

**Minutes for March 24, 2011 LRNOW Public Policy Committee (PPC)**  
**submitted by Todd Solomon**

Meeting Location: First Landing Fire Station

Meeting Start: Called to order at 4:11pm by Mary Picardi.

Attendees: (7) attendees – Mary Picardi, Todd Solomon, Bill Fleming, Chris Ludford, Karen Forget, Brent James, and Tanner Council

City Council List Update –

Todd – Louis Jones & Jim Wood

Chris/Beverly – Harry Diezel

Mary – John Uhrin & Rosemary Wilson

Bill – Rita Sweet-Bellitto

Brent – Bill DeSteph, Bob Dyer & Glenn Davis

Karen – Barbara Henley & Mayor Sessoms

Legislative Update – Bill met with Armstrong (House Majority Leader). Mentioned to him that his Environmental Ranking was pretty low. Also discussed Legislation for Appalachian Power that will provide credits for some upgrades. The group also discussed the Renewable Energy Bill.

Phosphorus Removal Bill SR1055ER – Scheduled to go into effect in all of Virginia by 2014. Good chance to do an awareness campaign. The bill has rules for residential as well as lawn service companies.

TMDL discussion – The AG Committee will discuss on March 18<sup>th</sup> the Goodlatte Bill to deny funding to any bill that cleans the bay. Karen/Mary showed us the letter of support for the TMDL limits that LRNOW signed onto.

HRPDC – This group is considering legal options (lawsuit) against the EPA to not follow the TMDL requirements. Dyer, Jones and Sweet-Bellitto on the Exec Committee of the HRPDC. Karen spoke at the HRPDC hearing. No discussion on TMDL. There will be a March 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30-noon special hearing and the Sec. of National Resources office will attend. **Karen will call the 3 council members to see what their position is on the legal options issue.**

City Issue (Mill Dam Creek Problem) – Public Works and Public Utilities have found sources creating the high bacteria counts. One problem was a leaking/faulty sewage pump at an apartment complex. The other source appears to be leaking lateral sewage lines to individual homes. The question now becomes, who is responsible for fixing the leaks. HRSD, HRPDC, home owner. The City is going to look into a solution.

City Issue (Storm Water Fee Increase) – City plans to increase fees over the next several years. **Karen/Mary will send out a copy of the LRNOW position statement.**

Lessons Learned from 2010-2011 Leg Session

- Work on relationships
- Assume they know nothing
- LCV (League of Conservation Voters) Training Session (Good)
- Richmond Training Session (Not so good, too close to holidays)
- VCN (Virginia Conservation Network) should come to talk to us about issues
- Participate in Conservation Lobby Day
- Need a boat to take out Legislators (**Brent will ask his neighbor, Karen to ask marina owners, Tanner to look at CBF options**)
- Use the Sunlight site (Richmond) to get information on bills

Candidate Forum - Planning ideas for this year's forum.

- Forum should be video taped. Maybe Cape Henry has an AV club that could do it. **Karen will ask CHC if they have such a group.** If not, maybe VBTv can do it for a cost. Get video on LRNOW website and on VBTv48 prior to elections.
- **Karen/Mary to ask Princess Anne Garden Club to be a forum sponsor. Karen will ask Scott Harper to be the Pilot representative again.**
- Date should be last week of Sept or first 2 weeks of Oct. **Karen to check with the school on availability.**

Announcements

- Virginia Loves Mountain Days – Mountain top removal legislation groups having a rally outside Webb's office on March 25.
- April 7 Webinar on Shale Gas Drilling (Fracking). Go to [choosecleanwater.org](http://choosecleanwater.org) to sign up.
- Gasland Documentary to be shown at the NORVA.
- Oyster Roast- Invitations have gone out to many elected officials. Karen will email names of those planning to attend.

**Next meeting of PPC – June 16, 2011 from 4-6pm in Fire Station meeting room.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm