

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

DATE: January 20, 2022

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members

Fern Gookin (Chair), Revolution Recovery
Kyle Lewis, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department
Bob Anderson, Retrievr + Closed Loop Partners
Maurice Sampson II, Clean Water Action + Niche Recycling
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department

Others Present:

Adam Hendricks, Philadelphia Water Department
Dominic Fulginiti, Republic Services
Helena Rudoff, City of Philadelphia – Office of Sustainability
Kearni Warren, Energy Justice Network
Logan Welde, Clean Air Council
Maria Horowitz, Philadelphia Water Department
Mike Ewall, Energy Justice Network
Nina Morris, University of Pennsylvania
Peter Karasik, Interested Party
Scott McGrath, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC Chair Fern Gookin at 3:05 pm.

Introductions

March 2022 Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the March 17th General SWRAC meeting were approved as amended by voice vote.

State of Recycling (Kyle Lewis)

- The processing rate is currently around \$51/tn. The markets are continuing to improve but are still volatile.
- Bob Anderson commented that the markets are beginning to soften, possibly driven by the cost of freight and diesel prices: the freight to move materials to the final destination is going up.

Organics Subcommittee Update (Adam Hendricks)

- The Subcommittee met last week on May 11th
- Philadelphia Water Department updates:
 - o The co-digestion study wrapped up and the final report will be coming soon.
 - o Planning phase for co-digestion technology is being completed.
- Discussed potential changes to the PADEP general permits for land application of bio-solids. Changes are still in pre-draft stage.

- Tim Bennett of Bennett Composting provided an update on their permit application, which is still being finalized.
- Helena Rudoff gave an update from Office of Sustainability, which will be reviewed later in this meeting as well.
- New York City recently put out an RFP for a comprehensive study of organics diversion strategies. This RFP can be circulated to the group once available.

Zero Waste Subcommittee Update (Maurice Sampson)

- The subcommittee has been meeting every other Friday
- Have identified three focus areas, that the subcommittee believes will give the biggest return: improve blue bin collection, get C&D waste out of the waste stream, organics. Meetings are being coordinated to advance each focus area.
- Would like to set % targets each year to get to Zero Waste by 2035
- Mike Ewall commented that there are a lot of studies on best practices that have already been done on 'pay as you throw' and other models, to get to zero waste. He recommends looking at the existing studies. Maurice replied that MSW Consultants is working on compiling these studies for the City.

Parks & Recreation Update

No one from Parks & Recreation was in attendance. No update was given.

Streets & Philadelphia Recycling Office (PRO) Update (Kyle Lewis)

- Department has the infrastructure in place for CNG and electric vehicles, making it the most sustainable fleet in the City.
- Working on strategies to reduce contamination in the blue bins, including contamination notices for the top six contaminants in the bins: plastic bags, hangers, clothing, food, liquids, and batteries.
- There was recently a fire at the West Philadelphia Transfer Station, believed to have been caused by a battery. The facility was out of service for two days.
- EPA will be announcing grant opportunities for education and outreach and for solid waste & recycling infrastructure soon.
- The department will be hiring for a Recycling Planner and Administrative positions soon.

Office of Sustainability (OOS) Update (Helena Rudoff)

- Final Waste Workshop is complete. First draft of the waste reduction action plan is being finalized for actions ~2023-2025
- Food waste campaign was launched on Earth Day: www.phila.gov/foodwaste; will be working with partners on implementation this summer
- Partnering with the Philadelphia School District on an action guide that will focus on food waste, textiles, litter and plastic waste
- The Zero Waste Microgrant received 46 applications from about 30 organizations. The final grant winners will be announced in mid-June

Informational Items, Open Discussion and Announcements

- Neil Garry has left his position with the Recycling Office. The SWRAC meeting invites were sent through Neil. These meetings will be cancelled and resent through Kyle Lewis.
- Bob Anderson will present on the recycling markets at the next meeting

Next Meeting Date

July 21, 2022 on Microsoft Teams

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.