

MINUTES
NERC Annual Meeting
Hotel Northampton in Northampton, MA
October 26, 2006
Approved February 23, 2007

Present:

Board Members: Brenda Grober, New York, President; Don Maurer, New Hampshire, Treasurer; George MacDonald, Maine; Jeff Schmitt, New York; Guy Watson, New Jersey; Peggy Harlow, Massachusetts; Carolyn Grodinsky, Vermont; Jim Short, Delaware; Robert Isner, Connecticut

Others with State Affiliations: Judy Belaval, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; Steve Hammond, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

Advisory Members: Chip Foley, Steel Recycling Institute; Steve Rosario, American Chemistry Council/American Plastics Council

Staff: Ms. Rubinstein Rubinstein, Executive Director and Secretary to the Board; Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director; Chaille Blais, Office Manager

Recorder: Chaille Blais

Meeting Called to Order at 9:03 a.m. by the President of the Board.

Introductions were done to acquaint everyone.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) requested help with moving woodchips from Buffalo due to a recent snowstorm. Mr. Maurer offered assistance.

Ms. Grober made a short speech and presented a gift to Ms. Remolador in acknowledgement of her 12 year anniversary with NERC

Mr. Rubinstein shared that a US Business Review article was written about NERC.

Ms. Rubinstein asked if there were any further changes needed to the Annual Report. None were stated and the Report is considered finalized.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Maurer distributed the Treasurer's Report (attached) and noted that there is nothing unusual with the NERC finances and that the budget is on track. The organization is in good financial shape. No discussion followed.

- Mr. MacDonald moved that the Board accept the quarterly financial report which was seconded by Mr. Watson. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Appointment to the Board and a vacancy on Executive Committee – Ms. Rubinstein has everyone's appointment letter in hand except for Pennsylvania's is expecting to be receiving on in the near future.

- Mr. MacDonald motioned that the Board accept the appointment letters, Ms. Grodinsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Since Jeff Bednar had to step down from the Board, the bylaws dictate that the Vice President automatically becomes President, leaving NERC with an absence in the Vice President position. This positions needs to be filled via an election. Ms. Rubinstein suggested that a motion be made to open a nomination period (nominations should be sent via email to Ms. Rubinstein) that would remain open until December 1, with the goal of having a full Executive Committee in place by January 1, 2007.

Ms. Grober asked if any of the members would be willing to step forward at this time and declare interest in being nominated. Mr. Short responded that he was considering doing so.

- Mr. Maurer moved that the nomination period be open until December 1st, Mr. Watson seconded. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Request for Endorsement of Zero Beverage Waste Resolution: Ms. Rubinstein asked for input regarding the resolution regarding zero waste that Pat Franklin of Container Recycling Institute (CRI) has asked NERC to endorse. A discussion followed.

- Mr. Maurer made a motion to table the discussion until Ms. Rubinstein is able to determine what the CRI website would state regarding this issue, and what other advisory members think, Ms. Grober seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Ms. Rubinstein will gather the information by mid-November, and then send the information to the Board. The Executive Committee will then determine whether to call the question for a vote.

Assistant Director's Report – Ms. Remolador reported that the NEWMOA agri-plastics workshop also discussed shrink wrap and the pigment issue related to TREX and the manufacturers. Several NERC members approached Ms. Remolador at the workshop and suggested that this be an issue that NERC take on. No one has approached the manufacturers but the opportunity is there and NEWMOA did not offer to do any continued work on this issue. However, Terry Goldberg, NEWMOA, told Ms.

Remolador that they would like to work with NERC on this. The first foray into this would be as a topic for the 2007 NERC Spring Conference.

Discussion on the topic followed and Mr. Rosario stated that the American Plastics Council would be interested in participating in a dialogue. Ms. Remolador asked him for a list of extruders in our region, which Steve said could be distributed. Mr. Hammond offered Mr. Schmitt's help with the conference topic development and Ms. Grodinsky offered to help also. Mr. Maurer stated that staff from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services will be able to talk about the New Hampshire program.

Everyone agreed that the upcoming spring conference would be a great way to start the work on this topic.

Tax exempt bond issue – A discussion ensued regarding whether NERC would send a letter to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) urging that it make a final ruling related to the eligibility of recycling equipment for tax exempt bonds. It was agreed by consensus that Ms. Grober will work with the Executive Committee to come up with a draft letter that she will distribute for review by NERC members. The goal will be to submit a letter to the IRS by the end of the year.

Mr. Rosario suggested that individual states send letters as well.

Executive Director's Report – Ms. Rubinstein expressed her thanks to Ms. Blais and Ms. Remolador for another great conference.

Ms. Rubinstein reported that staff is working to hire a new Projects Manager and have that person start at the beginning of January. In addition, NERC will be hiring a new person for office help for four hours per week. Plus, in the spring NERC will be hiring for the USDA-funded Town and Small Business outreach position.

The new website is in process and progress is slow. The list serves will be moving to a new server.

Ms. Rubinstein reported that at the recent national E-Scrap conference, NERC was acknowledged for its work with CSG on the model legislation.

Project Updates – Ms. Rubinstein

- **Recycling Economic Information Update** - It is expected that a request for proposals (RFP) for the update will be issued in early January. Eight of the NERC states have expressed interest in participating in the RFP.
- **Unwanted Medication Grants** – Three guidance documents were published in late September on managing unwanted medications. The EPA and USDA grants have concluded. Currently, NERC has a grant from the Community Pharmacy Foundation to work with pharmacies on this topic.

- **State Electronics Challenge** – This project began on October 1. An Advisory Committee will be formed shortly. Patty Dillon is the project lead.
- **Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse** – The semi-annual meeting starts today and will continue tomorrow.
- **Pollution Prevention – Toxics in Packaging** – There are two such grants, the ongoing EPA Headquarters project and a recent grant from EPA Region 1. The projects emphasize educating the supply chain about toxics in packaging laws. Patty Dillon is the lead on these projects.
- **Promoting the Green Procurement of Computers** - Two, very successful, teleconferences have been held to describe the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) and how large purchasers can use it. More than 200 individuals participated in these calls. The PowerPoint presentation from the most recent teleconference is available on the NERC website. Individual outreach to large purchasers in the seven states (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, and Pennsylvania) that are part of these EPA Regions 1 and 3 projects is now beginning. Patty Dillon is the lead on these projects.

Project Updates – Ms. Remolador

- **Peer to Peer Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Rural Special Events** – The grant has ended and the best management practice guide for Peer to Peer Environmentally Preferable Purchasing is on the NERC website.
- **Town and Small Business Recycling** - A new USDA grant began on October 1 that focuses on promoting recycling by small towns and businesses in all of the NERC states, except Maine.
- **Regional Recycling Message** – The ad hoc committee worked on the message after the NERC Fall 2005 conference. The committee felt that the message needed to be test marketed. As a result, Connecticut College and Bryant University were asked to take on the project. Ms. Remolador is waiting to hear from them.
- **New York State Markets Database** – Great progress has been made on this project. However, work has been suspended until the new Projects Manager joins NERC.
- **Press Releases** – Last November, NERC entered into a one-year contract for professional press release writing and distribution services. There has been a marked increase in the number of mentions about NERC in the press as a result. The final part of the contract is to expand and update NERC's press distribution database list. Ms. Remolador will be asking for state and advisory members to share their press list to help with this effort.

- **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing for the State of Rhode Island -** NERC has received a contract from the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation to work with Rhode Island state agencies to promote their use of environmentally preferable purchasing. The contract runs from January to June.

Grant Writing Updates –

- NERC will be submitting a grant proposal to the USDA Rural Development Solid Waste Management Grant program on manure management on behalf of the states of New Jersey and New Hampshire.
- As the result of a request by the Pennsylvania Recycling Market Center, NERC will be submitting a proposal to the USDA Rural Development Solid Waste Management Grant to promote the diversion of agricultural film to recycling in Pennsylvania.
- NERC will once again be submitting a grant proposal to EPA for the development and testing of a search engine that can research multiple material exchange databases at one time.

Other:

Ms. Remolador noted that the 2007 NERC conferences will be held on March 13 -15 and October 16 -18, both at the Hotel Northampton, in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07.

Minutes recorded by Chaille Blais, Office Manager