

NORTHERN VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Summary Minutes

March 3, 2017

Members Present:

Richard Doucette, VA DEQ
Alton Weaver, City of Alexandria
Pamela Gratton, Fairfax County
John Snarr, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County
Renee LaFollette, Town of Leesburg
Chris McGough, City of Falls Church
Thomas Smith, Prince William County
Scott MacDonald, Prince William County

Staff Present:

Debbie Spiliotopoulos, NVRC
Erica Wohlleben, NVRC

Joined By Phone:

Sue Rowland, Rowland Consulting
Jessica Wessel, Loudoun County

CALL TO ORDER Erik Grabowsky, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Chairman Grabowsky moved to approve the minutes of the December 2017 meeting. The board seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

FAIRFAX UPDATE Pamela Gratton of Fairfax provided the waste board an update on the situation at Covanta's waste-to-energy facility in Lorton, which caught fire in early February. The facility is likely to open in 3-6 months. Fairfax must get permits to repair the damaged roofs. The fire destroyed onsite cranes, so Covanta is looking for possible alternatives. Fairfax is waiting for a report on what happened and how to avoid this in the future. The fire marshal would like to see improvements to the facility's fire protection system. It is early to say what might have caused the fire, but improperly disposed rechargeable batteries could have contributed.

Covanta Fairfax was the second fire to break out at a waste facility in the area recently (1st in Mont. County, MD), board members agreed that it was an opportunity to emphasize waste management issues and discuss contingency plans if this were to happen at other facilities/localities. Alexandria and Arlington asked Covanta what would happen if a fire broke out in their facility and there appeared to be no great option for alternatives. Most localities would likely divert to King George. The NVSWMB would like to review each other's comprehensive plans to coordinate contingency plans. Calls for further discussion of how to avoid these incidents.

DEQ reminded the board that emergency permits can be preapproved by DEQ and there is an option for Northern Virginia to do this regionally. There are already regional MOU's in place for equipment during emergency events. Legislation surrounding battery disposal would also be useful.

BIENNIAL WASTE REPORT: 2016 DATA NEEDS Next, the Board discussed which information they would like to see in the upcoming edition of the waste report. Some members are interested in seeing more information about the local facilities, including a map of permitted disposal facilities and yard waste facilities. COG mentioned interest in the commercial/residential waste breakdown. A smaller workgroup will explore ways improve data for the report. The board would like a brief paragraph in the report about what happens if a facility were to go down. Additionally, facility capacity information. DEQ can provide information on capacity for landfills and transfer stations.

TIRE FUND, E-WASTE, LITTER REGULATIONS, AND MRF FACT SHEETS Pamela Gratton and other policy subcommittee members created fact sheets that can explain waste management issues to legislators, the public. The board approved the tire fund, MRF, and litter fund sheets. Pamela and Scott will work on the e-waste sheet. The Board agreed that all sheets should be formatted the same and that Sue Rowland should disperse them amongst the Va. General Assembly. Scott will also work on a paper for Product Stewardship.

