

SWAC Meeting Minutes

3 Feb 2021

In attendance

Members: Zach Fleagle (Chair), Peter Blood (Vice Chair), Linda Coyle (at large), Jack Fritz (at large), Phil LeBlanc (High Tech), Patrick Miglio (commercial recycling), John Kinnaird (small municipality), Katherine Esposito (civic org), and Deborah Moran (Industrial)
DSWR: Phil Harris, Stephanie Peters

The meeting started at 6:35 with a quorum present.

Introductions/Recorder

Zach announced that tonight's meeting is broadcast live on Frederick County Boards and Commissions Facebook page. Call-in instructions for public comment were provided.

SWAC members introduced themselves.

Peter volunteered to take minutes.

Approval of Minutes

The draft January minutes were approved unanimously.

Department update

Phil Harris summarized departmental highlights. Frederick County and City have formed a new 52-member climate action group, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Work Group (hereafter Climate Work Group) to address local climate actions. This past month DSWR was inundated with comments and questions from Climate Work Group members, many of which were duplicative. Of particular concern was methane generation from the landfill. In order to respond to their questions in a time effective way, rather than address every individual question, FAQs were developed to address similar questions and posted to the website.

Peter asked if the DSWR had suggested to the Climate Work Group Chair if they had considered funneling questions to DSWR through their Chair. This remains an option but for now Phil suggests we first see if the FAQs address the group's needs.

Old/New Business

Phil reminded SWAC of some past committee protocols that have worked well: Questions and agenda items should be funneled through the Chair. Phil, Zack, and Peter encouraged people to identify agenda topics and send them to Zack. SWAC generally follows Robert's Rules of Order while also trying to stay informal. Those wishing to familiarize themselves with background materials should review the website, the county's Solid Waste Management Plan and Robert's Rules.

Phil also reminded members that SWAC has a broad power to address solid waste issues. It reviews proposed changes to the Solid Waste Management Plan and occasionally responds to directives. DSWR is preparing an amendment to the SWMP for SWAC's comments, to address a proposed new composting facility in the county, Key City Compost, which has applied for state and local permits to operate. SWAC offered comments on proposed changes to composting zoning regulations in 2017.

Deborah brought to SWAC's attention that in addition to the Frederick Climate Work Group, the Metropolitan Council of Governments has also developed a Regional Climate Action Plan.

Public Comment

None

Next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 3 Mar 2021 at 6:30 PM

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.