

VIRGINIA RECYCLING MARKETS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
June 5, 2008



10:00 AM
DEQ Piedmont Office
Glen Allen, VA

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Tom Smith, RMDC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. and welcomed the members of the Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council to the meeting. A quorum of appointed members was not determined as present but he noted that there were no plans for votes that must be recorded. Those who were present for some or all of the meeting are noted below:

RMDC	Representing	Absent RMDC	
Tom Smith-Chair	VACO	Sean Kumar	Public At Large
Eric Fidler	Electronics	Philip Abraham,	Plastics Industry
William Bailey	VDOT	Brian Vickers- (potential member)	Glass Industry
Georgiana Ball	VDGS	William Vehrs	VDBA
Michael Ward	Oil Industry	Bernard Harris	Waste Industry
Michael Benedetto	Paper Industry	Open	Rural PDC
Robert Broom	Composting Industry	Richard Lerner	Metal Industry
		John Kline	Tires
		Jimmy Sisson	Recycling
		Chip Goyette	Urban PDC
		Christine McCoy	VML
		Stephen Thompson	Aluminum
Mike Murphy	VDEQ		

Visitors/guests

None	

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Chair asked the committee members to review the meeting agenda. No objections were raised so the proposed agenda was accepted. Minutes from the March 6, 2008 meeting agreed to upon Mike Murphy, DEQ, noting that the list of

failed legislative measures of interest from the 2008 session should be attached. Since the previous meeting, due to job changes, two members, Sean Kumar (Public –at-large) and Christine McCoy, (VML), were reported to have submitted resignations from the Council. There was no information available on appointments of successors to their positions.

3. Old Business

Update on JLARC Recycling Study

Chairman Smith noted that JLARC had been contacting DEQ, and interviewing several members. Mike Murphy of DEQ noted that JLARC had requested information on recycling reports going back to the year 2000. The JLARC reporting date is still expected to be in mid-September of 2008 and the focus is expected to be on three areas of recycling: compact florescent light bulbs, plastic bags, and bottle bill legislation.

Reports from Local Government Assistance Subcommittee, Tax Credit Legislation Subcommittee:

A general discussion ensued regarding recycling rates for urban verses rural localities and the ongoing challenges faced by some lower income and less populated areas. Suggestions included considering a higher rate (above 25 percent) for urban areas and possibly some form of recycling credits trading program similar to carbon cap and trade proposals. Chairman Smith reported that there were still plans to send out the local government survey developed by Chip Goyette but after some discussion, Mr. Smith agreed to help ensure that survey does not conflict with or appear duplicative to the JLARC survey. He suggested that our survey could be in the form of a follow-up survey to gather information on problem areas.

A Tax Credit Subcommittee discussion took place. Mr. Benedetto wanted to make further inquires as to whether local governments could reduce their local taxes for recycling relating to the personal property tax on equipment, thereby gaining from both a state and local tax credit. Further discussion took place on fuel costs relating to recycling and the surcharges that were being imposed for the extra added costs, especially due to higher diesel fuel costs. It was noted that local governments have exemptions or are allowed rebates for fuel taxes and perhaps consideration should be given to have those exemptions extended to private companies which are contracted by local governments to carry out the same transportation services related to recycling.

4. New Business

DEQ legislative update

Mr. Murphy reported that the updated recycling reports due from localities for 2008 were due on April 30, 2008 and that 74 of 74 localities had reported. Sixty-six reports have

been confirmed as final, 7 were being updated with clarification to answers, and one report was being redone entirely.

Mr. Murphy also reported on a meeting regarding SB 711 which has resulted in a study on plastic bags recycling issues. The work group on the matter had met the previous day and Mr. Murphy noted that discussion had centered on the problems with plastic bags being caught up in cotton field machinery and being accidentally mixed into the cotton product causing defective fabrics. This problem is especially difficult in the South Hampton Roads area, (Chesapeake, Isle Of Wight County). While the legislation that sought to ban plastic bags for shoppers failed, this work group has been assembled to study the matter further and perhaps recommend other solutions. Mike Benedetto noted that he was familiar with this problem and he along with Georgiana Ball (VDGS) agreed to offer their input to Mr. Murphy and the work group.

Mr. Murphy then updated the group on the tire fee legislation which had passed this year to continue funds to help with tire clean up sites. He reported that a major focus at this time was a site containing about 80,000 tires in southwest Virginia which is creating a challenge due to inaccessibility by road. The work for this site is being bid out and Mr. Murphy states he would report back on the progress of this effort at the next meeting.

Nominating Committee for Officers 2009

Mr. Smith delivered a report from the nominating committee. That group nominated Michael Ward (oil industry) as Chairman for FY 2008-2009 and Jimmy Sisson (recycling industry) as vice chairman. No formal election took place due to a lack of a quorum but the report was accepted with the nominations to be acted on at the next meeting.

5. Other marketing issues/problems

A general discussion then took place regarding the contractual costs for recycling services due to increased diesel and other motor fuel increases. The focus of future meetings might include energy costs, electronics/television recycling challenges and opportunities, and response to the JLARC study recommendations. Mr. Murphy noted that Mr. Sisson serves on the Technical Review Committee on the Solid Waste regulatory update was looking for any input from the group on revisions to the Solid Waste regulations, especially Amendment 7, which is a major segment of the regulations.

6. Public Comment/Adjournment

There were no members of the public to make comments. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM. The next meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at Waterway Recycling in Chesapeake. Chairman Smith suggested that Delegate John Cosgrove who has ties with Waterway Recycling should be invited and he stated he would discuss the possibility with Mr. Sisson.