

St. Croix Recycling Association
Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2008
6:00-7:40 PM – Florence Williams Library

Steering Committee in Attendance:

1. Lee Elvins, Facilitator
2. Christine Hilty
3. Marlene Harris
4. Natalie Elvins

Absent from the steering committee: Susan J. Greenhalgh - off island
Dee Osinski, Carey Gilbeau

Number of Attendees: 23

Welcome and Introductions – Lee Elvins

Lee welcomed the group and began the meeting by reading the Recycling Association mission and vision statements. We have 24 members to date. Lee noted the agenda for tonight's meeting was not as professional as usual since Julie was off island. Lee welcomed new members and noted how recycling is gaining momentum on the island this year with cruise ships coming in, and the fact that those visitors will be throwing trash away; we need to start thinking about getting bins for glass and plastic at several locations around the island.

Membership drive mailing update.

Lee noted Julie was off island and we would be getting this mailing out and that we will soon be seeing a Volunteer Action Alert to help with this mailing.

Condo Can recycling update

Julie Landrenea who was attending said her school had won first place with the can recycling contest that VIWMA did last year. She praised the contest but said the prize was just for the fact that her school was recycling because it didn't make them much money. Hap Clark mentioned his efforts at his Homeowners Association. Lee mentioned that Island Animal Clinic is working with Victor at EZ Recycling, as a drop off point for anyone with bags of cans. Island Animal Clinic donates ALL of the monies to the Animal Shelter

Freecycle! An online swap shop!

Marlene mentioned there were 74 members and reviewed posting for offering. When offering something, start by the word OFFER, what you are offering, then note where you live on island, and suggested not putting your phone number on the posting. She finished by saying someone had just offered a jetted hot tub for the bathroom.

Green Pages Supplement update

September 18th is the date of publication. Articles have been submitted but Lee did not know how many pages the supplement would be.

New Opportunities

Review St. Thomas St. John Name

Recycling Association of the Virgin Islands

Lee brought out the different logos that Charmin Springer with VIWMA had worked on. He made note of the St. Thomas and St. John recycling association, but that St. John has been working on recycling for several years. We will be having a vote on the new name now that we have St. Thomas and St. John getting involved. Hap mentioned that SEA chapters have different names and different monies but still are under one group name. It was suggested that the financial end needs to be looked at very carefully. The sample logos were passed around and Lee noted the fact that the name of Virgin Island being in the phone directory would not make us as unique as Recycling being first word of the name. Christie also noted that searching the recycling logo on the Internet would be better. Lee ended the discussion noting the new name abbreviated could be RAVI.



November Jump Up – Recycling Bins - VIWMA

We will be having a Jump Up on November 28th. One of attendees belongs to an environmental group that wants to have their youth group involved to stand at the bins during the event. Going on, Lee mentioned our island trash and that due to appliance and electronic failure occurring more often (because of power surges), the Virgin Islands produce four times more trash than the continental U.S. We want to get another Volunteer Action Alert to find volunteers to search for other ways to recycle and find things like www.recyclebank.com recycle banks. What happens to six months of plastic

& glass? VIWMA will be finding out when they promote island recycling and hold all the island produced plastic and glass waste for six months.

Lee went on to talk about the glass crusher on St. John. To date \$10,000 has been spent for a glass crusher that is still sitting in the crate it was shipped. We are trying to put wheels on it to get it here. Someone asked the cost of sending the crusher back and forth between islands and Lee stated the cost would be a lot less than what a new one would cost. Christie mentioned a committee could be formed to work on getting an EDC company to donate the monies. Sally Schwann made mention there was a glass crusher on the island until 1998. It was not cost effective. A question was asked of who would be responsible for the maintenance when sharing this with the other islands. This will need a committee or another non-profit business with paid employees for maintenance.

Bent Lawaetz-October meeting

Mr. Lawaetz is the former senator who introduced the bottle bill in 1991. Lee mentioned that hopefully we could ask more senators to join us in the meeting like Jimmy Weber.

Cruise ship-Event Recycling

First Cruise Ship day is in November. There is also a First Friday in December right after that we will need extra bins around the streets. A Volunteer Action Alert would be sent to ask for volunteers. It was also mentioned that some students need community hours and those students can be of assistance.

Advertising & updates Reader board/STX foundation

Lee asked Julie how much the Boys and Girls Club would let us post for the reader board and she was not sure. We need to send the Board a letter stating our request for a year rate for this new non-profit organization. He noted the \$40 for the reader board with The St.Croix Foundation would be daily and not monthly. Five days per month equals \$ 200. A year contract will be \$2200.00 instead of \$2400.00 only a 10% savings.

New Steering Committee members

Natalie Elvins and Christine Hilltie would be joining the steering committee under the guidance of the USVIRC & D.

Legislature Help with Senator Wesselfolft

Lee said the steering committee had met with the Senator and he had shown her the magazine Recycling Today. www.recyclingtoday.com He asked if we could get help to

clean up the island without all the red tape. A9 was hired to remove the steel out of Anguilla landfill and has needed 20 different permits to date just to get the steel out of the landfill. If and when they finish, all the autos could be taken off the island as well. With the old Anti-Liter & Beautification law (Bottle Bill) still on the books, We ask the Senator to look at where the approximate \$7 million dollars per year from the wholesaler is spent for getting bottles OFF of the island. Senator Wesslholft joined STXRA and also wants to help.

SEA Reusable bags

To date 10,000 bags have already been sold and another 10,000 ordered. Sea and STXRA will be at all the Plaza Extra stores giving out bags at the entrances during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season. A Volunteer Action Alert will be sent out to ask for helpers.

Closing Remarks

Hawaii Recycles 72% of their solid waste, Coca-Cola wants to recycle 100% of the PET Plastic Bottles and they will help with Grants for organizations that want to help recycle Lee noted the American Way magazine www.americanwaymag.com , July 15 issue is all about recycling. He talked about the green roof buildings and what others are doing to promote recycling. Julie with St. Mary's school noted Kids Day on September 20th at Fort Frederiksted Beach. She wondered if there was a way to get bins for the day from VIWMA. Yes and we will contact Mr. Chapman at WMA

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Harris