

Semi-Annual Report of the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
(SWAAC)
January 2018

Committee Members: Peggy Gilges (Chair), Jesse Warren (Vice Chair), Andrea Bostrom (Secretary), Teddy Hamilton, Chuck Riegle, Paul Grady, Margaret Eldridge
Phil McKalips- RSWA Liaison
Lindsay Snoddy- ACPS Liaison
Jon Dean- City of Charlottesville Liaison
Wood Hudson- TJPDC Liaison
Liz Palmer and Norman Dill- BOS Liaisons
Trevor Henry and Andy Lowe- County Facilities and Environmental Services

Meeting Frequency: The SWAAC continues to meet the second Thursday of every month from 4-5:30 pm. Meetings over the last six months took place on July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14.

During this period, Phil McKalips joined the SWAAC as a liaison for the RSWA, and Jon Dean, Business Analyst for the Charlottesville Department of Public Works, joined as a liaison for the City of Charlottesville.

Six Month Summary: Since filing our July 2017 report, the Committee has continued to pursue implementation of the recommendations of the October 2015 “Final Report of the Long Range Solid Waste Solutions Advisory Committee”. The Committee has been assisted in its work by Trevor Henry and Andy Lowe.

This period the County demonstrated progress in realizing its sustainable materials management goals. Encouraged and supported by the SWAAC, the County acted on several recommendations made by the Albemarle County Long-Range Solid Waste Solutions Advisory Committee. In July, RSWA expanded the hours of operation at McIntire Recycling Center as requested by the SWAAC; in November, RSWA broke ground on a much needed, new transfer facility with greater recycling capability at Ivy MUC; in December, the County began a recycling program within the County’s McIntire and Fifth Street office buildings. To reduce unnecessary purchases of bottled water, FES replaced the old drinking fountains in the COB and Fifth Street with new drinking and water bottle refilling stations. Currently the Albemarle County Board is considering a SWAAC request for FY 2019 funding for the construction of a model source-separated recycling facility at Ivy MUC and funding in the FY 2020 budget for two additional satellite recycling facilities within the County.

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

- Participating in the Rivanna Authorities’ Strategic Planning Process, requesting that RSWA align its planning with the County’s Comprehensive Plan (Facilities Chapter).

- Advocating that RSWA develop a master plan for the Ivy MUC site to coincide with the relocation of transfer operations from the East side of the site to a new site on the West side.
- Providing correct information to the public about the availability of local alternatives to landfilling waste, including source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. We worked with RSWA to update entries on McIntire and the Ivy MUC in Charlottesville Tomorrow's Cvillepedia.
- Coordinating with Sentara/Martha Jefferson to more broadly promote the October 2017 Federal Drug Take-Back Day conducted by ACPD. This fall, both the County and RSWA promoted this service well ahead of the event date.
- Encouraging source-separated recycling by acknowledging our McIntire patrons on America Recycles Day (Nov. 15), giving out locally grown apples and "I recycle" stickers, fielding inquiries and answering questions that patrons have about recycling.
- Encouraging a coordinated effort in December and January to advertise the free Christmas tree mulching service provided by the City and County, including County press release, prominent display of tree mulching information on County, RSWA and Parks Dept. websites.
- Reviewing the County's Comprehensive Plan (Facilities Chapter), LCAPP recommendations on materials management, learning about the impact of China's Green Sword policy on MRFs and recycling markets in the U.S.
- Requesting that Albemarle County BOS include funding for construction and operation of additional recycling facilities in the two-year budget plan.
- Visiting UVA's Sort Facility with Board of Supervisor members to see how UVA manages its recyclables.

Priorities for Next Six Months (January-June 2018):

Communication:

- Improve County's website as a means of providing information for residents on sustainable materials management, such as the information contained in the County's Recycling, Reuse and HHW Guide.
- Develop strategy for public outreach/education on the benefits of source-separating recyclables.
- Continue to promote expansion of McIntire hours of operation.

Growth:

- Continue to evaluate the opportunities for expanded recycling with conveniently located satellite recycling facilities.
- Evaluate options to bring curbside recycling to the urban ring.

Strategic Planning:

- Explore the feasibility of establishing a composting program at Ivy MUC.
 - Promote commercial compost collection in the region.
- Provide recommendations to Board of Supervisors on additional staff for SMM program.
- Ensure recycling capability of new transfer station at Ivy MUC is maximized.
- Provide guidance to Board of Supervisors on locations and services of future recycling facilities.