

# Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

## June 2017

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### Policy Recommendation of the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)

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Committee Members: Teddy Hamilton (Chair), Jesse Warren (Vice-Chair), Peggy Gilges (Secretary), Paul Grady, Chuck Riegle, Andrea Bostrom, one position vacant  
Liz Palmer and Norman Dill – BOS Liaisons

In October 2015, the Long Range Solid Waste Solutions Advisory Committee included, as one of the recommendations in their final report, that Albemarle County provide RSWA an appropriation increase to expand daily hours of operation at McIntire Recycling Center and Ivy MUC. The current Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (the Committee) has been investigating the feasibility of implementing the McIntire Recycling Center recommendation over the last several months. This investigation has looked at the historic and current schedule for the facility, as well as the various events that have impacted, in one way or another, the use of the facility. Additionally, the Committee asked the RSWA to attend a meeting to discuss the possibilities of extending operational hours as well as expanding the types of materials received (batteries, for example). The RSWA subsequently ran an onsite survey for one week in January at McIntire Recycling Center.

The historical timeline for McIntire Recycling Center, from 2007 to 2016, demonstrates a reduction, over the decade, of recyclable materials turned in at the facility. This reduction is due to a number of factors, including the opening of a materials recovery facility or MRF (specifically, a “dirty MRF”) in Troy, VA that is used by several local haulers. In particular, the use of the dirty MRF by local haulers has led to a decline in active recycling as a result of misinformation regarding the level of recycling that is achieved by the “all in one bin” waste pickup, where all waste and recyclable materials are collected in a single container and separation only occurs at the MRF. Low levels of recycling can be achieved in this system, but a misconception exists within our community that much higher levels of recycling are achieved through the use of technology. Other significant factors include the onset of the recession in 2009 that led to the closure of McIntire on Mondays and a reduction in hours on other days, and the implementation of curbside recycling pickup within the City of Charlottesville in 2014.

Despite the reduction over time in recycling materials turned in at McIntire, the results of the survey in January 2017 indicate that over twelve hundred vehicles visited the facility during the week, and 78% of the respondents were supportive of expanding operational hours. It is noteworthy that nearly a third of the visitors to McIntire Recycling Center were city residents.

**The Committee supports both expanding hours during the Daylight Savings Time period on the days that McIntire is open, which is estimated to cost an additional \$9,400, and increasing**

**the number of days McIntire is open by adding Monday to the facility's operational schedule, which is estimated to cost an additional \$9,800. The estimated combined cost of these recommended changes is \$19,200.**

Critical to the expansion of the operating schedule is the dissemination of this new schedule to the public via City and County information outlets, as well as every standard news outlet format. The announcement can also include information on the composting opportunity that is now available at McIntire and which currently receives over 2 tons per month of compost material. The announcement of the expanded hours and/or additional day needs to be made well ahead of the actual schedule change so that the public is aware and can utilize the greater access and flexibility starting with the first day of the new schedule. At such time as lighting can be improved at the facility, then the possibility of expanding hours year-round could be assessed.

Attachments:

- Survey of McIntire Recycling Users, January 2017
- Options for the operation of McIntire Recycling Center prepared for the Committee by the RSWA
- Information on the history and usage of McIntire Recycling Center from 2007 to 2016