

## City of Philadelphia Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC)

### MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 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

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Called to order by F Gookin and motioned at 3:10pm.

- Approval of Minutes from January 2021 SWRAC Meeting.
- State of Recycling Agenda item will be skipped today.

#### **Organics Subcommittee Update – P. Kohl**

- *Reviewed notes from subcommittee meeting on 3/10/21; minutes will be posted on the website once approved.*
- Discussed:
  - Texas power grid issues and deregulation of power markets.
  - PWD Co-digestion plants: exploring opportunities for energy efficiency (DC Water case study)
  - PWD investigating carbon pricing and offsetting carbon emissions in other cities. PPR is looking into carbon offsets via trees.

- Provided updates for:
  - Temple WET Center and forthcoming study results this summer.
  - Messaging with PPR, OOS on food waste and in-sink food waste grinders.
- Prisons (L Cassidy) compost production resuming since pandemic pause. 6,000 lbs of food donated to food pantries.

#### **Office of Sustainability – H. Rudoff**

- *Included as part of Organics Report*
- NRDC Food Matters group update-long term planning at next meeting.
- Particularly interested in addressing the enforcement gaps, education/outreach needs, and legislation overhaul for the dumpster ordinance that prohibits the disposal of organics in dumpsters for commercial and industrial properties.
  - L&I and Streets working on legislation, PWD assist with messaging.
  - PRO (N Garry): discussed necessity of metrics committee to address reporting, working with waste haulers to track data.

#### **Parks and Recreation – D. Lawson**

- *Included as part of Organics Report*
- Bennett composting still held up due to DEP permitting needs. Working on outreach/education materials for Rec Centers.
- Started precut firewood sales program (ash and cherry).
- Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center 2020 data takeaways: less material was coming in/out overall, but still >3-4x material coming in than out. Getting out mulch, woodchips, and compost is main concern.
- Update on OLIN Labs soilless soils: identifying lower pH glass product.

#### **Philadelphia Recycle Office/Streets Update - K. Lewis and S. McGrath**

- Recycling Partnership's curbside messaging and recycling contamination study (Area 5) starting in April.
  - Goal to determine what messaging style both reduces contamination and is cost effective. Part of the Recycling Partnership study will have sort data.
- WM Recycling sort study will be taken April (pre) and May (post), with results in the Fall.
- Municipal Street collections still up 30% with corresponding reduction in commercial collection. Staffing is also still an issue. Overall city tonnage has not changed much, just more is going to the residential collection services.
- PRO to meet with MSW to consult on Zero Waste Goals calculation.

#### **Informational Items, Open Discussion, and Announcements**

- Request to share out Break Free From Plastic Bill contents/update: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/support-the-break-free-from-plastic-pollution-act-2>

Called to close by F.Gookin and motioned at 5:01pm