

League of Women Voters Mid Hudson Region
Materials Management Committee
Minutes of Meeting July 14, 2015

Present: Kathy OConnor, Cindy Lanzetta, Kathie Beinkafner, Jolanda Jansen, Merrill Sunderland, Susan Holland, Sarah Womer, Sarah Imboden (from the Red Hook CAC), and Dare Thompson

- o First we lavished Cindy with flowers, a certificate of appreciation, and our sincere thanks for all her service as Chairperson over the years.
- o Cindy gave a look back at the Committee's accomplishments over the year (see Annual Report 2015 — Attachment A). Much has been accomplished; much to attend to in the coming year.

Specific attention is needed continuing the momentum for passing State resolutions pertaining to Paint Stewardship. A letter has been finalized to send out to the other LWV regions in the State. (See Attachment B.) Merrill Sunderland offered to confirm that our list is current, and under Jolanda's direction, will prepare those letters for mailing.

Another exciting topic of materials management in the Hudson Valley is that of Composting. Do read Cindy's Annual Report, for how that topic is gaining attention and action.

- o Jolanda gave a summary of her two page report regarding the activities of Ulster County's Solid Waste Management Disposal Improvement Commission. Kathie Beinkafner is our Committee's Representative to the Commission, but Jolanda has been attending those meetings as well. The Commission has been visiting other facilities throughout the state, to see how they handle solid waste. Do check out Jolanda's thorough report (Attachment C).
- o Sarah Imboden (from the Red Hook CAC) spoke of her Town's interest in recycling textiles. She spoke of the difficulties of getting a dumpster to their transfer station for that purpose, and weighed the option of multiple bins throughout the Town. Sarah Womer shared some of her experience in that activity down in Beacon.

It was mentioned that New Paltz works with a company, but that one needs to know how much material will be collected. "Wearables Collections" was cited as one possible company to work with. Kathy O. mentioned that there are numerous collection bins throughout the Town, and that publicizing these drop offs might be one option.

Sarah I. also mentioned an interest in partnering with the local college (Bard) to gather textiles and other reusable materials.

Last, the Town of Red Hook is interested in increasing their composting activities, and will look into Westchester's program "Love it and Leaf It."

- o Jolanda gave a report on the feasibility study that Dutchess County is engaged with the Cornell Cooperative Extension on the Recycling of Organics. They have identified organic material generated in Dutchess County, and how it might be recycled (See

Attachment D). They are visiting various DC facilities, planning to meet with the NYSDEC, forming a steering committee and working to obtain numbers.

- o Sarah Womer gave an account of how her Zero to Go company has been progressing with their pilot composting project in Beacon, which serves 30 households and 4 businesses. The mechanisms of collection and forwarding to a composting processing facility is going relatively smoothly. Sarah, however, has spent nearly five hours a day combing through the compost collected to make sure it has no pollutants. She has switched her strategy to pop-up checks on her businesses, to make sure they're giving only the purest of scraps for composting (e.g., no Harney tea bags!).
- o Kathy O. raised her interest in inviting Legislator Tracey Bartels to one of our meetings, so she might explain how the new legislation banning styrofoam from food service establishments in Ulster County might be implemented. Kathy would also like to learn tips as to how Dutchess County can assist in getting such legislation in place over there. All were interested in having Tracy visit us.
- o Last, a lively discussion ensued pertaining to the merits of the Taylor Biomass Project and gassification. Kathie B. referred to several articles that she had researched on the internet that indicated perhaps caution was warranted. Attachment E shows just the Table of Contents and the first page from one of the four references that Kathie cited. Kathie also emailed Noa Simons that it was important to check out the **Patent** on the Taylor process. I believe Noa has a composting company, and also a friend Eileen who is active in the field.
- o It was mentioned that Lisa Mitten, Sustainability Mgr at SUNY New Paltz, could be a good resource to our Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Next meeting is at 5:30 August 11th, at the Diner as usual.

Thank you all for your dedication to the goals of our Materials Management Committee.

Sincerely,

Kathy OConnor
Chairperson
LWVMHR Materials Management Committee