

**Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and Recycling  
Minutes from Executive Board Meeting on June 12, 2008**

Present:

Julie May, PD 16	Vicki Nixon, PD 13
Patty Averett, PD 14	Rosemary Byrne, PD 8
Roscoe Evans, PD 15	Mark White, PD 15
Mary Walton, PD 18	Mayi Henriquez, PD 23
Richard Woody, Cumberland Co	Mike Murphy, DEQ
Sheila Barnett, DEQ	

**Welcome and Roll Call:**

President Julie May called the regular meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. A sign-in sheet was circulated during the meeting.

**Executive Board Business:**

Treasurer's Report: A report by Megan Brown, Treasurer, was distributed and explained by Julie May, showing a balance on hand of \$1,308.34. The grant money has been spent on the premium items. The vote to accept the report as read was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 7, 2008, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

**Old Business:**

- Fund Board Report - Clara Mills  
Clara was not in attendance so there was no report on the Fund Board, but Rosemary thought the Board had not met again anyway.
- DEQ Update - Sheila Barnett  
Sheila reported that 73 of the 74 recycling rate reports had been processed. The final report should be available by November. 7 jurisdictions did not meet their required recycling rate for 2007 but that was down from 10 jurisdictions in 2006 which Sheila saw as progress. Sheila reminded everyone to submit their applications for a new Litter Prevention and Recycling grant. The deadline for applying is June 30. She has received 96 applications and 24 accounting and performance reports. Accounting and performance reports are due by August 31. Sheila did not know how much money would be available for the new grants but expects it will be about the same as last year. The special projects grant funding application will be on the DEQ website and Sheila will send out e mails with further information when she has it.  
Mike Murphy - Mike Murphy attended the meeting to update the Council on a study resolution passed by the legislature. The 2007 General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution 361 directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) staff to report on waste minimization, reuse and recycling efforts in Virginia

and other states with special emphasis on recycling and litter prevention. Mike reported that JLARC has had lots of questions for DEQ. JLARC reports to the Commission which is made up of legislature members on September 8. The results of their report should be on the website that afternoon. JLARC may recommend new legislation. Mike will send out contact information to Council members by e mail. Mike reported that much of the attention has been focused on plastic shopping bags and the search for an alternative to them. This focus was instigated by complaints from the cotton producers in Isle of Wight County where plastic bags were contaminating their crop. Last year Senator Quayle representing Isle of Wight county proposed a bill that would allow localities to ban plastic bags if an alternative to the bags was available but the bill was not successful. Delegate Barlow proposed a bill to study the impact of plastic bags on the environment but that bill failed as well. However, JLARC will look at these issues as part of its ongoing study. DEQ was asked to help find an alternative to the plastic bags and Mike wants the Council's assistance on this issue. DEQ went to the plastic bag manufacturers to check out alternatives without much success. DEQ must report back to the Senate on this issue by November 1. Council members wondered if cloth bags would be an alternative but cost was a limiting factor. The ongoing study has also determined that there should be a recycling program available for plastic bags. There was much discussion on this issue and Mike said he would appreciate any input the Council can provide.

- Conference Committee - Rosemary Byrne  
Rosemary reported that The Hilton Garden Inn in Fredricksburg has been booked and paid for our conference to be held there on October 22, 23 and 24. Rosemary said the conference committee would like specific suggestions for conference presentations, not general suggestions. Sheila reported that she and Nancy Drumheller had toured TREX and suggested TREX would be a good presenter. Rosemary will send out more information when they know more.
- Special Project Grant - Rosemary Byrne  
Rosemary reported that \$8,000.00 of the special project grant funds went to postage and handling for shipping the Premium items. She said that sorting, boxing up and shipping the items is a very time intensive effort. She doesn't know yet how many extra items she will have but she will notify us when she determines that.

**New Business:**

- Keep Virginia Beautiful - Julie May  
Julie said that John Duell had called her about Keep Virginia Beautiful (KVB) and the

possible staffing of a position for that organization. A steering committee has been formed to determine KVB's mission and focus. Clara is serving on the steering Committee. Julie gave John the VCLPR's support. Rosemary was concerned about where the money for staffing would come from and who the staff person would report to. She felt that there were more questions than answers about this issue. It was stated that the steering committee is addressing these questions. Rosemary mentioned that KVB already has their own Board. Mike Murphy said he serves on the Board for KVB. He said there will be a meeting between the Board and the steering committee on June 27 and he hoped the VCLPR would be represented. It is believed that Clara Mills will attend this meeting.

**Networking:**

- Rosemary Byrne has instituted a new program in Fairfax County titled "Report A Litterer" in conjunction with her police department. Citizens can report litterers. The police will then send the litterer a letter, a brochure and an automobile litter bag. Rosemary said it took 1 ½ years to get the program going because of resistance from the police department. The project began at the end of April and they have had approximately 50 people reported for littering. Mayi Henriquez of Newport News reported that they have a similar program but the letter is written by the jurisdiction and not the police department. There was a general discussion about the lack of support from law enforcement for these type of programs
- Mayi reported that HR Clean will be having a plastic bag workshop at the end of next January. She also reported that she is a new Board member for the Virginia Recycling Association (VRA). She encouraged everyone to support the recycling license plate.
- Mike Murphy suggested putting together a panel for our conference to discuss plastic bags.

It was agreed that our next meeting will be held at the conference in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.35 A.M.