

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

DATE: February 5th, 2015

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members Present

Michele Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Bob Anderson, ReCommunity Recycling
Phil Bresee, Streets Department/Recycling Office
Jack Embick, Environmental Law
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department
Sal Iadonisi, U.S. Recycling
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management
Maurice M. Sampson II, Niche Recycling
Debbie Zimmer, Dow Chemical

SWRAC Members Absent

Jeff Cardwell, Philadelphia School District
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania
Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery

Others Present

Aaratquika Bose, Office of City Council Member Cindy Bass
Danielle Bower, Philadelphia International Airport
Matthew Braden, Office of City Council Member Dennis O'Brien
Shoshanna Bricklin, Office of City Council Member Cindy Bass
Laura Cassidy, Philadelphia Prison System
Kendall Christensen, Gaia Consulting
Tamika Davis, Philadelphia International Airport
Megan Garner, Philadelphia School District
Mike Giuranna, US EPA Region III
Francine Locke, Philadelphia School District
Dylan Wells, Niche Recycling

City Staff/Consultants

Scott McGrath, Director of Environmental Services, Streets Dept.
Ian Hegarty, Recycling Program Planner, Streets Dept.
Jim Osborn, ARI
Allison Sands, Recyclebank
Virginia Cain, Recyclebank

Call to order/introductions:

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC co-chair Michelle Feldman at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Minutes:

Meeting minutes from December 11th, 2014 were approved by voice vote.

Organics Recycling Update:

Feasibility Study - Staff reported receiving positive reaction from PA DEP on the possibility of awarding a 901 Grant to conduct an organics recycling feasibility study. The project will most likely be coordinated through Alternative Resources, Inc., with participation by MSW Consultants, Inc.

The project will be divided into phases, including overall data review and background, a marketplace assessment, reviews of processing options, etc.

Staff indicated that the consulting team will look to meet with SWRAC for input on its perspective.

Plans are to have the initial project phase complete in the next couple of months, with the work on the balance of the project occurring once FY 2016 begins in July.

Council Bill No. 140903 (O'Brien/Bass): A hearing on the "dumpster bill" introduced by Council members Dennis O'Brien and Cindy Bass will be held by City Council's Streets and Services Committee on February 10th at 10 a.m. The bill is being introduced to accomplish three main things:

- Cleans up and reorganizes code; retains requirements that grindable garbage (aka food waste) be handled by a disposer, or composted;
- Identifies organics composting and anaerobic digestion as forms of recycling, which allows them to be licensed at the same rates as 'traditional' recycling dumpsters (cardboard, paper, single-stream, etc.). Differences in licensing fees are:

○ Private Property:			
	<u>Size</u>	<u>Garbage</u>	<u>Recycling</u>
	<1 yd3	\$80	\$40
	>1 yd3	\$150	\$75
○ Public Right-of-Way:			
	<u>Size</u>	<u>Garbage</u>	<u>Recycling</u>
	<1 yd3	\$200	\$100
	>1 yd3	\$500	\$250

- Allows for minimum collection frequency exception for aerated organics dumpsters, or compactor dumpsters (must be emptied every 30 days vs. multiple times per week). Collection frequency can be increased based on order by Fire, Health, L&I, or Streets Department.

Bresee mentioned that he will be testifying in support of the bill on behalf of the Administration. Maurice Sampson noted that he too will be providing supporting testimony. Matthew Braden from Councilmember O'Brien's office thanked the SWRAC for their previous input on organics recycling.

Draft Solid Waste Plan Update:

Staff announced that a first draft of the 2014-2024 Solid Waste Management Plan was provided to PA DEP. All chapters were included, with exception to chapters four and five. Chapter four details the recycling program and its history, and is being finalized by staff. Chapter 5 is the heart of the plan, and ARI and staff are incorporating SWRAC input. Staff will post the document in the SWRAC's drop-box folder.

Announcements/Updates:

The City's *fall/winter leaf recycling campaign* collected 1,470 tons of leaves. Some 21 tons of Christmas trees were collected through that program in January. Staff indicated they would find tonnages from the various civic organizations that sponsor their own events.

Virginia Cain and Allison Sands from the Recycling Rewards team spoke about the *2015 Green Schools Program*. Last year, Recyclebank and project sponsors awarded more than \$30,000 in grants for environmental projects in 12 Philadelphia Schools. This year, 14 Philadelphia schools have been recognized. Rewards program members are encouraged to donate points to schools to help them raise additional funds and were directed to this website: <https://www.recyclebank.com/about-us/green-schools>

The City launched a new outreach tool with *Recycle by City*; a startup website that presents recycling information from cities across the U.S. Bresee remarked that they were pleased with the site's visual appeal and easy interface. He also indicated the site will help drive internet traffic back to the Streets Department's website, as well as program partner sites such as KPB, Recyclebank, ReCommunity, etc. The website is: www.recyclebycity.com/philadelphia

A discussion on the status of *recyclables end-markets* was held. Markets challenges persist, and include weak demand for recovered materials from Chinese export markets and their insistence on better quality standards (Operation "Green Fence"). More recently, labor disputes at West Coast ports have led to work stoppages and significant loading and shipping delays, impacting recovered materials dealers' abilities to export recyclables. Additionally, the steep decline in oil prices during the fall and winter has made use of recovered plastics in manufacturing less competitive, and has pushed plastic prices lower.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Staff indicated that SWRAC meetings will return to a set schedule. Regular meetings will now be held on the fourth Thursday of each month. The next meeting is set for February 26th.