

St. Croix Recycling Association
Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2009
6:00-7:40 PM – Florence Williams Library

Steering Committee in Attendance:

1. Lee Elvins, Facilitator
2. Marlene Harris
3. Natalie Elvins
4. Susan J. Greenhalgh
5. Christine Hilty

Number of Attendees: 19

Welcome and Introductions – Lee Elvins

Lee welcomed the group and noting that there were many new faces, asked for introductions.

Membership drive mailing update.

Lee reported that the direct mailer was ready and said that direct mail pieces work best for non profits in soliciting funds. Dee requested an update on the list serve.

Financial update

Lee reported that the recycling association currently has \$ 7,102 in the bank with the recent addition of \$2, 500 as Stanford Financial became a sustaining green member. It is important to prepare a budget for the association.

Freecycle! An online swap shop!

It was noted that the website address on the agenda needs to be corrected to freecycle.org. Marlene reported that there were over 200 members. St. Thomas had just begun their group and St. John will soon. Shawn Pennington at the Source had written an article in the past resulting in a large increase in members.

Green Pages Supplement update

Lee mentioned that although the next Green Pages Supplement probably wouldn't be produced until the spring, he wanted to remind everyone to gather articles, identify potential advertisers and think of writing some locally inspired reports.

VIWMA Update

Dee Osinski reported for WMA that the fire at the landfill is scheduled to be extinguished soon and that many agencies were involved. She also said that the “Greenhouse Program” that she manages is expanding and hoped to obtain another acre to feature composting. There is a new environmental club at Country Day School. A question was asked about the grants that were to be offered from WMA and she said that since the former head of the environmental group resigned there hadn’t been any updates. Discussion centered on the increase in advertising from WMA promoting recycling.

Recycling Business Update

Refill Plus Paulo said that business is increasing and he is in need of help. Dee mentioned that the VIRC&D website is or would be listing employment opportunities on their website.

Michael Dance said that he had found that there wasn’t enough volume to provide biodiesel supply on the island but he is planning a small scale processor.

Jeff Lawlor has been doing computer recycling and has set up a computer lab at Woodson Junior High with 11 workstations and 1 server. He said that he combed through the e waste brought in to WMA and was able to find many reusable items.

EZ Recycling Lee said that he had met with Victor and the Lt. Gov after the initial meeting last week to discuss issues at EZ Recycling. Hurricane Omar and thefts had hurt the business and the Lt. Gov’s office and WMA would be looking at ways to help. The business is not officially open but bags of cans can be thrown over the fence in the interim. Ways to help the business were discussed. It was noted that aluminum cans were not a big money maker, that Victor used them as filler for a container.

New Opportunities

Meeting with Lt. Gov and VIWMA

Susan said that a meeting had taken place with the Lt. Governor, Waste Management and the RAVI on January 7, 2009. This meeting had come about because the Lt. Governor had mentioned the need for recycling at the SEA annual meeting. This was a milestone for the group and it is hoped concrete progress will be made. Lee reported on the meeting which Marlene Harris and Sylvania Golphin attended with Lee. The major outcomes of the meeting included a suggestion that a pilot project be initiated at the bin sites to collect recyclables and a plan to help EZ Recycling open for business. More meetings are to follow. Notes taken by Marlene Harris were as follows:

St. Croix Recycling Association
Meeting with Lt. Governor Gregory R. Francis
2:00 – 3:30 PM – Government House

January 7, 2009

Members in Attendance:

- 1 Lee Elvins, Facilitator
- 2 Marlene Harris
- 3 Sylvania Golphin
- 4 Charmin Springer - VI WMA

Topics of Discussion:

1. Barriers of recycling – separating house-to-house curbside trash.
2. Clarify VIWMA bottle and can tariff: What is this money currently being used for? Anti-Litter & Beautification?
3. The current Bottle Bill doesn't help clean up the Islands. From the early 1990's to now it is time to revise to a real bottle deposit.
4. Is there a Five year plan to increase Recycling in the VI to 50%?
5. Alternative energy providers need all tax breaks. What can be done to encourage recycling businesses, which will be able to subsidize them, in their business down the road?
6. WAPA waste to energy. Will they recycle some?
7. How can support be given for schools initiatives...like Good Hope School eradication of plastic bags project.
8. Legislation can help put an end to all plastic bags in the VI.
9. Problem items.....Tires.....\$1.00 VI Tire Tax being collected, Where is it going?
10. What can we reuse on the Islands? Glass

The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Governor's office get specific involvement with his help to our needs. Lee gave a great introduction of the recycling association, saying when it started in 2007 and where we have gone. He gave a list of things that we see as needed on the island and where we want to focus our goals, stating that we want to have waste reduced and to get 50% of waste to be recycled. The topic of how the government is the largest entity of paper waste and how the books in our schools may be recycled. The Lt. Governor agreed and said he also wants the same.

