

NORTHERN VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Summary Minutes
June 6, 2008
10:00 am

Members Present:

Thomas Smith, Prince William County
Jane Tatum, Loudoun County
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County
Scott MacDonald, Prince William County
Tom Mason, Town of Leesburg
Jeff Smithberger, Fairfax County
Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County
John Snarr, MWCOG

Staff Present:

Marshall Popkin
Debbie Spiliotopoulos
Sue Rowland

Invited Guests:

Del. Kenneth Plum
Richard Doucette, VADEQ
Deborah VanLeer, Fauquier County
Nathaniel Towwley, Fauquier County

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Thomas Smith (Prince William County) called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS Mr. Smith presented Virginia State Delegate Kenneth Plum.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES Delegate Kenneth Plum emphasized his focus on issues related to conservation, recycling, and general environmental preservation. The Commonwealth's interest in solid waste first heightened during the 1980s as landfills began to reach capacity.

Several electronics recycling bills, including one focused on computers, have been presented in the House of Delegates this year. Landfill operators highly discourage the placement of computers in landfills. Dell, Inc. has led the computer industry in taking responsibility for computer takebacks.

Originally, the electronics recycling bill included televisions as well; however, this portion of the bill was separated due to some industry concerns. The computer bill has garnered significant support, the television bill will be revisited in the next legislative session. The television industry has expressed an interest in contributing to a fund that would place takeback responsibility in the hands of the jurisdictions. Best Buy, Inc. has started a takeback program for televisions under 32" and small electronics.

Ms. Tatum (Loudoun County) encouraged Delegate Plum to generate legislation that tracks products from the 'cradle to the grave.' Solid waste should be utilized as a resource here, rather than get shipped offshore where environmental controls are not as stringent.. Delegate Plum expressed concerns about whether offshore interests are provide the best use of the materials they receive.

Mr. Smithberger (Fairfax County) suggested that the Waste Board organize to take a tour of a materials processing facility with Delegate Plum.

Delegate Plum asked the Waste Board what they would like to see accomplished by the State legislature. Mr. Smithberger suggested that the localities could use more funding assistance. Mr. Grabowsky (Arlington County) encouraged Delegate Plum to take any action that would increase corporate responsibility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mr. Smithberger motioned to approve the minutes from the March 2008 meeting. Mr. Grabowsky seconded this motion. The Waste Board unanimously approved the minutes.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES UPDATE Ms. Rowland provided a synopsis of ongoing legislative activities.

House Bill 1332 redefines the authority of various boards under VADEQ. Mr. Doucette (VADEQ) noted that the VA Waste Management Board may try to redefine itself in a manner similar to the Water and Air Boards.

JLARC expects to release a draft report on beverage containers and plastic bags by September 2008. Mr. Smith will provide a guidance document to Ms. Spiliotopoulos (NVRC) and Ms. Rowland.

The legislative assembly will hold a short session in the coming year. The legislative subcommittee may meet in July; Ms. Spiliotopoulos will send out a meet-o-matic message to organize such a meeting.

PSI DISCUSSION NVRC has joined PSI as an affiliate member; each individual government may join PSI to attain additional services. Annual membership costs for local governments would range from \$150 to \$2,000 based upon population.

Mr. Doucette will explore the possibility of having the Commonwealth of Virginia join PSI. Mr. Smith and Ms. Spiliotopoulos will draft a letter to the Secretary of Natural Resources encouraging the State's involvement in product stewardship.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR Mr. Grabowsky was nominated as the next chair of the Waste Board; the term will last for one year, beginning with the September 2008 meeting. Mr. Smithberger motioned to approve Mr. Grabowsky as the next chair. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion, and Mr. Grabowsky was unanimously approved as the next chair of the Waste Board.

2009 WORK PROGRAM The 2009 Work Program covers the period of time from July 2008 until June 2009. The Work Program does not address \$1,500 needed for webpage services; this money will be added to annual dues for FY 2010.. The Waste Board will review the 2010 Work Program during the September 2009 meeting.

Mr. Smithberger encouraged the Waste Board to seek out additional participation from Falls Church and the City of Fairfax. Fauquier County will hold internal discussions to decide whether to join the Waste Board.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince William County) suggested that the Waste Board invite members of the Rappahanock PDC to participate in a future Waste Board meeting.

Know Toxics The Know Toxics page was uploaded 1,759 times in the last quarter. Mr. Doucette said that VADEQ will explore the possibility of putting a link to the Know Toxics page on its own webpage.

Survey Update NVRC staff distributed updated Excel files of survey data for jurisdictions to review and return to NVRC.

LITTER ENFORCEMENT IN FAIRFAX Ms. Byrne (Clean Fairfax Council) discussed the 'Report a Litterer' program and distributed a related brochure. The program involves submitting a license plate number to the Clean Fairfax Council, which forwards the information to the Fairfax police department. The police send a letter to the perpetrator with a brochure on the program and an automobile litter bag. The police sent 50 letters during the first month of the program. No fine is associated with the program.

LOCAL UPDATES During this segment of the meeting, no minutes are kept of information exchanged among the board members.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting will occur on September 5th.