

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Summary Minutes**

December 7, 2007
10:00 am

Members Present:

Chairman Thomas Smith, Prince William County
Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County
Pamela Gratton, Fairfax County
Jeff Smithberger, Fairfax County
John Snarr, MWCOG
Jane Tatum, Loudoun County

Staff Present:

Doug Pickford
Marshall Popkin
Sue Rowland
Heather Shackley
Debbie Spiliotopoulos

Guest:

Rosemary Byrne, Clean Fairfax Council

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Thomas Smith (Prince William County) called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

NVRC WEBSITE UPGRADE Heather Shackley (NVRC) discussed NVRC's ongoing efforts to redesign the organization's public website. NVRC is working with the consulting firm Civic Plus to improve the website and provide more expansive functions (calendars, news flashes, and directories); under the new setup, events posted to the website will be removed once their dates have passed. In addition, the new configuration will contain a 'site within a site' feature, which seamlessly redirects users to a 'novaregion.org'-url for sites connected to NVRC's main website (such as Know Toxics). Ms. Shackley described the opportunity for updating the Know Toxics website in conjunction with the NVRC redesign. *Waste Board members will advise NVRC on the changes to the Waste Board web page.*

Jeff Smithberger (Fairfax County) requested cost data associated with updating the website. Debbie Spiliotopoulos (NVRC) provided that the added costs would include a one-time cost of \$1,500 for the new design and \$150 for the domain transfer, the site would cost \$327/year in maintenance costs. Doug Pickford (NVRC) proposed including the additional costs to next year's budget. The Waste Board voted to upgrade the Know Toxics site in conjunction with the website upgrades and committed to pay for this by adding funds to next year's budget. *NVRC will calculate the additional costs for each Waste Board member for next year's budget.*

KNOW TOXICS UPDATE Ms. Spiliotopoulos reported that during the last quarter the Know Toxics website received the second highest number of hits since the first quarter after launching the website. NVRC has been in the process of checking the efficiency of various links on the Know Toxics website.

NVRC provided an update to the Waste Board on the source reduction proposal that NVRC submitted for Know Toxics. This proposal was to expand Know Toxics community and consumer education, including point-of-sale materials for retail outlets and technical assistance to small/medium businesses. EPA rejected the grant because consumer education and recycling was not a funding priority. Ms. Spiliotopoulos indicated that in the debriefing, EPA noted that they funded a similar grant to a large New England industry/government alliance last year. Pamela Gratton (Fairfax County) recommended that future proposals should focus only on grants from the solid waste office, assuming funds will become available. Ms. Gratton will provide contact information for relevant EPA staff. NVRC indicated that it would reach out to DEQ to form a stronger alliance and gain some support for Waste Board efforts. The Waste Board recommended that NVRC should pursue the state competitive litter grants for 2008. Sue Rowland, NVRC legislative liaison, suggested that state delegates and congressional representatives might be able to support Waste Board efforts in the funding process.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Mr. Smithberger moved to approve the minutes from the September 2007 meeting. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion and the Waste Board unanimously approved the September minutes.

ESTABLISHING A
PLANNING
SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Smith proposed establishing a planning committee to develop a five-year strategic plan for the Waste Board. The Waste Board voted to establish a Planning Committee. Mr. Smith recommended major localities and one to two of the small cities to participate in this committee, which will begin meeting in the early part of 2008. Ms. Spiliotopoulos will set up the group via email.

LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE

Ms. Rowland provided the Waste Board with an update of issues and planned legislation for the 2008 General Assembly session. The Virginia Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) held two meetings on electronics recycling, with a third meeting scheduled for Monday, December 10. At this meeting, JCOTS was likely to recommend legislation related to their research of e-cycling.

Ms. Rowland distributed a copy of a proposed bill developed by Delegate Plum related to a manufacturer responsibility program for the recycling of computer equipment and televisions. A delegate has not yet sponsored this legislation. The proposed Virginia legislation uses the existing Texas legislation with two key distinctions: 1) the VA legislation focuses on personal computer equipment and 2) the VA legislation includes provisions for televisions. The proposed legislation applies only to personal computers and televisions, and does not apply to business recycling and disposal of electronics. NVRC will direct any comments to Ms. Rowland and circulate issues to the Board.

Ms. Rowland walked the Waste Board through a number of key provisions in the legislation.

- Lines 42-44 focus on the legislation's applicability.
- Lines 45-51 discuss where the legislation does not apply.
- Lines 153-154 state that retailers may sell inventory (without penalty) that accumulated before the Act's effective date.

Erik Grabowsky (Arlington County) asked about the February 2009 conversion date for televisions, a date prior to the proposed bill taking effect. Mr. Grabowsky asked whether vendors are required to have collection sites within 100 miles of their distribution locales. John Snarr (MWCOG) noted that many computer companies provide mail back services. Ms. Tatum noted that public expectations are growing for take back services

Ms. Gratton commented that the legislation does not require recycling; it only encourages voluntary recycling.

Ms. Rowland reported that the Governor's budget would be released on December 17, generating a number of bills. Key issues will include the pre Kindergarten education and the Governor's energy plan.

Ms. Spiliotopoulos asked members of the Waste Board to generate questions and recommendations (as necessary) for the proposed e-cycling legislation, which she will forward on to Ms. Rowland and the legislative committee. The Waste Board will reestablish the legislative subcommittee in early January to comment on legislation during the session,

RECYCLING
INITIATIVES

Mr. Smith reported that the Virginia Recycling Market Development Council met on December 6 and recycling discussed tax credits and developing the glass market with new technology using cullet for road construction material.

Ms. Spiliotopoulos reported that the NVRC approved a Cool Schools initiative based upon the cool counties program. Fairfax County was the first school system to approve the initiative in the region. Ms. Spiliotopoulos mentioned the Virginia Recycling Association initiative to encourage recycling in schools.

The Waste Board expressed interest in reaching out to 2009 Environment Virginia

planners to enhance conference coverage of solid waste issues.

Ms. Spiliotopoulos also described a potential opportunity to work with a consumer education professor at Virginia Tech who is interested in developing curricula for a recycling education project, perhaps involving students in Know Toxics or Cool Schools initiatives.

ESTABLISH WASTE SURVEY COMMITTEE The Board approved establishing a survey committee in preparation for the 2008 Survey of Solid Waste Services. Waste board members will provide NVRC with names, preferably those staff that complete the surveys for the jurisdiction. The survey committee will meet prior to the March Waste Board meeting.

REGIONAL REVIEW Members of the Waste Board reported on relevant activities taking place within their own jurisdictions.

ADJOURNMENT Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.