The first topic of discussion regarding curbside recycling to recycle plastic, paper, and glass was discussed. Immediately the Lt. Governor gave a call to Stennett Dariah with the Saint Croix Foundation to ask her representation in this meeting. He turned back to the group and said he wanted to do a pilot program to begin in Cotton Valley, Peters Rest, and Concordia in F'sted (and Judiths' Fancy). Lee also suggested Boetzberg and

Judith's Fancy areas may be other pick up sights for the pilot project. Charmin Springer with VI WMA was asked what companies would need to be contacted for pick-up. A storage container would need to be used as well as bailers for plastic. Charmin said there was already an inquiry into whether the can bailer could be used to bail plastic. What area would then be used to hold all this material? Discussion of where the container would be placed was an area at VI WMA and what would be the end result. Paper could be sold and glass would be sent to the glass crusher, which Lee mentioned was available to us from St John Community Foundation. Plastic could be bailed and sent to Coca-Cola, who wants to recycle all PET plastic at their warehouse and they will pay US to collect it and send it to them. Lee showed the bins which would be coming within a month and that these bins would be placed in strategic locations to be used for can and plastic recycling. The Lt. Gov. asked about tires and what was being done with them. Charmin spoke about A9 and how things were going on the thousands of tires in St. Thomas pile. The work is continuing on that project but the pile does not get smaller. Lee spoke of the few tire companies here and how they are cutting up tires but the cost of \$1.00 VI tax was unknown where that dollar went. The Lt. Governor mentioned how they could be used in children's play areas in parks or at the school playgrounds. More equipment will be necessary for processing.

The next topic of discussion was what can be done to help businesses that recycle. EZ Recycling was discussed and how Victor had gone out of business. Charmin was eager to get aluminum can recycling going again since there are five programs she is working on that will be bringing in aluminum cans to recycle. Lee said there was a gentleman coming in from the states who is eager to take over the business. The Lt. Gov asked if a meeting could be set up for Friday, January 9th between Victor and the Lt. Governor to discuss how the government could help. Stennett then asked the governors office what was being done what could be done to get the abandoned vehicles crushed and put into a landfill. Charmin spoke about how Victor was getting most of the items like batteries and scrap metal from the vehicles but this has been on hold until someone takes over. We asked if there was a way EDC could seek out companies from the states that could be used to do specific recycling of all the items we want to get rid of. Stennett said the research needed to be completed by our organization and a proposal to the EDC would then need to be completed as to what we needed done and how the company could be used.

Our attention again went to plastic and how the Good Hope School's graduating class of 2011 is working on eradicating plastic bags from our island before they graduate. We talked about how Hawaii has done the same thing and the governor's office was eager to see this as well on our island. The Lt. Governor asked if SEA was involved, which they already are working on this issue. Lee asked if legislation would be able to help with this issue. It was mentioned it would probably take longer than the goals set by the Good Hope School.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Harris

Volunteer Solicitation

Susan talked about the need to directly ask people to help with our projects. There had not been a direct appeal to date. She said that an email would be sent asking to sign up for the Jump Up, AG Fair, Green Supplement and Reusable bag giveaway. Many people at the meeting raised their hands to volunteer for Jump Up. Discussion included how to engage the community in recycling. Christine Hilty, president of the CRRA, asked if someone could prepare a flyer. Colleen offered to write a flyer asking the restaurants to sell only cans that night and therefore we could collect for recycling. Another idea was to put an ad in the AVIS asking for ink cartridges to be dropped off at our booth. In addition, some offered ideas on how to proceed with the Green Supplement.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Greenhalgh
STXRA Secretary