

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

**DATE:** June 19, 2014

**ATTENDEES:**

SWRAC Members Present

Michele Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful  
Andrew Sharp, PennFuture  
Phil Bresee, Streets Department/Recycling Office  
Jack Embick, Environmental Law  
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania  
Sal Iadonisi, United States Recycling, Inc.  
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department  
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management  
Maurice M. Sampson II, Niche Recycling  
Vivian Van Story, Community Land Trust Corporation

SWRAC Members Absent

Bob Anderson, ReCommunity Recycling  
Jeffrey D. Cardwell, School District of Philadelphia  
Andrew Dalzell, South of South Neighborhood Association  
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor's Office of Sustainability  
Joe Minot, Clean Air Council  
Debbie Zimmer, Dow Chemical

Others Present

Joe Connors, EForce Compliance  
Mike Roles, Clean Water Action  
Jason Rossano, LevLane Media  
Danielle Masi, LevLane Media  
Jim Osborn, ARI  
Sue Higgins, ARI

City Staff

Scott McGrath, Director of Environmental Services, Streets Dept.  
Ian Hegarty, Recycling Planner, Streets Dept.

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**Call to order/introductions:**

SWRAC co-chairs Michelle Feldman and Andrew Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m.

**Minutes:**

Approval of the minutes from the May 15<sup>th</sup> SWRAC meeting was deferred until the next business meeting.

**Old business:**

Deferred until next SWRAC business meeting.

**New business:**

Deferred until next SWRAC business meeting.

**SWRAC Program:**

Sue Higgins and Jim Osborn of Alternative Resources, Inc. (the City's consultants) led a facilitated discussion to allow for the SWRAC to identify strategic opportunities and planning objectives. A Powerpoint deck (attached) was provided that detailed meeting agenda, purpose, structure, background, and key issues for discussion. Comments from participants included:

- Phil Bresee suggested that SWRAC's recommendations be formed around following the solid waste management hierarchy as established by EPA. He noted that solid waste management is now being referred to more as "materials management".
- Paul Kohl sought clarification on whether City's solid waste management plan is developed to address only residential solid waste, or is it intended to also address commercial and institutional waste? Phil Bresee confirmed that the entire solid waste stream is to be considered when developing solid waste plans.
- Maurice Sampson stated that the history of Philadelphia's solid waste management, understanding of the scope of waste management processes and systems and awareness of laws and ordinances all need to be affected. Sue Higgins asked whether this was for just the SWRAC or for the public at large. Mr. Sampson said both.
- Mike Roles relayed stakeholder interests in forming better public understandings of streets crews' tasks, challenges, training, etc. Sanitation workers should have better understanding of program rules. Mr. Roles followed that SWEEP's mission should be better explained to the general public too.
- Paul Kohl recommended that anaerobic digestion be decoupled from more traditional composting.
- Maurice Sampson suggested that SWRAC needs to better define the paradigm, i.e., what is waste stream focus? The City needs a better developed organics infrastructure. He suggested that create opportunity and residents will respond.
- Chuck Raudenbush mentioned the success of Recyclebank and suggested that commercial solid waste generators should have incentive programs as well.
- Maurice Sampson also suggested that collection systems become more efficient and that we should not avoid "third rail" issues, i.e. the City's collective bargaining agreements,
- Vivian Van Story spoke of missed outreach and educational opportunities in schools, and that the Philadelphia Housing Authority needs to recycle better. She also suggested that Barbara Moore, PHA's sustainability director, should be invited to join SWRAC.
- Maurice Sampson recommended that the Streets Department and SWRAC to extent possible provide resources to schools even in lieu of a district-wide strategy. He mentioned schools workshops, and that they should form goals around waste diversion and reduction.

ARI also distributed a survey sheet that asked meeting participants to rank and comment on various solid waste management issues (results attached).

**Announcements:**

There were no announcements.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

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Submitted,

Conisha Davis (Recording)

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