

St. Croix Recycling Association
Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2008
6:00-7:40 PM – Florence Williams Library

Steering Committee in Attendance:

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

Absent from the steering committee: Christine Hilty

Number of Attendees: 12

Welcome and Introductions – Lee Elvins

Lee welcomed the group and started introductions around the table. He noted that the next meeting was scheduled for December 9th and that this meeting had to be pushed back due to Veteran's Day.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Membership drive mailing update.

Lee reported on the quotes he had received to print the membership drive mailer. The mailer was designed for St. Croix only using the St. Croix Recycling Association logo. It was decided to post phone final decision on this until the program managers for all three islands could meet to decide whether a combined RAVI solicitation made more sense.

Financial update

Lee reported that the recycling association currently has \$4,589.39 in the bank at V.I. RC&D.

Condo Can recycling update

Susan said that Long Reef, Ocean Terrance and now Schooner Bay were set up to collect cans and that she planned to chair a committee to invite all condominium and homeowner's associations to participate. Dee then reported that EZ Recycling, which had been recycling the cans, had closed its doors and it wasn't certain if it would be reopening.

Freecycle! An online swap shop!

Marlene was very happy to state that after the recent Source article membership in the St. Croix Freecycle increased almost 50% from 113 members to 163. She said that soon she may need to request assistance in monitoring the activity. A round of applause ensued! Way to go, Marlene.

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. It is hoped to identify a Green Pages chair and committee to produce the next supplement.

VIWMA Update

Dee reported that Mr. John Green had recently resigned as head of Environmental Programs at Waste Management. He has expressed interest in coming to our meetings in the future. The current head of the program is Ms. Sonya Nelthrop, who is located in St. Thomas.

The can collection contest at the schools is also continuing and VIWMA is matching dollar for dollar. The winner last year received \$500.

Dee wanted to remind everyone that although there are scheduled ewaste collections throughout the year, ewaste would be accepted at the Williams Delight site at any time. Jeff Fowler mentioned that he had successfully scavenged for computer parts at the collection site and inquired about a paper he was asked to sign which refereed to "preserving paradise." Dee offered to get more information on that as it was a slogan for VIWMA.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Recycling Association of the Virgin Islands

Dee said that the St. Thomas and St. John groups were coming to some decisions on how they wish to be formed. The St. Thomas group may want to form their own 501(c)3, for example. It was suggested that it would be best for a decision to be made so all could move forward. A meeting of the three program managers would be set soon with a resolution hopefully.

Committee Formation

Dee said that as an environmental educator she would be available to help in the areas of Education and Marketing. A discussion ensued regarding marketing, was it marketing our association or marketing for the recycling businesses we hope to support?

Lee talked about a gentleman who had contacted STXRA via our website to inquire about recycling on St. Croix. He was gathering information about whether a recycling business would be feasible here. This led to a discussion of the options that VIWMA is reviewing, i.e. waste to energy, etc. and that it seems we are in a holding pattern as the landfill is scheduled to close at the end of next year and it's unclear who would be doing recycling on the islands.

Lee introduced Susan Duke who had agreed to advise the association on grant possibilities. She suggested that perhaps partnering with other agencies responsible for educating children would most likely secure grants. Dee mentioned that the V.I. RC&D. office had "Grant Station" at the office and that Julie would be helpful in searching for and reviewing grants.

November Jump Up – Recycling Bins – VIWMA

Jump up will be November 28th and we need people to volunteer to man the table. Also, Lee said that he wanted to place bins from VIWMA throughout the event site. We would need coordination with Julie from the Boys and Girls Club to supervise children to be at the bin sites. Natalie mentioned that there is also an event on December 4th at Gallows Bay and we might want to participate there.

As the hour was getting late, the NRC membership and benefits agenda item was tabled.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Greenhalgh
STXRA Secretary