



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board  
May 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on May 8, 2024 at the New Albany Village Hall. Mr. Filiatraut called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

**II. Roll Call**

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Schumacher	absent
Mr. Filiatraut	present
Mr. Harrold	present
Mr. Conway	present
Ms. Gallo	present
Mr. Barnes	present
Ms. McGraw	present
Council Member Kist	absent

Having five voting members present, the board had a quorum.

Staff members present: Director of Public Service Barker, City Forester Hoessle, Planner II Nichols.

**III. Action of Minutes:**

Mr. Filiatraut asked for a motion to approve the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

Mr. Conway moved to approve the April 10, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Gallo and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

**IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda**

Two additions to Other Business were made:

- 1) Update from Lily McGraw on her group's student leadership grant project; and
- 2) Update on the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District / New Albany Invasive Trade-in Program.

**V. Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight's Agenda**

Mr. Filiatraut asked whether there were any visitors present who wished to address the board for an item not on tonight's agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Filiatraut closed the hearing of visitors.

**VI. Food Waste Compost Working Group Report**

Mr. Barnes gave a brief recap of the working group's April meeting.

**VII. Business:**

- i. Overview of the Consortium Process



Ms. Nichols stated staff wanted to give an overview of the city's consortium process, given the context that this information may be good to keep in mind while thinking about a curbside food waste/composting program. Staff met with SWACO to talk about the SAB's interest in such a program and received basic information from them on the Consortium process.

Mr. Barker gave an overview of what the Consortium is, how it is setup, and how it is ran:

- SWACO is the State appointed entity that owns and regulates the Franklin County landfill. Every community within Franklin County sends their trash to the SWACO landfill.
- SWACO's primary goal is to continue to meet standards set by the Ohio EPA. They have a finite space at the landfill and so they have been trying to come up with programs to help mitigate that.
- They are also very helpful in bringing communities to the table to participate in the consortium. It is a way to buy services at an order of magnitude price that would otherwise not be available for someone to achieve on their own.
- When contracts go out to bid, SWACO is the one that facilitates it for all of the communities in the consortium.
- They have the expertise to help guide and manage it for the participants so that it meets the State standards.
- The city has a three-year term with the option to extend.
- The uniqueness is that there has been a lot of things changing over the last couple of years.
- It may not be of value to Rumpke, but pricing has changed significantly and the consortium collectively decided they would like to continue to participate and extend the contract another year.
- The extension is the same contract and same price, as it would not be achieved based on today rates.
- To that end, SWACO helps the communities decide their menu of options and it is all bid out on a much larger scale. It is a guiding, regulatory resource.

Ms. Nichols reiterated that the contracts are typically 3 years but with options to extend, the city's current process is a 5-year contract. The next full term starts on January 1, 2027. The kick-off for the next full-term contract will be August 25, 2025. So basically, it takes 1-1.5 years to get ready for the contract.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there could be a clause in the next contract that says something to the effect that if/when curb-side composting is made available that it could be revisited after a certain date.

Mr. Barker explained that SWACO is required to have 15-year plans in place and these plans are documentation that they provide to the Ohio EPA to show they are following through with the objectives the State has put in place. That 15-year plan is something that is updated every five years. Earlier this year the city just took the most recent update to city council to approve and accept. And essentially, every year SWACO is increasing efforts related to diversion. There are composting considerations and everything is baked into this. At the end of the day, SWACO is very interested in those opportunities to divert things that will otherwise be in the landfill. He would imagine that as those things come online, it is something that would be encouraged by SWACO.

Mr. Barnes asked who New Albany uses for collection of yard waste. Mr. Barker stated Rumpke handles yard waste, recycling, and refuse. They then take it to the Franklin County landfill.



ii. Native Landscaping

Ms. Nichols explained that the city staff is asking the board to table the Native Landscaping discussion until the regular June 12, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Conway moved to table the Native Landscape discussion to the June 12, 2024 regular meeting. Seconded by Ms. Gallo and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the motion.

iii. SWACO's Event Waste Reduction Grant

Ms. Nichols reviewed details of the Event Waste Reduction Grant application with the board:

- In 2023, the city of New Albany purchased 2,000 plastic water bottles for just two community events.
- With the help of SWACO's Event Waste Reduction Grant, the city could use a water filling station, such as a WaterMonster, as an alternative water source at six 2024 community events.
- One full WaterMonster serves 1,000 16-oz cups and the city will be able to refill the tank ourselves throughout the event, with the help from the New Albany Public Service Department.
- In addition, should we be granted the funds, the city will also supply reusable aluminum cups and encourage attendees (ahead of time) to bring their own water bottle.
- The plan for 2024 is to use the water tank at the summer concert series and the Diwali Celebration.
- This would greatly help us implement sustainable, environmentally conscience methods of waste reduction.
- Should the Board support this initiative, staff would ask that they make a motion to recommend the city submit the grant application.

Mr. Conway asked if the intent is just to use the tank at events or if it would be a permanent fixture. Ms. Nichols answered by stating it is a mobile tank and in 2024 it would only be used for the 6 planned events. However, the city would continue to use it in the years to come. There is also the potential for using it for the Juneteenth Celebration and any other city events in 2025. Perhaps even renting it out to other private events.

Mr. Filiatraut asked how much it costs and if we are only applying for one tank. Ms. Nichols answered by stating the city is only applying to purchase one tank, the accessories, and reusable cups. The grant amount is based on the number of attendees at the events. The city expects 2,000 attendees over the course of the 6 events. In that case, the city is eligible for up to \$2,000. The water tank and accessories are over \$2,000. However, the city is required to pay for at least 20% of the total project cost, so the city would be paying for at least \$700 and the grant amount would be for \$2,000.

Mr. Barnes asked if the reusable cup would be one that people take home. Ms. Nichols answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Barnes stated he would like to see the city pledge to not use plastic water bottles at city events by a certain date. Ms. Nichols agreed that it was a good idea and stated the city can control their own events but for private events we could only encourage others to do so, but can't require them to use something other than water bottles.



Mr. Filiatraut suggested that the city provide private events with a list of recommendations and not using water bottles, and perhaps renting the tank, could be on the list.

Ms. Gallo moved to recommend the city of New Albany submit the SWACO Event Waste Reduction Grant application. Seconded by Mr. Barnes and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the motion.

**VIII. Other Business:**

- i. Ms. McGraw gave a brief update on her group’s grant with the “no idling” signage project. Either she or one of her group members will be present at a meeting later this summer to give a more formal presentation and final update.
- ii. Ms. Hoessle gave an update on the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District / New Albany Invasive Trade-in Program.

**IX. Poll Members for Comment**

Mr. Conway asked if anyone’s terms will be expiring anytime soon. Ms. Nichols explained that there will be two new Board members starting in June and July. One is to fill Ms. Duffy’s open position.

Ms. Nichols stated that she forgot to mention before that when staff met with SWACO to talk to them about the grant, they also talked to them about how the city is looking at increasing recycling and maybe even adding compost bins at city events. If we are able to get enough containers, we would need volunteers to staff the events. Especially with composting, SWACO recommends having volunteers to reduce cross-contamination.

**X. Adjournment**

Having no further business, Mr. Filiatraut moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11p.m. Without objection, the May 8, 2024 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Chelsea Nichols, Planner II