

RAVI/St. Croix Recycling Association
Meeting Minutes, March 10, 2008
6:00-7:10 PM – Florence Williams Library

Steering Committee in Attendance:

1. Lee Elvins
2. Natalie Elvins
3. Colleen Sullivan
4. Marlene Harris
5. Jeff Lawler
6. Kriss Burgard

Absent from the steering committee: Sylvania Golphin

Number of Attendees: 22

Welcome and Introductions – Lee Elvins

Lee welcomed the group and noted the many new faces we had. Our group was established to benefit all islands. We welcome new members and encourage volunteerism. Membership forms were passed out as a few individuals wanted to sign up to be paying members.

Financial

Lee reported that the recycling association currently has \$ 7,102 in the bank.

Green Pages Supplement update

AVIS newspaper representative Irene Homa was at the meeting to speak about the upcoming Green Pages supplement in April. Editorials need to be placed to her by April 2nd. Irene and Avis have put together two previous supplements with 24 pages each. Adds will be placed with her as well at prices of \$520 for full page; \$260 for half page; \$130 for quarter page; \$65 for one eighth page. She will give dimensions upon request. Kriss Burgard, who has been appointed to work as our Green Pages supplement organizer, gave information on how she could communicate with Irene. Dee Osenski asked if information could come from the other islands to make it possible for more advertising. Irene will be contact for everything and anything going into the supplement. Her email is avisads@viaccess.net

Freecycle! An online swap shop!

Marlene noted the ChristianstedFreecycle group has 200 plus members and mentioned the latest postings for commercial sink. Members were in attendance that were not aware of the site so she gave an explanation as to what the site is. Basically it is free for you to sign up at

Yahoo.com. You will need to get a yahoo ID and go to the FreeCycle website. Ask for the group located here that is Christiansted. You can give things away as well as ask for things but it must be free. The web site www.freecycle.org

VIWMA update

Colleen Sullivan received a four page update from Charmin Springer that will be posted on the RAVI St. Croix website. Highlights of the pages were the aluminum can collections posted at 35,200. The next Ewaste collection will be in May of 2009. Yes U Can recycling program that promotes can collection through businesses and schools is starting. You can sign up for a bin for collecting through the VI Waste Management site at www.viwma.org

Recycling Business update

Victor Martinez with EZ Recycling gave an update on his business. Some things are working but he needs to work at a slower pace because the can separator is broken. He needs funds to set these things back to working order. He has been given a quote for the conveyer belt on but he doesn't have the funds. Diane with DPNR asked if he is getting the acid batteries as before. The liability of getting rid of these is more money than what he made so he will not be able to recycle these.

Cost U Less cardboard collection is doing well. We started out with one bin set out in front of the store. Scott Ramsey

Conrad Knowles had his paper/crete blocks to display. The blocks are four feet by two feet and are termite proof. They can be used for patio bricks, garden ornaments and construction. They are made with recycled paper. It is made with a mixture of 10% sand, Caliche, and 80% paper.

Paulo Seguro with Refill Plus spoke of his expanding business. He currently collects on a regular scale from companies such as Divi Resort and Casinos, Scotia Bank, and several law offices in Christiansted.

A suggestion was made to get the list of all members on our mailing list as well as the Email list for our vendors to promote their products to this specific community. An opt out Email will be sent to ask anyone who does not want to be on this list to opt out.

Glass Crusher

St. John has agreed that the glass crusher can be sent to St. Croix, but there are stipulations. They want to have questions answered as to where it will be kept, and they want to make sure it will only be used for recycling. St. John has no use for the equipment since there is not enough glass to just crush, it has no consumer use other than using it in the ocean to stop any

beach erosion. Once the equipment comes to St. Croix, asphalt companies could use it. It will take at least \$20,000 to get the crusher running once it is here.

New Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

1. SEA/RAVI bag hand out will be at Plaza Extra to promote the bag giveaway. Paul Charkoff talked about the bags and that the bags cost \$1.49 per bag. 10,000 bags have been ordered for this event. People coming to Plaza Extra East on Saturdays between March 14 – April 19 will receive a free bag just for spending \$20 or more. During the rest of the week, a \$10 purchase of Proctor & Gamble products will get them a free bag. The Good Hope school campaign to eradicate the island of plastic bags has sold 800 bags. If this event does not give people incentive to remove the plastic bags from the stores, a suggestion will be made to legislature to charge 25 cents per plastic bag. Hap Clark said he would write a legislative piece to note this. Dee Osinski said we need a group started to get policy and laws started. Craig Barsinger and Diane Capehart want to be a part of this as well. The message will be to show the positive side to everyone. If it costs to purchase the plastic bags for consumers, the economics will benefit, when we stop throwing the bags out, the environment will be cleaner.
2. Grant writing was tabled but Hap said there would be a need for proposals when each island will be involved in the Community Enrichment Grant. We will need volunteers for this in the coming months.
3. T-Shirts were purchased for our volunteers and Marlene presented the lime colored shirts as well as the logo that will go on the front with the words ‘Got Trash’ on the back. She will print and transfer these at a cost savings to the group.

NRC Recycling bins grant was quickly discussed. Lee proposed another chance to receive these bins and a grant would need to be written.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Harris