

NORTHERN VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**Summary Minutes**

March 2, 2007

10:00 am

Members Present:

Jane Tatum, Loudoun County, Chairman
 Kathy Allan, City of Falls Church
 Joyce Doughty, Fairfax County
 Stacy Herring, City of Alexandria
 Scott MacDonald, Arlington County
 Christine McCoy, City of Alexandria
 Jeff Smithberger, Fairfax County
 Tom Mason, Town of Leesburg
 Gail Harris, Prince William County
 John Snarr, MWCOG
 Ben Boxer, Fairfax County SWMP
 Mike Giuranna, EPA

Conrad Mehan, PDS
 Buff Mundale, American Disposal
 Chuck Miner, AAA Recycling and Trash
 Paul Williamson, CSI

Staff Present:

Barbara Gordon
 Doug Pickford
 Marshall Popkin
 Sue Rowland
 Debbie Spiliotopoulos

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Jane Tatum called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

INTRODUCTIONS Meeting participants introduced themselves and discussed ongoing activities within their jurisdictions, businesses, etc.

**APPROVAL OF
 LAST MEETING'S
 MINUTES**

Tom Mason (Town of Leesburg) moved to approve last meeting's minutes. Christine McCoy (City of Alexandria) seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**LEGISLATIVE
 UPDATE**

Sue Rowland, NVRC's legislative consultant, provided a printed update on the status of state legislation related to solid waste. A summary of the relevant approved legislation follows:

Bills that Passed and are Signed by the Governor – HB 1689 (Municipal Solid Waste) repeals the authority of the Solid Waste Management Board to develop regulations governing the commercial transport of nonhazardous waste. HB 1689 also removes a provision that limits landfills from accepting more than 2,000 tons of solid waste per day.

HB 1715 (Garbage) increases the fine for dumping into state waters from \$100 to \$2,500.

Bills and Resolutions that Passed – HB 3113 (DEQ) consolidates the State Air Pollution Control Board, the State Water Control Board, and the Waste Management Board into one eleven-member board with the authority to adopt regulations. SB 1403 is identical to HB 3113 and passed through both houses.

HB 3133 (Sanitary Landfills) requires DEQ to develop a post-closure document for those landfills that stopped taking solid waste prior to October 9, 1991.

SB 1031 (Energy Facility) creates a single Board to function as the permitting authority for all governmental approval for electric generation facilities with an installed capacity of at least 10 megawatts.

SB 1140 (Scrap metal processors) establishes requirements regarding purchases of scrap metal by scrap metal processors.

SJ 361 (Waste minimization, reuse, and recycling) requests the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study waste minimization, reuse, and recycling. The study is scheduled to be worked on during 2008.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Budget amendments – Delegate David Bulova and Senator Patsy Ticer included a \$300,000 budget amendment for FY 2007/2008 from the general fund to increase the grant awards for the litter control and recycling activities of non profit groups located within the localities in Planning District Commission 8. These budget amendments were not approved by either the Senate Finance or House Appropriates committee.

PANEL
DISCUSSION WITH
LOCAL HAULERS

Scott MacDonald (Arlington County) led a panel discussion with four representatives from local waste/recycling management companies: Buff Mundale (American Disposal); Chuck Miner (AAA Recycling and Trash / Republic Services); Paul Williamson (CSI); and Conrad Mehan (PDS). Each of the four representatives' companies services multi-family homes. Scott MacDonald noted that while 93% of multi-family establishments in Arlington have recycling programs, only 13% of recyclable materials are recovered.

The first set of questions related to education for multi-family properties: 1) What types of education or information about trash and recycling preparation is provided to customers in multi-family units? 2) When is this information provided? 3) In what format is the information typically provided?

Panelists stressed that educational materials are not the responsibility of haulers. Buff Mundale emphasized that haulers cannot be held responsible for educating residents; property managers are responsible for educating their residents. Chuck Miner suggested that a pamphlet should be generated for distribution throughout the region. Conrad Mehan pointed out that most properties are reluctant to distribute materials unless local jurisdictions require them to do so. Paul Williamson noted that property managers need to be informed of the requirements by the jurisdictions. Christine McCoy (City of Alexandria) asked how education would be funded. Conrad Mehan emphasized that the hauling community would never agree to pay for education; such activities go against the spirit of competition. Jeff Smithberger (Fairfax County) stated that education efforts will need to be mandatory in order to succeed. Conrad Mehan agreed with making any changes mandatory so that all businesses find themselves with the same requirements. Conrad Mehan noted that education may be more appropriate for public entities that can put out similar documents. Jeff Smithberger (Fairfax County) has distributed booklets to the haulers published by Fairfax County. Conrad noted that fees assessed to haulers are passed onto their customers and any education fees should be collected directly by the jurisdiction.

