

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM MEETING

VIRGIN ISLANDS RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013 1:00 PM

Via teleconference line

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE VIRP:

- The Virgin Islands Recycling Partnership was created in an effort to establish a sustainable solid waste strategy—based on an aggressive program of waste reduction, recycling and composting—and moving toward a sustainable materials economy. The partnership includes government (at all levels), non-profit organizations, citizens, environmental groups, and the private sector. The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University (EFC) is using its solid waste management and recycling expertise to assist in facilitating the partnership. The VIRP is comprised of commodity-based teams, including this Government Relations Team. Learn [more](#).

ATTENDEES:

- Geoff Garrison, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Jamie Martin, VIRP Organics Intern
- Keshema Webbe, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Laura Cardoso, Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University
- May Adams Cornwall, VI Waste Management Authority
- Susan Parten, Community Environmental Services, Inc.

AGENDA:

- Establish goals of the team
- Discuss the progress of current team initiatives

DISCUSSION OF TEAM GOALS AND CURRENT INITIATIVES:

- **Intro to new VIRP member: Jamie Martin**
Personal Background:
 - Work for Politics and Governmental Relations Company for Continental US
 - Experience moving issues through government
 - Agriculture
 - Has dealt with agriculture and urban farming issuesGoals:
 - Learn more about island policies and equate mainland to island processes
 - Address urban farming issues from policy standpoint
 - Once we have a developed agenda, policy plan, create a citizens lobbying effort
- **Team to act as a VIRP Steering Committee consisting of all VIRP team chairs to:**
 - Facilitate Teams' Meeting Objectives.
 - Keep all the teams moving forward toward the objectives as noted in the April 2011 report, as well as those additional objectives and action items delineated by each team.

- Reduce Overlap.
 - Monitor each team for potential role confusion and task overlap with the other teams.
- Government Relations.
 - Interface with federal and territorial authorities (e.g., US EPA, VIWMA, VI DPNR) on behalf of the VIRP, including liaising with the VIWMA Citizen Advisory Committees after they are formed.
- Resource Identification.
 - Assist in identifying and developing resources that will be needed to carry out the recommendations developed by the teams.
- Stakeholder Identification.
 - Assist each team with identifying other stakeholders to engage with the teams.
- Public Education.
 - Convene a Public Education & Outreach Working Group (see below).

- **Additional team goals**

- Support Citizen Advisory Committee's goals and use the [Integrated Solid Waste Strategy](#) as a guide (Cornwall)
 - Make sure that the VIRP works together with WMA (Cornwall)
 - WMA is participating on VIRP teams. Note: Steve will also participate on this team in place of May Adams Cornwall when she is unable to attend.
 - Policy decisions and legislation related to:
 - Composting,
 - Glass and Metal recycling
 - Paper reduction
 - General decisions related to the future of the VIRP
 - Restore glass pulverizer that is currently on the Westin property (Parten)
 - Giff Hill has offered to take the equipment
 - Would it be transported from St. John to St. Thomas?
 - The team should get an entrepreneur involved
 - Should WMA or the private sector participate in this project? WMA's role is to regulate recycling
 - Get a hotel to house the glass crusher
 - Create a sub committee to investigate and communicate with hotels
 - Ie: Harmony Resort was recycling own glass and made high end glass products (glass blowing) – benefit of hotel
 - Can hotels receive permits?..etc.
- General steps to glass recycling:
1. Find a site for the glass pulverizer
 - a. Ie: Bavoni Landfill site.
 - i. *Cornwall had a discussion with the governor about this possibility but he has not responded.
 2. Allow smooth recycling on site

- a. Cornwall invited IFCO Recycling to visit all government facilities (offices, homes for elderly..etc.) and to be a broker.
 - b. Ideally, there will be local business development.
 - 3. Expand the types of collection systems
- Have government be a leader in separation and diversion of materials
- Suggested steps to improved recycling: (Cornwall)
 1. Communicate with the WMA (own waste in territory)
 2. Financial analysis – consider financial burden, generate revenue – able to pay for recycling
 3. Policies, procedures., new regulations.etc.
 - Show model legislation to the CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee)
 4. Enforcement of the activities

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS AND TASKS:

- Create a sub committee to communicate with hotels and look further into restoring the glass pulverizer
- Respond to WMA on whether the EFC can conduct a financial analysis? [EFC]
 - Ie: What are the capital costs?
 - What we need to do to get a return on investment
 - Cost supports the fee
- Will the EFC be writing grants, specifically the Department of Commerce Economic Development grant? [EFC]
 - EFC will share grant proposal
- Keshema Webbe and Laura Cardoso to plan future meetings and inform the team