

Minutes for July 21, 2011 LRNow Public Policy Committee (PPC)  
submitted by Mary Picardi

Meeting location: First Landing Fire Station

Meeting start: Called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Mary Picardi

Attendees: Tanner Council, Kris McKinnon, Karen Forget, Demaris Yearick, Ann Wright, Nancy Smith, Mary Picardi

Review of June minutes - change Norm Cook to Norm Colpitts; add Virginia Beach Garden Club to co sponsors of the forum

### OLD BUSINESS

WIP/Phase II Bay cleanup update - Karen reported that the Planning District Commissions are playing a big part and that things are moving along well, at least for Virginia Beach, which already has technical resources in place. On 7/13 the U.S. House voted for H.R. 2018, which strips the EPA of authority to enforce many portions of the Clean Water Act. Rep. Rigell voted against this. Thank him and encourage him not to vote for any measure that would restrict Federal funding of the Bay cleanup. As part of the Choose Clean Water coalition (CCW), LRNow has signed on to letters to the Governor and our federal representatives in support of the Bay cleanup. The Governor has allocated \$32.2 million (10% by law) of the state surplus to the Water Quality Improvement Fund. This money has provided grants to LRN and is crucial now for localities as they implement the TMDL's. State senator McWaters wants to divert this money to transportation. Ask him to retain this funding for clean waters. Mary will forward the CCW weekly updates to PPC members.

Dredging - Karen reported that neighborhoods wanting dredging can follow regulatory and mitigation procedures in order to have their creeks deepened through a special assessment. This is a very complicated and controversial issue, with many details yet to be worked out.

### NEW BUSINESS

LRN position papers - Karen is forming a new "Public Policy" section on the LRN website with a brief statement of the issues and links to further information. This will be a work in progress. A draft is attached to these minutes for comment.

City Council - Prescott Sherrod will replace Rita Sweet-Bellito until a special election in Nov. Bill Fleming will partner with this new councilman.

### Candidate Forum Planning

The forum will be held at Cape Henry Collegiate on Oct. 5, from 7 - 9p.m.

We will start making "Save the date" calls now. To date, all our incumbent delegates and senators are running with Villanueva opposed by Adrienne Bennett. On these

calls we will ask their staffers to: 1) save the date, 2) send a 100 word bio, and 3) send a photo for reproduction on the program. The calls were assigned as follows:

Karen will call: Stolle, McWaters; Mary will call: Purkey, Knight, Iaquinto, Bennett; Bill Fleming will call: Wagner; Demaris Yearick will call: Villanueva.

A letter formally inviting the candidates will be sent just after the filing date deadline of Aug. 23. Karen will draft the letter with input from each of the garden club representatives (Wendy, Ann, Demaris).

Moderator - Karen will ask Joel Rubin.

Panelists - Karen will draft a LRN representative; and will ask Scott Harper, from the Pilot; Wendy Vaughn was chosen to represent the garden clubs.

Advertising the event - LRN and the garden clubs will include the forum in their communications with members. A press release will be sent out.

Questions for the candidates will come from the panelists, informed by questions solicited from our memberships. Ann Wright will help in the writing of the questions.

LRN Fall Festival planning ideas - The event will take place on Nov. 5 at VB Middle School from 11 - 5 p.m and will be family oriented with music, food, informative talks, and tables set up by each of the LRN committees. The PPC table will have a poster mapping our watershed state voting districts with pictures of the legislators. We will have information on issues - coal plant, uranium mining, Bay cleanup, etc. Demaris will do a "word search" for the kids with pertinent words. We ask the public what issues they feel are important for their representatives to address.

#### ACTION ITEMS (see minutes for details)

Call/write Rep. Rigell asking him to oppose any efforts to cut federal funding for implementation of the Bay cleanup. Thank him for his vote against H.R. 2018.

Contact Senator McWaters and urge him not to cut money from the Water Quality Improvement Fund.

Make "save the date" calls.

Schedule appts. with our legislators: Bill "to meet" Mr. Sherrod. Also, for all of us to dialogue with our current state representatives (as they are all running again and most are unopposed) about the uranium mining issue before the 2012 session. Senator Wagner sits on the Uranium mining subcommittee.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen refers us to the LRN newsletters.

#### NEXT MEETING

Aug. 18, at First Landing Fire Station, 4 - 6 p.m.