

DRAFT SWAAC Meeting Minutes
Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
January 14, 2021 Online Meeting

Attendance

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

Old Business

- December 2020 meeting minutes approved.

Action Items

- Anne to complete SWAAC report to the BOS with Jesse and Teddy.
- SWAAC members to review and provide input to Christine on proposed community survey of services. Christine will send us all a link to the Pinellas County survey as a model for what we might do.
- Jesse to review 2018 Virginia Recycling Report. Do we feel the 36% estimated figure for local recycling is accurate enough to use in communicating Albemarle's recycling rate?
- Anne/Jesse determine if it is feasible for the UVA students working on the regional glass recycling initiative to present to the SWAAC at February's meeting.
- Anne to follow up with KVB to get a litter awareness/pick up event scheduled for March.
- Anne to invite Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, to talk about how they have been making inroads on the litter/dumping problems in PA.
- EJ/Serena to get posts up regarding litter provided by Christine.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee

- Betsey and Christine met with Phil to review Recycling Ambassadors' program materials. RSWA requires a safety waiver to be signed.
- Betsey and Christine will do a pilot program at McIntire on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon to see what they observe, what kind of questions they field, in order to prepare information with Phil for ambassador volunteers. Volunteers will be identified by some kind of pin.
- VOTE: Motion to approve moving forward with the Recycling Ambassadors' program. Unanimously approved.
- Idea to create a recycling and composting education program modeled on RWSA's "A Day Without Water." The RWSA program engages teachers in both County and City schools on the topic of stewardship of our water resources.
- Christine will circulate the Pinellas County survey to SWAAC members to review and provide input for creation of a similar survey for Albemarle County residents.

Operations Subcommittee

- Jesse, Teri, Shirese and Phil met.
- Jesse emailed SWAAC a one-page sketch of the subcommittee plan for collecting and recycling glass regionally.
- UVA students are currently taking the input from surveys of interested parties, mapping locations and volumes of glass generated to prepare collection routes. Students may present to SWAAC in February on their findings.
- Phil reported on Ivy recycling. They do not yet have a survey of users to determine who is dropping off there, but they are having to pull bins more frequently due to higher volumes of recyclables coming in. Corrugated cardboard has been especially abundant. Ivy needs a breakaway compacter for OCC such as the one at McIntire.
- Jesse proposes next meeting Jan. 22 at noon, with no more than two SWAAC members.
- Anne sent SWAAC the Virginia Recycling Report for 2018. Albemarle at 36% vs. Virginia overall at 46%. However Shirese reports that several facilities/operators did not provide information to the TJPDC, so these are the best metrics we have. Are they accurate enough on Albemarle to use the figure of 36%?

Planning and Vision Committee

- Peggy reported on plastic bag fee implementation. Fairfax and Loudon counties have indicated their desire to implement the 5-cent fee on plastic bags, but still have questions about how to enforce.
- Peggy provided update on HB1902, prohibition on use of expanded polystyrene for food and beverage service. The bill was passed last year with a provision that it had to be passed again in the 2021 legislative session to become law.
- On Chapter 13 County Code revisions, Lance reiterated that we are waiting for case studies from GBB about hauler requirements in the code before asking Greg Kamptner to look at the suggested changes proposed by SWAAC.
- Navarre mentioned the climate change solutions documentary “2040.” Learn more about the documentary at: <https://whatsyour2040.com/>.

Guest speakers – Keep Virginia Beautiful, Michael Baum and Tracey Leverty

- KVB is based in Richmond with an 18-member board and staff of seven.
- They work on litter clean up with VDOT Adopt-A-Highway program.
- They work with local partners such as the Virginia Recycling Association, garden clubs and corporations to bring awareness of the litter problem and support for litter pick-ups.
- 30 Grants in 30 Days program provides 30 small grants of from \$500-\$1,000 to applicants across the state. Scottsville was awarded a \$1,000 grant in 2020 to place recycling bins around town. Grants are awarded for beautification, cigarette litter prevention, litter prevention and recycling projects. Applications are due in March with one grant awarded each day of June.

- KVB will help to promote litter pick-up events held around the state.
- Liz asked how does Albemarle County rate in Adopt-A-Highway adoptions compared with other counties and could KVB help increase the number of adopters? KVB could get back to us with info about the Adopt-A-Highway program in Albemarle.
- Illegal dumping is a problem throughout VA. Some counties are now using surveillance cameras to monitor problem areas. Increasing the number of free dump days may be helpful in some cases.
- Liz asked if there was any data where counties have done a baseline of litter and then introduced anti-dumping programs to measure success?
- KVB says they have applied for a Virginia litter study. The state spends \$20-25 million on the problem but some people think the illegal dumping and litter problem costs the state more like \$75 million.
- Margaret asked what kind of information the VA litter study might provide. Michael said they would look at things like the #1 form of litter, waterway vs. land-based litter, litter from different geographic areas of Va., urban vs. rural.
- VDOT recently launched an anti-litter campaign: Virginia is for Lovers, not Litter.
- KVB usually does a “Shiver in the (James) River” fundraiser in March, but will not this year due to the pandemic. Instead they will have a “Shiver in VA” event where participants can, for a donation of \$20.21, use an app to report/record doing something beautiful for VA. The app can map and document the number of people involved and weight of litter clean-up yield. Anne asked if we can buy access to this app for our community to report/engage on a litter pick-up project. KVB said yes. Anne will follow up with KVB to schedule a March event for Albemarle.
- Christine reminded Serena and EJ that she had provided info about litter to go on the County’s social media, but nothing has been posted as of yet.
- Anne will invite Shannon Reiter of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to talk to the SWAAC about dumping mitigation efforts in PA.
- Anne is doing a project at work on community-based social marketing, and will be organizing a panel discussion on behavior change around littering.

Governance

- Lance reported there is no formal funding for an additional convenience center, but there is support on the Board for continuing the effort to develop more of them. He is reexamining a 2013 Draper Aden report for a convenience center in Southern Albemarle. Phil is working with him to review estimated design, construction and operations costs. Lance hopes to present an updated concept in 4-6 months.
- Lance’s office would coordinate SWAAC efforts on a litter event.

Meeting adjourned 5:40 pm.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 11.

