

DRAFT
Rhode Island Litter Task Force Meeting Notes
March 15, 2006

Participants: G. Gerritt, J. Lewis, A. Miller, J. Pereira, M. Brodeur, J. Walsh, T. Uva, K. Austin, A. Akullian; J. Fornaro, T. Bisson

The February meeting notes were accepted.

Legislative Update:

Terri said that Elizabeth Stone reported that she had not heard anything on the litter legislation since the last meeting. Gregg said he that a couple of the bills may have been heard, but he did not know the specifics.

Visitor Center:

Mark Brodeur attended the meeting in response to the Litter Task Force letter to the EDC regarding litter prevention and recycling at the Route 95 Welcome Center in Richmond. Mr. Brodeur informed the group about initiatives they have taken to reduce litter. They have installed a number of trash receptacles and signage and he feels that litter is not a huge problem presently. Mr. Brodeur also made the offer to include any litter prevention education materials (logos, slogans, etc) in state tourism publications. The Litter Task Force would have to provide copy.

With regard to recycling at the center, he reiterated many of the issues outlined by Marty Davey of Clean Scape in an email previously received by the Litter Task Force. Jef Fornaro reiterated the concern of the Task Force that the welcome center should include some type of recycling program as a lead by example initiative directed at visitors who enter the state. Terri stated that even a small effort would go a long way to start and suggested the possibility of establishing a small collection station for cans and bottles and then work with a local organization to collect them (i.e. ARC's). Mr. Brodeur stated that would be willing to explore. He noted the group would need to be insured and would have to collect the materials in a timely fashion to avoid any storage problems. Terri wondered if Lynn Ruggeri, because of her local connections in Richmond and her familiarity with the Center would facilitate such an arrangement.

Tires:

Tom Uva from Narragansett Bay Commission presented a study that NBC collaborated on with Rhode Island Resource Recovery - *Report on "Hard-To-Dispose-Of" Items*. The report evolved from the river clean up NBC does each year on the Woonasquatucket River where tires as well as other hard-to-dispose items are a big problem. The report makes a number of recommendations including segregating revenues from the hard-to-dispose taxes from the general fund, mandating collections by municipalities and allowing them to temporarily store materials, and enhancing education and enforcement. The report also recommends that RIRRC incorporate the recommendations into the State Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Terri stated that the timing is right since the Plan is not before the State Technical Committee. She will explore have the recommendations incorporated. Tom provided members with the Report and summary. See the summary in **Attachment 1** below.

Tom also distributed flyers for the NBC Earth Day Clean Up on the Woonasquatucket River to be held April 20 from 9 – 2 PM (rain date 4/21). Contact NBC at 461-8848, ext. 391 or rivers@narrabay.com

for more information. Terri also mentioned that more than 70 clean ups are scheduled throughout the state for Earth Day. For additional information, visit www.EarthDayRI.org.

Fishing Litter

July distributed a report on Fishing Litter (see **Attachment 2** below). The group did not feel there was adequate time to discuss the report and tabled the item for the next meeting.

Next Meeting Topics

- Legislative Update

- Fishing Litter

- Follow Up on Potential Action Items for 95 Visitor Center

- 295 Visitor Center (on agenda, but not discussed at this meeting)

Next Meeting – April 19, 2006

Attachment 1

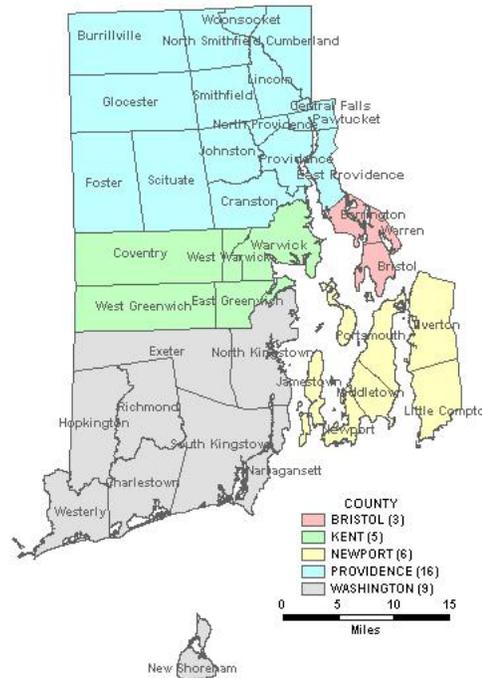
Hard to Dispose Report Recommendations

The Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) and Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) contracted with the Affiliated Offices of Nicholson & Sands, LLC to research long-term solutions to ensure the proper disposal of “hard-to-dispose-of” items.

