

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**Summary Minutes**

September 11, 2015

**Members Present:**

Alton Weaver, City of Alexandria  
Mike Clem, City of Alexandria  
Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County  
Shani Kruljac, Arlington County  
Richard West, Town of Dumfries  
Erica Carter, Fairfax County  
Pamela Gratton, Fairfax County  
Chris McGough, City of Falls Church  
Mike Farr, Town of Herndon  
Reneé LaFollette, Town of Leesburg  
Monica Boehringer, City of Manassas  
John Snarr, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
Thomas Smith, Prince William County

**Staff Present:**

Debbie Spiliotopoulos, NVRC  
Erica Wohlleben, NVRC

**Invited Guests:**

Doug Ross, Freestate Farms LLC  
Sue Rowland, Rowland Consulting  
Dan Demers, VA DEQ

**Other Guests:**

Jim Schulman, Building Materials Reuse Association

**CALL TO ORDER** Alton Weaver, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made around the table.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Chairman Weaver moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**FREESTATE FARMS PRESENTATION** Doug Ross, CEO of Freestate Farms LLC, presented on new developments to the Balls Ford Road Compost Facility. In addition to maintaining existing mulching facilities, the firm will introduce anaerobic digesters to repurpose category one through three food waste (which includes some yard waste) into nutrient rich compost. Quasar Energy Group, who currently have 13 similar facilities in the US, will create the digester system. The system is similar to the Howard County facility, which uses positive air loading and a reverse bio filter to process air. Although the facility will be able to accommodate some yard waste, food and yard waste will be mixed on site. Other additions to the site include a commercial greenhouse and classroom space. The facility will initially target commercial waste-generators. The facility has a pretreatment element for food waste including grinding operations to create a slurry for the digester.

Mr. Clem and Mr. Grabowsky recommended that collection related to this facility offer a way for localities to collect food waste with yard waste, as separate containers was not feasible. Discussion ensued regarding an opportunity to have biodegradable bags for the food waste for separation at the plant. Mr. Grabowsky indicated that this could offer a much larger amount of feedstock from residential communities.

**VML/VACO DISCUSSION** Sue Rowland outlined VML, VACO, and NVRC's legislative position statements. The board reviewed and supported including the local authority to regulate plastic bags on the VML Position Statement, as plastic bags remain problematic in single-stream recycling and water pollution. There was also a brief discussion about adding a separate resolution related to regulating Styrofoam. A proposed update to the VACO position statement included a recent deletion of a statement in support of flow control. This was a concern for some board members. Pamela Gratton noted the importance of flow control in several localities and recent challenges as well (i.e., Spotsylvania County). Electronic recycling and plastic microbeads were both discussed as developing issues to consider. The group recommended that the Board should reexamine NVRC's 2011 review of the HB344 computer law.

**WASTE BOARD BUDGET AND ANNUAL REPORT** A motion to adopt the NVWMB Program and Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 was made by Erik Grabowsky and seconded by Richard West. Ms. Spiliotopoulos reported that funds still remain in current year's budget and will be used to complete the annual report and possibly to update Know Toxics webpage into a stand-alone website.

- WASTE REPORT Ms. Spiliotopoulos reminded all localities to submit their Waste Report data and thanked Mr. West for providing Dumfries' data for the report for the first time.
- CAO PRESENTATION UPDATE Mr. Weaver, Mr. Grabowsky, and Mr. Smith will present to Chief Administrative Officers when they meet at NVRC this Thursday, September 17. NVRC staff will put together a brief PowerPoint/handout. The meeting will cover overview of the waste board, its inception and mission, legislative slides on issue and approaches, infrastructures and organizations and processing capabilities, challenges with yard/food waste, electronics, and approaches to handle this issue locally and regionally.
- RECOGNITION Chairman Weaver recognized Thomas Smith for his contribution as NVWMB Chairman for FY 2015, and Monica Boehringer for her contribution as NVWMB Chairwoman for FY 2014.
- NEW BUSINESS No notes taken during roundtable/new business

**NEXT WASTE BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015 AT 10 AM (NOTE LATER START TIME).**