

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**DRAFT Summary Minutes**  
June 6, 2014

**Members Present:**

Pamela Gratton, Fairfax County (via phone)  
John Snarr, MWCOG  
Thomas Mason, Town of Leesburg  
Scott MacDonald, Prince William County  
Allison Lohrenz, City of Falls Church  
Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County  
Monica Boehringer, City of Manassas  
Stiles Peabody, City of Alexandria

Debbie Spiliotopoulos, NVRC  
Mary Van Dyke, NVRC

**Invited Guests:**

Richard Doucette, Virginia DEQ  
Sue Rowland, SR Consulting/ NVRC Legislative Liaison  
EJ Scott, Chair, DEQ Waste Management Board

**Staff Present:**

CALL TO ORDER      Monica Boehringer called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Introductions were made..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES      Monica Boehringer moved approval of the minutes of the December 2014, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Minutes of the March meeting subsequently circulated for approval.

ORGANICS PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION      Composting is a hot topic in our region. How is it going in practice in the localities? Stiles Peabody reported on food waste collection in Alexandria. Food waste collection has been piloted successfully since November 2013 in two Farmers Markets: Del Ray and Town Square. Captured 50-100 1 gallon pails returned per week at start, and now up to 200-250 per weekend. Moving 1 ton per week, and forecast 2 tons per week next year. Questions: Are we servicing a niche market or is there opportunity for a wider market? Could this food waste program be combined with a new yard waste program? Is there anywhere other than Annapolis or DE dealing with composting?

Other updates: A couple of composting facilities are being developed in PG County and will be ready in 6-9 months and 2015. The only VA composting facility is currently in Roanoke and only takes some types of compostables.

Scott MacDonald stated that PWC is looking to compost pre-consumer fruit, vegetables and paper and need to change technology in order to increase their capacity. PWC looking at two RFPs for food waste capability including a food digester that produces energy, not compost.

Allison Lohrenz (Falls Church City), stated that they teach 6 yard waste and 8 composting workshops each year. Classes are full, with 20-40 residents at each.

Ms Lohrenz pointed out that the City code does not allow residential "on ground" food composting. So residents are encouraged to raise composters on concrete platforms. The City partners with the rainwater barrel program, The barrels are thick plastic and for a composter the holes are small and they keep out most vermin.

Outreach is via City's website and newsletter and occasional articles in the local paper. Tracking about 1200 views currently on the newsletter.

John Snarr reported that MWCOG Organics Task Force has met quarterly, and now meets every other month, and next meets September 18.

Erik Grabowsky reported on Arlington County's July 1<sup>st</sup> yard waste collection for customers. Customers will have option to opt out, and will have a choice of cart size. The vision is to start with yard waste and move ultimately to include food waste collection. They conducted surveys in 2012 and 2013, those people responding are mainly supportive to increasing organics collections, however more resistance from Civic Federation. Current price bid of \$25 per ton for organics very competitive versus the \$43.6 for energy, but that could change.

WASTE  
LEGISLATIVE  
PRIORITIES

Sue Rowland reported that the Governor's budget has not yet been signed by either the Senate, House or Governor's Office. That they should all sign by July 1<sup>st</sup> when the new biennial budget should start. If the Assembly does not pass by July 1<sup>st</sup> there will be 1) no access to the Rainy Day fund 2) a court proceeding. Some local governments are planning for the worst case scenario. Affects would be: 1) Local government costs, with smaller local governments likely to be most affected as they have less cash reserves than larger localities. 2) Bond ratings for both state and localities are at risk. Hope the politicians do sign by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Rowland reported that there is no public plan for contingency if Budget not passed

Ms Rowland reported on the "\$1 billion dollar shortfall" revenue forecast and yet this year there is actually \$0.5 billion dollar surplus between the revenue and the expenditure as the state is very fiscally conservative. The budget surplus is carried forward into revenue for the next Biennial Budget. Budget forecast will be renewed in August.

Implications: State supported programs as DEQ under pressure (as Ms Rowland reported at the previous committee meeting). Local officials are also under pressure from the state squeeze and this affects local budgets. Resulting options for the public sector are to work on increasing efficiency and to work on local and administrative improvements.

WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
BOARD  
INTRODUCTION

EJ Scott introduced herself. She has been with the WM Board since 2007, and was recently elected Chair. Ms Scott agreed to present WM Board issues at the September meeting.

KNOW TOXICS  
UPDATE

Debbie Spiliotopoulos gave updates. The website currently receives 250 hits per month. Trainings made money thanks to sponsors, and 60 people attended two sessions. Next year will aim for date later in the season, perhaps May or June to suit localities. Increase slightly on 2015 proposed budget to reflect improved website and staffing costs.

Ms Spiliotopoulos reminded localities to link to the Know Toxics website and also to use the logo on their websites. Richard Doucette offered use of DEQ presentations on the Know Toxic website. Updates to the website could include embedding training video. Publicity to update includes the 2-page tri-fold and bookmark. Business cards with QR Codes discussed. Check [www.QRstuff.com](http://www.QRstuff.com) for ideas. Ms Spiliotopoulos will arrange a call in July to discuss scope of trainings.

2015/16 BUDGET  
AND WORK  
PROGRAM

The proposed Budget, including for more hours for general VA Recycling Association liaison and Know Toxics will be approved in September.

The next meeting will be September 26<sup>th</sup> as NVRC moving to adjacent building..

Topics of interest for future meetings include "Zero Waste", haulers, and issues surrounding glass recycling.

2015 ELECTION OF  
CHAIR AND VICE-  
CHAIR

A motion was proposed for new officers to serve the committee: Tom Smith, Prince William County as Chair and Alton Weaver, City of Alexandria as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted.

The committee thanked Monica Boehringer for her service as Chair to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Next meeting to be September 26, in new location, as NVRC moving to adjacent building.