

Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

July 2017

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

Committee Members: Peggy Gilges (Chair), Jesse Warren (Vice Chair), Andrea Bostrum (Secretary), Teddy Hamilton, Chuck Riegle, Paul Grady, Margaret Eldridge
Liaisons: Liz Palmer and Norman Dill (Board of Supervisors), Greg Harper and Andy Lowe (Facilities and Environmental Services staff)

Meeting Frequency: The SWAAC continues to meet the second Thursday of every month from 4:00 – 5:30 pm, although the April meeting date was pushed back one week due to the Founder’s Day holiday. Meetings over the last six-month period occurred on January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 20th, May 11th, and June 8th.

Two new committee members joined the SWAAC during this period, filling seats previously held by Leo Mallek and Ammy George. Andrea Bostrum joined the SWAAC in May and Margaret Eldridge was expected to participate beginning in July.

Six-Month Summary: The first six-month report to the Board of Supervisor (BOS) was made in December 2016. Since December, the Committee has continued to pursue 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, but with the assistance of County staff members Greg Harper, Trevor Henry, and Andy Lowe. Over the last six months, the Committee has worked to prepare proposals for the BOS and County staff to evaluate for implementation. These proposals are designed to be consistent with the County’s Comprehensive Plan, the organizational vision of Albemarle County, and the regional Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission Solid Waste Management Plan.

Over the past six months, our activities and work included the following:

- Requesting that BOS consider revising our original charter to better reflect the work we are doing. The charter revision was approved by the Board of Supervisors meeting held on July 12, 2017.
- Pursuing battery drop-off for recycling. This service used to be available at McIntire Recycling Center and we would like to find a way to offer this again. Ongoing.
- Continuing to provide correct information to the public about the availability of local options to landfilling waste, including source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. The comprehensive [Albemarle County Reuse, Recycling and HHW Disposal Guide](#) is up on the County website and we are hoping that the City will soon be sharing this information on their website as well.

- Seeking to establish safe and easily-accessed pharmaceutical disposal for County residents. We proposed that Albemarle County Police Department host a drug drop-off box; they did not feel able to take this on, and we are currently pursuing other options and ideas. Ongoing.
- Requesting budget increase for Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA) and extension of service hours at McIntire Recycling Center. An increase of \$10,000 for the RSWA was included in the FY2018 budget and McIntire is extending its hours of service beginning July 15, 2017.
- Discussing and applying for a state litter fund grant to promote recycling. We withdrew our application when we learned any funds awarded to Albemarle County would be at the expense of RSWA.
- Advising on institution of a recycling program for McIntire and Fifth Street county office buildings. In progress.

Future Priorities and Goals (July –December 2017):

Communication:

- Provide up-to-date information to local media regarding recycling opportunities in Albemarle County
- Utilize sources such as [Cvillepedia](#), new resident guides
- Promote Christmas tree mulching program
- Promote new McIntire Recycling Center hours, educate on the benefits of source-separating recyclables

Growth:

- Evaluate potential development of satellite recycling facilities to serve the rural areas of the County
- Evaluate options for and current obstacles to expansion of curbside recycling to 'urban ring'

Strategic Planning:

- Explore the feasibility of establishing a composting operation at Ivy MUC
- Promote commercial compost collection in the region
- Explore options for fall leaf diversion in the 'urban ring'
- Review County documents relevant to sustainable materials management (LCAPP, County Code, Comprehensive Plan)
- Provide recommendations to BOS on staff position (aka, Recycling Manager) duties and preferred location
- Advocate for the completion of a master plan for Ivy MUC sustainable materials management