

Virginia Recycling Association Board Meeting
Annual Conference, Williamsburg
October 21, 2002
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Dori Brown, City of Newport News
Mike Benedetto, Tidewater Fibre Corporation
Jennifer DeLong, City of Alexandria
Kelley Bartell, CVWMA
Georgiana Ball, Virginia Department of General Services
Bruce Edmonds, RSWA
Fred Johnson, SP Recycling
Diane Dodd, Campbell County

Board Members Absent:

Paul Muhlberger, City of Albemarle

Audience:

Cyril Sellers, First Piedmont
Chip Goyette, Arlington County
Michael Clem, Arlington County
Dennis Clark, UVA
Tim Myers, Montgomery Regional SWA
Chaz Miller, NSWMA
Richard Keller, MRC

Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2002

The Board tabled approval of the July 10th meeting minutes.

Treasurer report

Fred Johnson, Treasurer, reported that the VRA finances not including conference expenses were roughly \$28,000.

Conference Summary

Conference Chair, Jen DeLong thanked everyone for helping on the conference. Once conference expenses and proceeds are tabulated, a detailed conference report will be provided to the Board via email.

SPSA Letter/Waste Surcharge/Policy

In response to the recent announcement that the Southeastern Peninsula Regional Authority (SPSA) was considering abolishing its curbside recycling program, with board consensus, a letter highlighting VRA's commitment to curbside recycling programs and the benefit these have on

the environment was sent to SPSA to be included in the public comment session at the Oct. 23 SPSA board meeting.

After much discussion, the Board voted (5-3) to provide \$6000 to support a "Save Curbside" campaign, as begun and coordinated by TFC. In return for this funding, TFC has pledged to raise and return to the VRA 110% of these funds by the end of 2003. Mike Benedetto will bring campaign specific proposals to the VRA Board for final approval before release. Prior to release of these funds, the VRA will confirm that this endorsement falls within the 501c(3) lobbying requirements.

VRA Positions/Lobbying

During an education session track on Oct. 21, the issue of VRA position-taking and lobbying was put forward to the membership for discussion. Attendees made the following comments/recommendations:

1. VRA acquiring a 60% (not 51%) consensus on all decisions, therefore if a controversial topic garners significantly more than half in favor, the VRA is representative of its membership.
2. Since part of the VRA mission statement states promoting recycling, regardless of whether or not an issue is controversial, if it promotes recycling consensus should dictate.
3. By our very bylaws as a 501c(3), the VRA is limited on its lobbying allocation.
4. Aside from formalized lobbying, the grassroots approach should not be discounted. Members could write letters on their own in support of controversial issues.
5. Point of fact: the NRC spends limited time lobbying due to its 501c(3) status; they also gravitate away from position taking as they do not want to isolate members, since they are a coalition.
6. Point of fact: the VRA needs to confirm the statement that 501c(3) can only allocate 5% of its budget on political activities.
7. Recommendation that a policy committee be assembled to review controversial issues and bring to the membership a pro/con position paper. In response to this recommendation, it was suggested that the VRA spend less time researching and taking positions on controversial topics and focus instead on the larger topic of promoting recycling.

New Business

Gloria Puffinburger has volunteered to chair the Bottle Bill committee. She is looking for committee members. Anyone interested should contact her directly at (540) 665-5643 or gpuffinb@co.frederick.va.us

It was decided that a committee needs to be assembled to report on options available for spending excess revenue raised by the VRA. During CY02, funding was approved for the Save Curbside Campaign (\$6000) and (\$2000) for supplemental grant support for a CVWMA competitive grant. Anyone interested in serving on such a committee should contact Georgiana Ball at 804-236-2781 or GBall@dgs.state.va.us

Board Appreciation

The Board provided Dori Brown a gift of appreciation for recently serving as VRA President for two years (2000-2002).

Other Business

The VRA has agreed to become a member of the Virginia Council of Litter Prevention and Recycling (VCLPR). We will be encouraging the VCLPR to do the same. The VRA agreed to establish a website link between the HRCLEAN organization, a Hampton Roads regional litter and recycling outreach entity.

Thanks to Tidewater Fibre Corp. for the tour of the Chester recycling facility and for providing lunch.

Next Meeting Date

TBA.