



**MEETING MINUTES:** City of Philadelphia Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC)

**DATE:** February 20, 2014

**ATTENDEES:**

SWRAC Members Present

Bob Anderson, ReCommunity Recycling  
Phil Bresee, Streets Department/Recycling Office  
Andrew Dalzell, South of South Neighborhood Association  
Jack Embick, Environmental Law  
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor's Office of Sustainability  
Sal Iadonisi, United States Recycling, Inc.  
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department  
Joe Minott, Clean Air Council  
Vivian Van Story, Community Land Trust Corporation  
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management  
Maurice Sampson, Niche Recycling  
Jeff Cardwell, School District of Philadelphia

SWRAC Members Not Present

Andrew Sharp, PennFuture  
Debbie Zimmer, Dow Chemical  
Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery  
Michele Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful  
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania

City Staff

Scott McGrath, Director of Environmental Services, Streets Dept.  
Ian Hegarty, Recycling Planner, Streets Dept.  
Conisha Davis, Streets Department/Recycling Office (Recording)

Other Attendees

Jim Osborn, Alternative Resources, Inc.  
Samantha Wittchen, iSpring Sustainability Consulting  
Danielle Masi, LevLane Media  
Jason Rossano, LevLane Media

**Call to order/introductions:**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:05 p.m.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.

**Old business:**

There was no old business to discuss

**New business (Discussion/Action Items):**

- Staff (Bresee, McGrath) introduced Jim Osborn, principal of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI), who will be serving as the City's consultant for the solid waste plan rewrite.
- Staff updated SWRAC on solid waste plan rewrite activities to-date, which include drafts of the plan's introductory chapter, and chapter 1.
- Jeff Cardwell of PSD reported that new solid waste and recycling services contract was in place, with recycling set to resume in May (need to confirm). Mr. Cardwell thanked Streets Department staff for assistance during their RFP and negotiations process.
- Vivian Van Storey raised a number of issues for discussion:
  - Mattress collection issue (reported mattress piles)
  - Missed garbage and recycling pickups and communications
  - Inadequacy of 311 system
  - Philadelphia Housing Authority collection concerns
- Staff provided update on on-going efforts to improve recycling in city agencies and buildings. Efforts to-date include:
  - Multiple meetings with Department of Public Property, building managers and floor liaisons.
  - Purchase and distribution of new office and workstation recycling bins.
  - Review of status of recycling among City agencies in leased commercial office space.
  - Recycling bin distribution at Fire stations.
- Jason Rossano and Danielle Masi of LevLane Media gave a presentation on the city's anti-litter and recycling outreach from 2006 until 2013. SWRAC questions and comments included:
  - Plastics recycling issues (labeling)
  - Plastic bags and operational impacts at MRFs
  - Messaging, e.g. focus on quality control or broad-based encouragement of recycling. Recycling processors stressed need to go back to "recycle right" messaging.
- Samantha Wittchen of iSpring Sustainability Consulting provided an overview of the Streets Department's business recycling toolkit project.
  - There was discussion on draft toolkit's assertions that businesses can improve their bottom line by implementing recycling. Staff held position that businesses can do so if they're able to right-size garbage service levels when recycling is implemented. Staff agreed to soften language.
  - There was a suggestion that toolkit be presented to haulers before it is released.

- SWRAC subcommittees discussion was deferred until next meeting.

**Announcements:**

There were no announcements.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. The meeting room number will be provided as part of meeting announcements and minutes to be distributed about a week prior to the meeting.

Submitted,

Conisha Davis (Recording)