

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

DATE: May 20th, 2021

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members

Fern Gookin (Co-Chair), Revolution Recovery
Kelly Offner (Co-Chair), Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Kyle Lewis, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department
Bob Anderson, Retrievr
Chuck Raudenbush, Waste Management
Jack Embick, Interested Party
Maurice Sampson II, Clean Water Action
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department

Others Present:

Adam Hendricks, Philadelphia Water Department
Amy Cornelius, GreenBeams
Andy Shea, RNG Energy Solutions
Daniel Lawson, City of Philadelphia – Parks and Recreation
Grace Ann, City of Philadelphia – Parks and Recreation
Helena Rudoff, City of Philadelphia – Office of Sustainability
Laura Cassidy, City of Philadelphia – Department of Prisons
Logan Welde, Clean Air Council
Mary Ann Duffy, ECHO Systems
Mike Ewall, Energy Justice Network
Natalie Walker, University of Pennsylvania
Neil Garry, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department
Nina Morris, University of Pennsylvania
Tahlea Thomas, City of Philadelphia-Streets Department

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC chair Ms. Gookin at 3:04 pm.
Introductions:

March Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the March 18th General SWRAC meeting were approved by voice vote.

Organics Subcommittee Report

Adam advised that there would be a meeting May 12th @9am to get an update on the application on Bio-solids. There is proposed ban on co-digestion is on “trucked-in waste”. PADEP would prefer for high-strength wastes to be discharged into the sewer system. Notably, this means that the organic content of

the HSW will be consumed in secondary treatment, where it serves no benefit, instead of directly in anaerobic digestion, where biogas can be generated. PWD is tracking the changes and the ban on co-digestion.

Temple U is wrapping up its research looking at PWD Sludge and Food waste for permit change.

Other information

Composting project - Adam advised that the permit provisions are moving forward. Please see the link to the general Permit number with the link to the presentation (The position on Co-digestion with PWD) below.

Helena gave Office of Sustainability update, Welcoming Jocelyn NRDC regional initiative, Finalizing and testing messages, particularly around commercial disposal of organics.

Opened the floor for questions

Q. Will there be trash review or Study before we invest in New Vehicles

A. Yes

PRO update

Streets recently tested Electric trucks and have CNG trucks in the Fleet with success, though infrastructure costs have to be addressed for expansion.

TRP Study wrapped up and finding will be available by the September meeting.

Collections continues to deal with additional material at the curb with staffing challenges, however new hires are being made with some retention.

Open Floor

Requesting Recycling goals update by Maurice Sampson could possibly be able to start committee once everything is solidified with the streets department.

Thanks given to Neil for collecting all the data surrounding trash collection.

Logan announced that different Municipalities are suing companies that produce disposable wipes.

Discussed how plastic bags in recycling are problematic. Letters were sent to retailers asking not to promote their bags as recyclable.

Senate-break free from plastic (Senate Finance Committee) food bill.

Street Sweepers will start pilot in some areas in the fall.

The following links were listed in the meeting chat:

<http://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Plastic-and-Climate-FINAL-2019.pdf>

<https://academic.oup.com/edrv/article/36/6/E1/2354691>

<https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act/>

<https://www.ecocycle.org/zerowaste/overview/producer-responsibility>

https://www.mabiosolids.org/assets/docs/ImportantDocuments/PADEP_GPREissuance/03%20-%20AAB_BIOSOLIDS_PRESENTATION.PPTX_-_2-16-2021_3_52_36_PM_-_Ref_No_2456.pdf

<https://zwia.org/zero-waste-definition/>

<https://zwia.org/zwh/>

<https://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/recycling-blue-bins>

<http://www.energyjustice.net/md/beyond.pdf>

Next meeting July 15th

Meeting Adjourned at 4:47