoted to best practices to keep bears out of trash cans.
- Another will be on the subject of clothing reuse and recycling. Textile waste has been increasing as a component of waste, and the textile industry is just behind the fossil fuel industry in terms of pollution. Clothes can be donated for reuse; unusable clothing can still be baled and sold for recycling. Cotton is especially favored.
- America Recycles Day is coming up Sunday, November 15. In past years we have celebrated this day with recyclers at McIntire with stickers, apples, tote bags made from recycled plastic. This year the pandemic limits in person interaction.
- Christine prepared prospective recycling survey questions based on a Pinellas County survey for input by the Education and Outreach subcommittee.
- Christine will create a Google Docs folder for Education and Outreach documents.
- VDOT has created a “Virginia is for Lover, not for Litter” campaign. Christine will share the link with SWAAC. We should consider organizing a local event such as a litter clean up.

### **Operations Subcommittee**

- Teri Kent has joined this subcommittee.
- Goals for the year are promoting the Ivy MUC expanded convenience center and promoting source-separation of glass for recycling back into containers.

- We have decided not to pursue introduction of the Better Bin app at this time.
- UVA has committed to sending its glass to Ivy for aggregation for recycling and the plan is to bring in surrounding municipalities, wineries, breweries, caterers, etc.
- Next meeting of Ops Subcommittee planned for Oct. 16
- Oct. 28 meeting with Scott DeFife of GPI, hosted by GPI to further discuss this plan.
- Anne proposed that the Ops subcommittee should also consider planning for a new/expanded Paper Sort facility, looking at where the capital could come from to invest in this infrastructure. Lance said that County staff is already working on Paper Sort needs with the public works director of Charlottesville. RSWA is also looking at the situation. The current site is leased, the size of the facility is restricted, the one baler is aging out, and the volume of recycling handled there is increasing.
- Liz raised the issue of the change in rural fill regulations and need for nearby C&D processing. County regulations currently require such facilities to operate indoors only.
- SWAAC to draft letter in support of clean fill and other C&D processing within the County to allow for landfill diversion and increased sustainable materials management.

#### **Planning and Vision Subcommittee**

- Teddy was absent and Peggy was muted due to a technical problem.
- The goals of the P&V subcommittee include advancing our proposed Chapter 13 revisions and organizing a charrette with local haulers. Lance said that GBB is helping the County look at best practices in Virginia for the proposed change and will report within the next six weeks or so.
- Other goals include following the development of the guidelines for a plastic bag tax allowed by new state legislation, gathering information about the success of this kind of legislation, finding out how resulting revenue can be generated and directed to support County goals, and creating a plan with other groups to communicate benefits. We will also continue to support the addition of County convenience centers in underserved areas and collaborate with the Ops subcommittee to plan for investment in the Paper Sort facility.

#### **Governance**

The Climate Action Plan was passed by the BOS.

Kate Vasquez has left GBB, so we will now work with Jennifer Porter.

Meeting adjourned 5:15; Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 12.