

Minutes for November 18, 2010 LRNOW Public Policy Committee (PPC)
submitted by Todd Solomon

Meeting Location: First Landing Fire Station

Meeting Start: Called to order at 7:10pm by Mary Picardi.

Attendees: (8) attendees – Mary Picardi, Todd Solomon, Bill Fleming, Chris Ludford, Karen Forget, Brent James, Chris Moore and Tanner Council

Candidate Forum - Review of event. Karen received good feedback. Kudos to all that help make this event happen. Good attendance and great questions. Topics that hadn't been discussed at any other forum.

Minutes Review – Minutes from 9.23.10 were reviewed. Request to add “million” to \$13 was made.

Status of Chesapeake Clean Water Act (CCWA) – Water Implementation Plan (WIP) is lacking for Virginia. LRNOW and CBF spoke with State Representatives to educate them on what was missing and what needed to be changed. SDCC also sent a letter to State Reps asking for improvements. 6500 letters were collected in support of CCWA and will be delivered to the Governor as soon as possible. Key to CCWA is good economics and fishing. CBF has a good fact sheet on their website www.cbf.org

Choose Clean Water Coalition – This group is reporting that the Feds may bundle the CCWA with land and wildlife bills. Visit www.choosecleanwater.org for more information.

Revisit of PPC Mission Statement and Goals – Mission and Goals still seem to be applicable and agreeable. Discussion turned toward ways to improve attendance and action. 1) Have rotating times for meetings (morning, mid-day and evening), 2) Coordinate more with other policy making groups, 3) Work more with waterman associations, 4) Rent a bus or partner with a group to travel to Richmond for policy lobbying day (Jan 17) and workshop (Dec. 4).

City Council List Update –

Grace – Mayor Sessoms & Bill DeSteph

Todd – Louis Jones & Jim Wood

Chris/Beverly – Harry Diezel

Mary – John Uhrin & Rosemary Wilson

Bill – Rita Sweet-Bellitto

Brent – Bob Dyer & Glenn Davis

Karen – Barbara Henley

Main issues to discuss with Council – 1) Cypress Creek, 2) Uranium mining, 3) Off-shore drilling, 4) Energy Task Force Implementation Committee

It was suggested to create an issues paper with talking points and send it to the PPC members in support of January 2011 meetings with respective council members. It was suggested to include CBF and other documents in a packet along with talking points. PPC members would meet with Council reps twice a year, possibly timing these meetings just prior to Council retreats for most effectiveness.

Green Ribbon Committee (GRC) – Site Design Guide being finalized. Parking regulations are still being discussed.

Richmond Legislation Session – Dec/Jan events. VA Conservation Network workshop (Dec. 4th). Legislation Session lobby day (Jan 17th). Briefing and then visits to the reps at the capital. It was suggested that the best time to meet with representatives was now through the end of December. Mary will send out request for PPC members to meet with reps and to let them know they are with LRNOW and support clean water and have issues with WIP, Cypress Creek, Uranium mining, and Off-shore drilling. A talking points paper may also be helpful for meetings with State reps. Richmond Sunlight website is a good place for information.

www.richmondsunlight.com

Nathan Lott – Conservation Network has expressed a willingness to come to Hampton Roads to do a talk on the issues.

Federal Legislators – A suggestion was made to have Karen get with Hap Chalmers and try to visit our Federal Legislators to discuss LRNOW issues. Maybe during their 1st recess. Scott Rigell, Mark Warner and Jim Webb.

Important Meeting Dates:

Dec 2nd – Blue Planet Forum at ODU

Dec 4th – Conservation Network Workshop in Richmond

Dec 16th – PPC meeting

Jan 17th - Richmond Lobby Day

Jan 27th – PPC meeting

Next meeting of PPC – Dec. 16, 2010 at 7pm in Fire Station meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm