

League of Women Voters Mid Hudson Region
Materials Management Committee
Minutes of Meeting October 13, 2015

Present: Kathy Oconnor(Chair), Jolanda Jansen (President), Soyal Smalls (Secretary), Dare Thompson, Sarah Wormer, and Kathy Beinkafner

MINUTES

Motion made to approve the Minutes of the 7-14-15 meeting, as well as the 8-11-15 meeting. Jolanda moved; Sarah seconded. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of Zero to Go's composting activities in Beacon (Sarah Womer)

- EPA Trash Free Waters- Sarah Wormer just joined...the EPA is focusing on removing cigarette butts from the waste stream. (i.e., more outdoor containers)
- Reported on compost pick up business. 4 months running since June 2015. Sarah has hired 2 part-time workers who use bicycles to help pick up compost. She would like to find her own compost facility to manage her the amount of compost she is bringing in.
- o Since June, her 34 residential customers have diverted at total of 2838 lbs, an average 800 lbs/mo.
- o Their 4 business customers have diverted at total of 14,867 lbs since June. October was the biggest month on record so far, with a total of 5828 lbs diverted!
- o They're growing the program now, and expanding to more residents and select small businesses. More info can be found at www.beaconcompost.com.
- Sarah is looking for assistance in auditing compost materials from businesses. She also hopes to attend or be a part of the development of a Compost Consortium to network with composters from around the U.S.- yearly meeting for all small composters.)
- It was noted that the Fishkill Correctional Facility is composting.
- Sarah mentioned that she'd like to be in touch with Eileen at the Community Compost Co in New Paltz (845-787-DIRT).

*Update on activities of UC SWM Disposal Improvement Commission
(Kathie B, Jolanda and Kathy O)*

- o Kathy O reported that the Commission is down to focusing on 10-15 possible landfill sites in Ulster Co. The Commission, alternatively might recommend a large facility that would turn the trash into an energy source (steam and electricity). [(See documents online regarding Taylor Biomass Energy in Montgomery NY, company from Kentucky (Recycling Solutions Technology), and the up-running 12-acre facility in Minneapolis (see the 08/20/15 issue of the magazine on www.politico.com.)]

*Update on Dutchess County Organics Recycling feasibility study
(Jolanda)*

- o Camille is the main contact at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Millbrook on this study. Jolanda will keep us apprised of ongoing findings. Goal is to have every municipality to have a facility to handle food waste.
- o Other contacts mentioned were Kathy Puffer of Hudson Valley Vertical Farms in Tillson, and Ginsberg's Foods in Hudson for their efforts in compostable packaging.

Paint Stewardship letters (Jolanda)

- o Jolanda has a new assistant Kristen Faughnan, who will be following up on confirming the current LWV NYS Chapter presidents, so our prepared letter on this topic can go out to them. Activities regarding the upcoming election will postpone movement on this issue for just a bit.

Report of activities at UCRRA (Kathy O)

- UCCRA – 14 towns agreed to sign contract. Tim Rose gave the proposed 2016 budget to county executive Michael Hein.
- Merlyn Akhtar is the new recycling coordinator.

No one reported going with Rich Schiafo to the Fingerlakes Reuse Center 8-20-15.

NEW BUSINESS!

Reports from anyone attending the Environmental Conference at Omega Institute in Rhinebeck Oct 9, 10 and 11, per Rich Schiafo's invitation.

- o Kathy O and Susan Holland both attended portions of this weekend conference. Called "Seeds of Change," various programs cited the need to protect our water and soil resources. The need for engagement and activism on these issues was emphasized.

Guest Attendees

- o Legislator Tracy Bartels (member of UC_SWDIC [Ulster County Solid Waste Disposal Improvement Commissions]) expresses interest in attending one of our meetings (probably January) to discuss implementation of the Styrofoam ban in Ulster County, as well as how we might take steps to effect such a ban in Dutchess County. (Kathy O)
- o Lindsay Carille, Deputy Commissioner of SWM for Dutchess County, sent an email of her office's activities in recent months. A copy was forwarded to all Committee members.
- o Jolanda suggested that we invite someone from the organization "Rescue Poughkeepsie" to attend one of our meetings.

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Note: The Gateway Diner has switched to using compostable take-out boxes and travel coffee cups!!

National Recycling Day is November 15th, 2015.

Meeting adjourned: 7:00 p.m.