

VIRGINIA RECYCLING MARKETS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
September 13, 2007



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 10:05 A.M. and welcomed the members of the Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council and members of the public to the meeting. He announced that quorum of appointed members was present and asked attendees to identify themselves. Those who were present for some or all of the meeting are noted below:

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

* *new member*

Jason Halbent	Oak Hill Fund
Anne O'Brien	Oak Hill Fund
Kate Sicola	Fairfax DSWCR
Eric Messick	JLARC

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

June 14, 2007 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve those minutes was made by Mr. Benedetto, seconded by Mr. Kline, and approved by the Council.

3. Old Business

Review Draft Letters:

Draft letters prepared by Chairman Smith were circulated for Council consideration. One was to the Governor urging support of Senate Bill 1587, the Recycling Investment Saves Energy Act, which provides special depreciation allowance for reuse and recycling property and tax exempt financing for recycling equipment. A second draft letter was to Lisa Wallmeyer with the Virginia Joint Committee on Technology and Science (JCOTS). This letter offers support by the Council of the advisory committee that her group is overseeing which focuses on recycling electronics in Virginia. With minor modifications, both letters were approved.

Update on Recycling Study

Chairman Smith noted that Eric Messick with JLARC was present and asked him to update the group on JLARC plans for the recycling study they will be undertaking. He indicated that work should begin by November and that background and survey work would be taking place soon. Discussion turned to the survey described by Chip Goyette which targets local government officials through the "Survey Monkey" service. Council members discussed the desire to have the survey assist as background for the JLARC efforts. Council members reviewed the eight questions and suggestions were to be sent to Mr. Goyette by September 24 for any more additions to the survey. Some discussion ensued on used oil questions and a question on that issue was included as number 8 on the draft survey. Mr. Goyette referred to inquiries by Delegate David Bulova on used oil recycling activities and Mr. Ward suggested that the survey answers may help to respond to the questions from Mr. Bulova. Since the survey would be helpful to JLARC efforts, it was suggested that the survey be done prior to December this year.

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

The presentation of the draft survey and discussion described above constituted the report of the Local Government Subcommittee. The Tax Credit Subcommittee report was deferred to the next meeting.

4. New Business

DEQ 2006 Recycling Report update

Mr. Coe presented handouts from the report for 2006 and noted that this was not the final official report. An overall recycling rate of 38.4 percent was reported and only 10 localities did not meet the state recycling standards. One locality failed to meet its required 25% rate and 9 localities failed to meet their lesser 15% rate. Mr. Coe indicated that no “backsliding” appears to be evident in the reporting. That is, no localities appeared to be lessening their recycling efforts due to the flexibility that now exists in law for some to meet a lower rate. Mr. Thompson inquired as to what formula DEQ used for the reporting format and Mr. Coe explained that it has been based on an EPA model for several years. Some general discussion took place on how other states report diversions and other information. Mr. Coe noted that in the future while some categories in the report will change based on revisions to the Virginia Solid Waste regulations, the overall final information in the report should be the same. Additional discussion centered on the ongoing need for assistance to some of the rural localities that have still not met the state standards and suggestions were made regarding joining together with other localities or planning district commissions and the chance that the Virginia Recycling Association (VRA) may consider an outreach program to help those areas.

A discussion by Mr. Broom and others focused on how the limited state funding in Virginia that is available all goes to litter programs. He also warned that a number of larger localities are not challenged to meet the recycling rate the state sets since they benefit from being associated with neighbor localities that report well beyond the state requirements. Some suggestions were made that this might be a good issue to focus on as part of the survey discussed earlier.

Tire Fee Update:

Mr. Kline updated the group on the upcoming legislative sunset on 50 cents of the one dollar tire user fee. The sunset was placed on the fee several years ago when the fee was established to assist with state clean up of tire storage locations but Mr. Kline noted that those cleanups are still ongoing. He asked for support from the Council to urge the General Assembly to act to have the sunset removed until the job is done. Some discussion took place on whether the sunset date should be extended or eliminated. Mr. Kline moved that a letter be drafted to support the tire dealer efforts to remove the sunset limitations. While no sunset date was suggested, the concept of the letter was approved by the Council after a second by Mr. Thompson. The December meeting was suggested as the time to approve the letter to be sent to the General Assembly prior to the 2008 Session. Mr. Coe of DEQ abstained from the vote on the motion.

Leadership for 2008:

Mr. Smith suggested that due to the JLARC study and ongoing activities of the Council, that the leadership of the Council continue as is through 2008. Mr. Smith would remain as Chairman and Mr. Ward as Vice-Chairman. A motion was made by Mr. Thomson to approve that proposal and it was seconded by Ms. Ball and agreed to by vote of the Council.

5. Market Report on Composting

Mr. Broom made a presentation on opportunities to increase recycling rates for composted materials. It was suggested that a future VRMDC meeting be held at one of the new compost facilities which should be fully operational in Spring 2008.

6. Public Comment/Adjournment

Representatives from the Oak Hill Fund provided an overview of its activities to support environmental issues in Virginia and offered assistance to the Council in promoting more recycling. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

The next meeting will be held at the VDEQ Piedmont Regional office on Thursday, December 6 at 10:00 AM.