

## **Draft SWAAC Meeting Minutes**

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

February 11, 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**

- January 2021 meeting minutes approved, with edit to specify that case studies to be provided by GBB to Lance and EJ on hauler requirements and enforcement are **Virginia** case studies.
- Anne, Jesse and Teddy completed SWAAC 2020 report for the BOS.

### **Action Items**

- Any SWAAC members who would like to provide input on survey questions please review the Pinellas County survey emailed by Christine and provide input to her by the end of February.
- Anne and Christine will provide information to Liz Palmer on the KVB “Do Beautiful Things” campaign so that she can raise the idea of County partnership at next Wednesday’s (2/17) BOS meeting. Provide the details to Phil at RSWA also.
- Jesse and Shirese will review recycling statistics in the 2018 Virginia Recycling Report and decide if we can provide a reasonable estimate of the Albemarle Co. recycling rate based on the report.
- Jesse to invite UVA students working on regional glass recycling to present to the SWAAC at the March meeting.
- Lance to find out about County environmental stewardship plan.
- Anne to provide SWAAC with LCAs on glass and aluminum recycling.
- SWAAC to resend letter to BOS recommending southern Albemarle convenience center.

### **Education and Outreach Subcommittee**

- Christine and subcommittee members discussed promoting a litter pick-up event in Albemarle for early spring.
- Christine had a conversation with Tracey Levarty at KVB about participating in KVB’s “Do Beautiful Things” campaign. We would encourage people to grab a bag, pick-up litter for 10 to 30 minutes, post a photo, and report where they were and what kind of things they collected.
- Albemarle Co. could be a partner in this effort. This does not cost anything. The County could use its logo on materials and promote the event on its social media. KVB will provide us with a kit of materials at the end of February for a March event.

- Groups that might post about and encourage this litter clean-up: Master Gardeners (Anne), Master Naturalists, Sierra Club, Rivanna Conservation Alliance (Christine), RSWA (Phil), UVA (Jesse), CAMBC, Rivanna Trails Fdn. (Navarre), Scout Troops (Margaret), Community Advisory Committees (EJ), Crozet trail crews, Ruritan groups, Yancey Community Center, HOAs? (ask Emily Kilroy), ACPS/Dr. Haas.
- Betsey learned that VDOT has paused Adopt-A-Highway program support during the pandemic.
- Serena provided Christine with a template for County social media posts. EJ would help to ensure the information gets posted by the County.
- Christine and Betsey have worked as ambassadors at McIntire one weekend so far and will be doing another stint soon. They have had great support from Phil, and now have their own vests and grabbers.
- On Feb. 28, Christine and Peggy will do another “Recycling and Composting in Albemarle” webinar, this this one for the Quaker Friends.

### **Operations Subcommittee**

- Jesse and Shirese will talk about the actual recycling rate for Albemarle County and report back to SWAAC in March.
- Jesse reported that the UVA Office of Sustainability will have Earth Month this year, in April.
- Glass recycling work: Operations has mapped a group of 32 glass producers in the region that would be willing to participate in a glass recycling program. They conducted a meeting with the prospective participants, Phil and Scott DeFife of GPI.
- There is a lot of glass in Nelson Co. and at the bigger vineyards. The bigger producers (Blenheim, Trump, King Family) have enough glass to fill 8- yard containers each week. Smaller producers may be able to use wheeled carts. The difference in containers requires different types of trucks for collection, so there may be a need for more than one hauler and/or more than one route. DuCard asked for a plan within a month’s time. There are several prospective haulers, such as Quality Disposal, GFL and Waste Management.
- Jesse estimates that there will be more than 500 tons/year of glass for recycling in our region.
- Next Operations meeting will be Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- Shirese told us that the 5-year revision of the solid waste and recycling management plan for our Solid Waste Planning Unit (Fluvanna, Greene, Albemarle, Charlottesville), which is prepared by the TJPDC, will be due in October.

### **Planning and Vision Subcommittee**

- Update on state legislation: HB1902 ban on expanded polystyrene food service ware (full compliance by July 1, 2025) passed the House of Delegates. HB2159 ban on intentional release of balloons also passed. These bills will cross over to the Senate now.
- HB2173, a bill to define various plastic conversion technologies as “advanced recycling” and to categorize “advanced recycling” as manufacturing, not solid waste management,

failed to pass the House but passed the Senate as SB1164 and is being reconsidered by the House.

- Anne has followed advanced recycling technologies throughout her career and believes they hold promise for plastics recycling. A good example is PureCycle, which creates clean polypropylene feedstock from polypropylene waste; Peggy is concerned that many of the technologies produce fuels out of waste plastics, and don't help us with sustainability, waste reduction or climate goals.
- State legislation allowing 5-cent plastic bag fees: Loudon and Fairfax are planning to implement fees but need further information from the state. For example, the legislation applies to grocery stores, convenience stores and drugstores, but does not define them, leaving open whether home improvement stores and big box stores like Target are convenience stores. It is also unclear how enforcement will be carried out.
- Teddy thinks last year's plastic bag fee legislation should have banned plastic bags outright. Christine expressed concern that banning plastic bags would lead to the use of more paper bags, which would also be bad from an environmental perspective. Navarre suggested that a universal bag fee would be more successful than county by county. Anne cautioned about the use of heavier-duty plastic bags being introduced as reusable but ending up causing more plastic waste.
- Anne will share with SWAAC life cycle analyses of glass and aluminum container recycling. Reuse/refilling of glass containers is obviously more sustainable than recycling them. Aluminum can recycling has dropped to 46% which has caused the industry to entertain container deposit systems in order to recover more.
- Teddy asked Lance about the County's environmental stewardship plan. Lance will look into it for us.
- Navarre said that Loop (refillable container program) is now available nationwide. Kroger is a partner.

## **Governance**

- Lance and EJ will review GBB's draft of the next phase of work.
- Anne requested that we think about getting more people to join us on the SWAAC.
- Lance suggested that the Planning and Vision Subcommittee should participate in the update of the 5-year plan for the SWPU. Teddy thinks that because most of our SWPU is rural, there ought to be appendices with more detail about composting and recycling in highly-populated Charlottesville and Albemarle.
- Jesse is already helping Shirese with the plan revision.
- Shirese said that the TJPDC asks all local governments in the SWPU to approve the report.
- Lance reported that one of the agenda items at the BOS meeting on 2/17 would be to ask for guidance to staff about planning for a convenience center in southern Albemarle. The SWAAC will send the letter prepared by Teddy for SWAAC in support.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 pm. Next meeting will be held Thursday, March 11.