The second set of questions related to best practices: 1) Do you have any examples where multi-family housing collection and recycling services are working well? 2) Why do you think these programs work well?

Buff Mundale suggested that multi-family buildings are not designed for efficient recycling. Local governments should not issue permits to buildings that do not have adequate provisions for proper removal. Chuck Miner mentioned a property in Ashburn that displays an arrangement conducive for recycling; totes are well-labeled and the recycling area generally is kept clean. Paul Williamson suggested that successful programs are predicated on maintaining adequate space and having separate, well-labeled cans. Jeff Smithberger (Fairfax County) noted that jurisdictions have award programs to recognize successful recycling programs. Stacy Herring (City of Alexandria) asked whether haulers help property managers develop effective recycling programs. Buff Mundale emphasized that haulers try to provide services at the lowest possible cost; adding additional programs, such as education, costs money and would cause a hauler to be less competitive when bidding for contracts. Conrad Mehan and Chuck Miner emphasized that education programs cannot be mandated by the haulers; education has to start at the local government level. The Board asked haulers for their views on potential partnership opportunities. Buff Mundale noted that American Disposal's website will include links to the Fairfax County recycling website. Debbie Spiliotopoulos (NVRC) offered to send information on Know Toxics to the haulers.

Scott MacDonald (Arlington County) asked the haulers if they had any questions for the Waste Board. Paul Williamson asked whether the jurisdictions felt they were doing an effective job. Christine McCoy (City of Alexandria) responded 'no.' She suggested that haulers should refuse to provide services to developments that do not maintain adequate recycling programs; Buff Mundale responded that haulers are not regulators. Paul Williamson noted that in order to meet recycling requirements at a multi-family development, individuals must make a conscious decision to separate trash from recyclables. Sue Rowland (NVRC) asked whether residents of multi-family developments could obtain information on recycling rates. Conrad Mehan responded that the haulers could provide property managers with an estimate. Jane Tatum emphasized the importance of residents' feedback to their property managers. Citizens should demand more from their HOAs. Buff Mundale suggested that the Waste Board invite an HOA to the next meeting of the Northern Virginia Waste Management Board in June.

**KNOW TOXICS
UPDATE**

NVRC staff summarized activities related to the Know Toxics Campaign. The Know Toxics Subcommittee met once in January to discuss work program tasks. NVRC sent PDF copies of the Know Toxics brochures to vendors listed on the Know Toxics website. NVRC researched potential case studies and visited Ikea's recycling manager with Gail Harris (Prince William County). NVRC contacted Capital Lights regarding their fluorescent lamp recycling services. Fairfax County sent a mailing to businesses that included information on Know Toxics. The Know Toxics website nearly doubled to 217 unique visitors in January following the Fairfax mailing. NVRC staff participated in a panel discussion on Know Toxics at the SWANA "Thinking Outside the Blue Box" recycling meeting in Tampa, Florida on February 26th and 27th. Please continue to notify NVRC staff of outreach efforts.

Christine McCoy (City of Alexandria) recommended that the Board pursue EPA's "Community Action for a Renewed Environment" cooperative agreement with the Virginia Recycling Association. She recommended expanding Know Toxics statewide.

Scott MacDonald (Arlington County) suggested putting up Know Toxics' posters or brochure stands in stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's. Jane Tatum, NVWMB Chair suggested that the Subcommittee contact regional store managers to determine whether they would be amenable to such an outreach effort.

**PRELIMINARY
SURVEY RESULTS**

Seven jurisdictions (DC, Montgomery County, City of Manassas, Town of Vienna, City of Fairfax, Prince William County, and Loudoun County) submitted reports. NVRC proposed the following improvements for the 2008 survey: provide jurisdictions with summary pages containing the information from the previous year's survey, provide additional questions in an open-ended format, pilot the surveys as an online feature, and hold the subcommittee meeting in late fall 2007 to prepare for the 2008 survey. NVRC proposed enhancing the report to make use of historical data for 2008.

Scott MacDonald, Arlington County, noted that though he had encountered some problems filling out the survey, overall, he found the survey to have improved.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.