

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

DATE: July 15th, 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

Jack Embick, Interested Party

Maurice Sampson II, Clean Water Action

Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department

Others Present:

Amy Cornelius, GreenBeams

Andy Shea, RNG Energy Solutions

Daniel Lawson, City of Philadelphia – Parks and Recreation

Helena Rudoff, City of Philadelphia – Office of Sustainability

Jocelyn Chin, City of Philadelphia – Office of Sustainability

Logan Welde, Clean Air Council

Maria Horowitz, Philadelphia Water Department

Meg Lemieur, Interested Party

Mike Ewall, Energy Justice Network

Neil Garry, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department

Nina Morris, University of Pennsylvania

Peter Karasik, Interested Party

Phil Bresee, MSW Consultants

Rebecca Collins, Temple University

Scott McGrath, City of Philadelphia-Streets Department

Tahlea Thomas, City of Philadelphia-Streets Department

Tamika Davis, PHL International Airport

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC chair Ms. Offner at 3:05 pm.

Introductions.

March Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the May 20th General SWRAC meeting were approved by voice vote.

State of Recycling

Commodities markets are moving up including natural HDPE, cardboard, colored HDPE and mixed paper. Demand for the commodities is up and domestic markets have responded.

A suggestion was made to put out a press release with this positive news.

Organics Subcommittee Report

At the last meeting, the following items were discussed:

- The Office of Sustainability presented some draft marketing materials on proper food waste disposal for feedback from the group.
- Update on the WET Center project
- Data collected on bench case studies. PWD team will be following up with EPA to further review the data. And, they will also be meeting with the Streets Department to discuss alternatives for food waste processing.

Office of Sustainability (OOS) Update

They are finalizing the 2-pager reviewed in the Organics meeting. They will incorporate this into SWEEP Officer tool kits. The goal is to increase education around how businesses should be handling their food waste.

Streets Department / Philadelphia Recycling Office (PRO) Update

- Completing study around direct messaging in Area 5 to see if it has affected the quality of recycling.
- Recycling and trash should be picked up in separate trucks now, but please send Kyle specifics if you notice otherwise and report to 311.
 - o Suggestion to make a post of the Streets social media accounts letting people know they should report commingling to 311
 - o Several people are reporting that they still see the commingling of trash and recycling on their blocks
- Recruitment and retention is still a challenge, but they are continuing to work on this.

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) Update

- Urban wood public/private partnership RFP will be released at the end of the month. Internal timeline (subject to change):
 - o Aug 2 – post RFP
 - o Aug 17 – mandatory preproposal meeting
 - o Aug 24 – non mandatory Organics Recycling Center site tour
 - o Aug 31 – questions due
 - o Sept 13 – post answers / any addendums
 - o Oct 5 – proposals due
- Launching urban wood design competition soon. Designs will be focused around city pools.
- Food waste / compost collection – Bennett Compost will start collecting food scraps from select facilities on Sept 13
- Permit application is still underway

MSW Consultants Update

- Working on annual reporting for the Streets Department
- Supporting recycling and zero waste goal setting, which is intended to be more comprehensive than just diversion rates. Will also be looking at how closely the City collects data.
- Compiling information and will be presenting to SWRAC

Goals Subcommittee Update

- MSW will be connecting with the Goals Subcommittee on the goal setting work

- If the goal is to reach zero waste by 2035, what are the steps needed to get there?
- The subcommittee would like to make a presentation at the next SWRAC meeting that clarifies their objectives

Informational Items, Open Discussion and Announcements

- Closed Loop Partners is breaking ground on Monday on a project in Cumberland County, NJ. The small scale MRF will be operational in mid-September. It's for localized recycling and is expected to process about 14,000 tons per year. They hope to make recycling sustainable in smaller markets.
- Clean Water Action Neighborhood Networks is holding a symposium on October 2nd called "Waste Not Want Not." More information will be distributed soon.
- The Flower Show tried to be a zero waste event and reached an 84% diversion rate, which is a big accomplishment for their first effort.
- Request to add updates from PPR and the Goals Subcommittee to the next meeting agenda.

Next Meeting Date

September 16, 2021

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.