

Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

January 2017

Semi-Annual Report of the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)

Committee Members: Ammy George, Chuck Riegle, Jesse Warren (Vice-Chair), Paul Grady, Peggy Gilges (Secretary), Teddy Hamilton (Chair), one position vacant
Liz Palmer and Norman Dill – BOS Liaisons
Greg Harper – Chief of Environmental Services, FES

Meeting Frequency: The SWAAC meets the second Thursday of the month from 4:00 – 5:30 pm (ish). The Committee was formed and held an organizational meeting in June 2016. The first working meeting was on July 14, 2016. Subsequent meetings of the Committee occurred on August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8, 2016. In addition, a subcommittee that included three Committee members (Ammy George, Peggy Gilges and Teddy Hamilton) met to discuss education outreach on July 25 and August 6.

Six Month Summary: The Committee has pursued work addressing the recommendations of the October 2015 “Final Report of the Long Range Solid Waste Solutions Advisory Committee”. This work has been accomplished without a budget or assigned staff support. Over the last six months, the Committee has worked with the ultimate objective of preparing proposals for the Board of Supervisors and/or County staff to evaluate for implementation. The proposals are designed to be consistent with the County’s Comprehensive Plan, the organizational vision of Albemarle County, the regional Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Management Plan, and with the Committee’s Charge. While many of the activities of the Committee have focused on public education/outreach, work has also been accomplished on a broader level, facilitating the movement of proposals that represent the lowest costs of implementation but can achieve significant benefits to the County.

Our activities and work included the following:

- The Committee held their July meeting at the Ivy Material Utilization Center (MUC) to introduce the operations and new transfer station project to the Committee members. The meeting included discussion with RSWA staff regarding the new transfer station plans, schedule, and progress.
- A subcommittee focused on public education/outreach found that much of the current information available to the local public on recycling, reuse and household hazardous waste was out of date. This subcommittee subsequently began work to update information available to the public by Albemarle County and other organizations (examples, Charlottesville Tomorrow and Carden Jennings). Albemarle County’s Green Resources Map has been replaced with the [Recycling, Re-Use and Household Hazardous Waste Resources Guide](#). This document will be updated as needed, and at a minimum, annually. Work on information published by other organizations is ongoing. This activity is also consistent with goals of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission as listed in their draft 2016 update to the 2006 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

- Assessment of service hours extension at McIntire Recycling Center to provide better access for citizens. Ongoing.
- Evaluation of possibility to re-institute battery collection at McIntire Recycling Center and Ivy MUC. Ongoing.
- Evaluation of a pharmaceutical diversion program for area residents. Benefits to this program are both environmental and social (reducing opportunities for illegal access to prescription drugs). Additionally, the SWAAC has identified a grant opportunity for acquisition of a collection receptacle. The cost of a receptacle otherwise is approximately \$700. The Albemarle County Police Department is currently evaluating starting a program. Ongoing.
- Review of recycling activities within Albemarle County government operations (specifically, at the County Office Building - McIntire Road and the County Office Building - 5th Street). Recommendations for consideration by staff were provided at the December 8th SWAAC meeting. Ongoing.

Future Priorities and Goals: For the next six months (January – June 2017), these include:

Preparation and, ultimately, submittal of proposals for consideration by the BOS for implementation. The proposals are to provide a thorough budgetary and environmental impact analysis of the Committee's recommended policy implementation. Anticipated proposals for submittal include the following:

- Establish a pharmaceutical collection/disposal site at APCD. If approved, the Committee would assist as needed in implementation, including assistance with educational materials for the public.
- Fund McIntire Recycling Center hours and service expansion.
- Initiate a public discussion to create additional recycling centers in Albemarle County, and consider the Crozet area for the first expansion area.
- Fund improvements to internal recycling at the County Office Building and 5th Street Office Building. If approved, the Committee would also be responsible for developing educational materials to ensure all County staff understand the selected recycling program/process and to achieve high participation.

The Committee anticipates that these proposals will be prepared and submitted with the Annual Report, with the exception of the pharmaceutical collection/disposal site proposal, which will likely be submitted at an earlier date. This particular proposal addresses broader concerns, including issues associated with public opioid abuse and efforts to reduce street sale of narcotics. This proposal is furthest along in the evaluation process and would benefit from deliberation by the BOS as soon as the proposal is available for review.

Additionally, the Committee will continue to monitor information and update as necessary local sustainable materials management information that is available to the public. The Committee will also continue to ensure that uniform and correct terminology is used in educational materials prepared for recycling, reuse, and household hazardous waste.