

League of Women Voters Mid Hudson Region  
Materials Management Committee  
Minutes of Meeting November 10, 2015

**Call to Order:** 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Kathy Oconnor (Chair), Jolanda Jansen (President), Soyol Smalls (Secretary)

**Absent:** Susan Holland, Sarah Womer, Kathie Beinkafner, Cindy Lanzetta, Dare Thompson

**Guests:** Kristen Faughnan (New Assistant of Jolanda Jansen), and Margot Becker (Solid Waste Management Activist, member of Marletown Environmental Conservation Commission, and member of the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board)

## **OPENING**

First, congrats to Jolanda and all involved in voter services to make this past election such a meaningful, informed election process.

## **MINUTES**

Motion made to approve the Minutes of the 10-13-15 meeting. Jolanda moved; Soyol seconded. All in favor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- o Update on UC Solid Waste Disposal Improvement Commission. Jolanda reported that the Commission is nearing a recommendation to the Legislature. Consensus has not yet been finalized.

- o UCRRA.  
Kathy O. plans to attend the November 2015 Board meeting, and would like to meet the new Recycling Coordinator Merlyn Akhtar.
- o Dutchess County Organics Recycling feasibility study.  
This county-wide study is being funded by NYSERDA. Jolanda is participating in and monitoring this activity.
- o Paint Stewardship letters - prepared for other LWV regions.  
Now that elections have passed, Jolanda is asking Kristen to pick up the ball on verifying the active presidents of the various LWVNYS regions, so we can send out the letter we've prepared for them.

Also, it was pointed out that the Products Stewardship Institute (PSI) is having a forum in Boston December 8th and 9th. The morning of the 8th will include a presentation by PaintCare Inc. We can obtain viewing privileges of the two morning sessions for \$50. Jolanda will request authorization of this expenditure from the Board.

- o DC Deputy Commissioner of SWM Lindsay Carille sent an update of their activities in Dutchess County (see attached).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- o We need to contact Jim McGarry about some missing links on our Materials Management page on our League website. Kathy O will contact him, and send up copies of our approved minutes since July 2015.
- o Kristen Faughnah is taking over the LWVMHR calendar updates, and has put in events for December 2015.
- o Brochure for LWVMHR Materials Management activities. We'd like to prepare a small handout that we can place at appropriate events. Kathy O. will spearhead this project.

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- o We discussed possibly changing the location of our monthly meetings — perhaps to Dutchess County. Kathy O. was to poll

our members for their thoughts, but she's since decided to leave things as they are for the time being.

- o Kathy O. brought up our Committee's possibly joining the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling ([NYSAR3.org](http://NYSAR3.org)). Membership is \$70 per year. All present thought much could be gained by participating in and supporting this group. Jolanda will ask the Board for approval on this.
- o We talked about having a public education event in Dutchess County — specifically to help clarify what recyclables go to single stream facilities and which to dual stream. And most important, that no recyclables should be sent off in plastic bags. Kathy O. particularly would like to address how the recyclables at the condo complex where she lives, are continually polluted by trash. We're targeting the Spring for this event. Of course, Lindsay Carille and her staff would be invited to participate.
- o Activities of the group "Rescuing Leftover Cuisine in Poughkeepsie" were discussed. The following is from their FaceBook page:  
Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, originally based in New York, has a branch in the mid-Hudson valley. 1/4 of households in Poughkeepsie is food insecure, but 40% of food produced in the States is thrown away to landfills. The organization aims to rescue food(of all kinds, and all amounts) that would be otherwise wasted, and deliver it to those who are in need.  
Check out their FB page, and we can discuss some more.

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### **GUEST ATTENDEE - Margot Becker**

Margot is a Solid Waste Management Activist, member of Marbletown's Environmental Conservation Commission, and a member of the Manhattan

Solid Waste Advisory Board.

One of Marbletown's initiatives is to institute a charge on plastic bags in stores and to reduce the number of plastic straws as well as plastic stirrers used.

Ms Becker is also working with the Rondout school district to develop improved composting activities. The Committee noted our continued interest in visiting the Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie to see how they're doing composting.

An artist herself, Margot is planning on staging a "Trash Fest" in Marbletown some time in the Spring, where various artists could display their works made out of recycled materials. Our Committee agreed to bring this matter before our Board, so we might co-sponsor the event, thus helping Margot apply for grant money for the project.

Ms Becker informed the Committee that NYC produces a lot of compost, but is struggling to find facilities large enough to manage it.

On a more local level, one of the goals discussed during the meeting was for the Mid-Hudson Region to create drop off stations to bring compost throughout Dutchess and Ulster counties.

Meeting adjourned: 7:01 p.m.