

SWAAC Meeting Minutes

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

June 10, 2021 Online Meeting

Attendance

- SWAAC: Anne Johnson, Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Jesse Warren, Margaret Eldridge, Teri Kent, Monty Harris
- Liaisons: Liz Palmer, Donna Price, Phil McKalips, Elizabeth Jones, Shirese Franklin
- Absent: Navarre Bartz
- Others attending: Betsey Soulsby

Action Items

- Peggy asked if she could meet with Elizabeth or join Anne's regular meeting with Lance to discuss advancing SWAAC's proposed County Code regulations
- Need to identify additional SWAAC Committee nominees

Old Business

- May meeting minutes were approved.
- Phil spoke to Patrick at Sonoco and recycling signage at McIntire and Ivy will be changed to indicate "caps on" for PET and HDPE rigid plastics.

County Report

- Elizabeth reported on the Old Mills Trail pilot litter clean-up event. 21 people attended. Most were County staff and friends/family members. Christine gave a talk to those gathered about recycling right. Aluminum cans were collected separately for recycling.
- In the future the County will target places that are not periodically cleaned up by VDOT, jail or mowing crews. County will try to ensure all magisterial districts receive litter clean-up efforts. Locations must be safe for public participation. Some roadside locations are potentially too dangerous for litter pickers.
- County will use its social media for year-round messaging to get people engaged on the subject of litter.
- There will be a July meeting to talk about helping schools with litter clean-up and prevention and litter pick-up events for the fall.
- Sierra Club recently held an online event featuring Katie Register from Longwood University's Clean Virginia Waterways presentation about plastic pollution in Virginia. Christine attended, and will send us the link to Clean Virginia Waterway's website.
- GBB is working on a final draft of the three and five year plan. The City is on the same track with their draft. Elizabeth thinks she will have a timeline to show us by the next meeting.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee

- Christine held a meeting May 28.

- Melanie and Christine are hoping to do radio PSAs on litter. Most litter seems to come from cars and trucks and primarily affects land along roadways.
- There are now five recycling ambassadors working in the program, and the program has been operating continuously on Sundays for three months. The ambassadors see most contamination in the #2 HDPE rigid plastics. However, given summer heat the program may have to take break.
- Monty is working on documenting the composting program at Crozet Elementary to be able to offer a road map to other schools that want a food composting program.

Operations Subcommittee

- Jesse held a meeting May 28 with Monty, Teri, EJ and Phil attending.
- Phil now has a list of all locations interested in recycling their glass, and the tonnages they produce. He is looking at smaller haulers to develop a program to collect the glass for aggregation at Ivy and hopes to have an idea of interest levels from them in early July.
- Next meeting 6/17 at 11 am.
- Shirese is working on a draft of the 5 Year Plan update to circulate. Although the TJPDC is required to report on waste disposal and recycling, the private sector has not been complying with reporting and VA DEQ does not enforce the reporting requirement.
- TJPDC is discussing creating a uniform reporting form, which may help haulers to fulfill the reporting requirement.

Planning and Vision Subcommittee

- Navarre will be back with the SWAAC next month.
- Peggy asked if she could meet with Elizabeth or join Anne's regular meeting with Lance to discuss advancing SWAAC's proposed County Code regulations.
- GFL, having purchased Time and County Waste, is now the only hauler that is collecting big tonnages, so rather than having a multi-stakeholder charette, we should consider meeting directly with GFL to talk about the County's need for reliable waste and recycling data.

Other topics

- We need to add committee members to the SWAAC. Everyone should think about a person they think would be a good candidate to join the SWAAC.
- PFAS chemicals are in the news. PFAS has been turning up in compost because many compostable food service items are coated in PFAS chemicals, which are persistent organic pollutants. BPI-certified compostable products do not contain PFAS. UVA will be using BPI-certified products to fulfill Executive Order 77.
- Currently due to the pandemic there are shortages of all single-use food service wares—both compostable and conventional products.
- Plastic bag fee. There is widespread support for bringing this to Charlottesville and Albemarle. Roanoke is instituting the fee.

- Bottle deposit systems. Donna noted the system on a recent visit to OR. Bottle deposit systems increase the recycling rates of beverage containers—glass, aluminum and PET—and also decrease the amount of litter. How can we promote a deposit system for Virginia? Federal bills for a national deposit program have been introduced but seem unlikely to pass per Anne. Anne will see about bringing in Chuck Riegler or someone else to talk to us about the state of deposit laws.

Meeting dismissed 5:20 pm. Next meeting will be July 8.