

NORTHERN VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Summary Minutes
March 6, 2009
10:00 am

Members Present:

Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County
Kristen Rannels, Arlington County
Thomas Smith, Prince William County
Scott MacDonald, Prince William County
Jane Tatum, Loudoun County
Hershel "Bo" Kirk, Town of Herndon
Kathy Allan, City of Falls Church
Charlie Forbes, Fairfax County
Sue Lhotka, City of Manassas
Alton Weaver, City of Alexandria

John Snarr, MWCOG

Staff Present:

Marshall Popkin
Debbie Spiliotopoulos
Sue Rowland

Invited Guests:

Richard Doucette, VADEQ
Rich Hergenroeder, Covanta Energy

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Erik Grabowsky (Arlington County) called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS Meeting participants introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Tom Smith (Prince William County) recommended a correction to the draft December 2008 minutes regarding single-stream recycling discussion. Jane Tatum (Loudoun County) motioned to approve the minutes with the correction; Thomas Smith (Prince William County) seconded this motion; the Board unanimously approved the corrected minutes.

INNOVATIVE COLLECTION CONTRACTING Mr. Grabowsky reported that Arlington County will implement a new curbside collection program that features single-stream recycling, with a plan to incorporate a 'Pay as You Throw' policy by 2011 or 2012. The County used focus groups to design a program that addresses local needs. Focus groups recommended wheeled recycling carts, a willingness to pay an additional \$10 to \$20 per year for carts, incentives for recycling, and an aversion to weekly yard waste collection.

Arlington County will supply wheeled carts to townhouses and single-family homes. Each cart will carry a tracking-ID, in preparation for implementing a pay as you throw program. The County will examine programs to reward residents who meet disposal goals with a rebate at the end of each calendar year. Residents could use the yellow bins as containers for other uses such as expanded e-cycling services.

The Arlington County program expands collected materials and services. The County will charge \$15 and \$20 fees for television and computer monitor pick-up. The County will assess this fee after the contractor picks up the equipment and provides the resident's information to the County. On July 1, the County will begin providing collection services for backdoor customers as well.

Mr. Grabowsky noted that the recycling service cost in Arlington County would increase by 37% to \$56.76 per year.

Mr. Grabowsky suggested that anyone interested in learning more about 'Pay as You Throw' programs should contact Kristen Brown (consultant) or Janice Canterbury (USEPA). He will send out a copy of his presentation and Arlington County's RFP to the Waste Board. Debbie Spiliotopoulos (NVRC) will organize a conference call for April, to discuss contracts throughout the region.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Sue Rowland (NVRC) updated the Waste Board on ongoing state legislative activities. At this time, the Governor is considering approved legislation for the next six weeks. The General Assembly will return to Richmond in mid-April for the veto session. HB 2255 (Solid waste disclosure statements) was approved by the Governor. HBs 1698 (Scrap metal processors), 1872 (Hampton Roads area), 2177 (Rechargeable battery recycling), 1973 (Litter control and recycling fund), and 1600 (Biennial budget), have passed both houses and are awaiting signature by the Governor. Of note, HB 1973 includes a provision that effectively reduces the litter fund by 5%. Bills that failed include HBs 1814 (Plastic bags), 1953 (Guidelines on recycling and waste reduction activities),

2010 (Paper and plastic bags), 2027 (Derelict buildings and recycled goods), 2649 (Recycling reports), and SBs 873 (Plastic bags), 930 (Waste management plan), 971 (Plastic bags), 1187 (Garbage and refuse services), and 1224 (Littering).

Ms. Rowland encouraged the Waste Board to take a more proactive approach working with legislative liaisons on regional waste issues for the coming legislative session. Discussions should begin over the summer; Ms. Spiliotopoulos will coordinate a May meeting to discuss legislative priorities for the Board.

**THERMOSTAT
RECYCLING**

Richard Hergenroeder (Covanta Energy) described Covanta's efforts to improve thermostat recycling and mercury reduction in the waste stream. Covanta has approximately 38 waste to energy facilities in the United States including local plants in Alexandria and Fairfax County. The Alexandria and Fairfax facilities released 3.92 and 25.73 lbs/yr of mercury, respectively, in 2002.

Mr. Hergenroeder described the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC), which collects all brands of used wall-mounted, mercury-switch thermostats and purifies the mercury for re-use. Collection had occurred only through HVAC (not electrical) wholesalers and qualified contractors. However, TRC now accepts participation by municipalities. For \$25, a participant receives a collection bin and mailing label. Bins are to the clipping facility in Minnesota. The program netted nearly 120,000 lbs of mercury in 2006. Mr. Hergenroeder will e-mail the company's forms to Ms. Spiliotopoulos to distribute to the Board.

**OTHER TOPICS:
MARKETS AND
COMPOST
FACILITIES**

Mr. Smith reported on Prince William County's ongoing efforts at the compost facility near Balls Ford Road. The facility, which Eastern Clearing operates, processes grass and leaves, but will be replaced by a power plant. Prince William County is looking to relocate the composting program to an alternative 50-100 acre site within the next couple of years. The new facility likely will be located further out in the County.

Fairfax County distributed a copy of its processing contract to the Waste Board.

**WASTE CAPACITY
TABLES**

Ms. Spiliotopoulos presented the Waste Board with a draft table on 'Waste Management Facilities and Capacity Data.' Ms. Spiliotopoulos invited comments and edits on the table. The Waste Board discussed whether the tables should be included in the annual waste report.

Richard Doucette (VADEQ) stated that he found the table useful and suggested relabeling '2007 Life Expectancy' column to 'Expected Permitted Life Expectancy. Kathy Allan (City of Falls Church) suggested indicating whether a landfill facility accepts materials from outside sources. Ms. Spiliotopoulos will make the recommended changes.

Ms. Allan motioned to include the table in the 2009 Solid Waste Report. Scott MacDonald (Prince William County) seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

KNOW TOXICS

Ms. Spiliotopoulos provided the Waste Board with an update on the Know Toxics program. NVRC has executed numerous changes to the Know Toxics website, including a page dedicated to the upcoming digital television conversion. NVRC will explore tracking website traffic using Google Analytics. NVRC prepared a press release designed to increase awareness of the Know Toxics Website.

LOCAL UPDATES

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

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting will occur on June 5, tentatively at the Covanta Plant in Fairfax. Waste Board members will be able to tour the facility following the meeting.

Mr. Grabowsky strongly recommended that a Waste Board member fill the Market Council Representative on VACO.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.