Surveyed All Cities and Towns

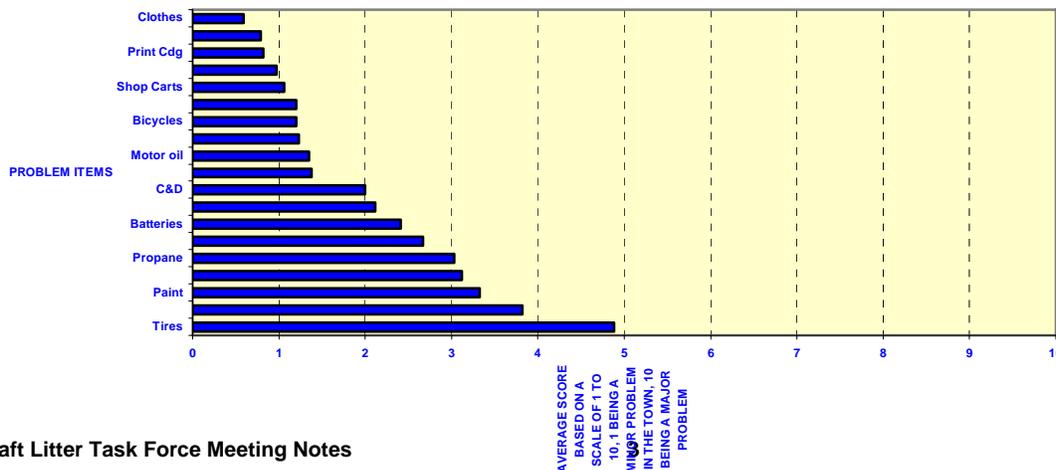
Completed the Survey

- Burrillville
- North Smithfield
- Cumberland
- Glocester
- Smithfield
- Lincoln
- Central Falls
- Pawtucket
- North Providence
- Providence
- East Providence
- Johnston
- Foster
- Cranston
- Coventry
- West Warwick
- Warwick
- West Greenwich
- Barrington
- Bristol
- Warren
- Tiverton
- Portsmouth
- Little Compton
- Newport
- Narragansett
- South Kingstown
- North Kingstown
- Hopkinton
- Charlestown
- Westerly
- Jamestown



Survey Results

"HARD-TO-DISPOSE-OF" ITEMS



Findings & Recommendations

The findings of their report indicate that the resolution to the “hard-to-dispose-of” issue must include a commitment from State government, all 39 municipal governments and the private sector, as well as non-profit organizations. The report states that by forging a partnership between the aforementioned entities, and by working to enact the following recommendations, a solution to the illegal dumping of “hard-to-dispose-of” items will emerge, and the significant problem facing our State today can become inconsequential and provide for a cleaner Rhode Island:

- Currently any funds received from the “hard-to-dispose-of” items are placed in the general fund. Segregate these revenues collected and litter control tax funds/fines to implement programs for clean-up efforts.
 - The State should mandate weekly or monthly collections by the municipal Department of Public Works, and allow for temporary storage of items collected and fund through the use of revenues currently collected for “hard-to-dispose-of” items.
 - The State needs to provide technical assistance to municipalities and provide grants to clean-up.
 - State and municipal enforcement must be enhanced, including increasing fines or considering the criminalization of illegal dumping.
 - Update existing Rhode Island General Laws to consolidate all laws related to “hard-to-dispose-of” items. The laws are old (1989) and the definition of “hard-to-dispose-of” items is limited and should be expanded.
 - Implement the *Hard-to-dispose material control and recycling oversight commission* to meet at least once per quarter to review tax revenues collected and expenditures of the program, to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, and to make recommendations to the governor and legislature regarding the appropriateness of the taxation rates, as indicated in the RIGLs.
 - The State should seek to enter into contracts with identified re-users / recyclers of certain materials that can be collected locally at municipal centers and implement pick up “*milk runs*” by the contracted companies on a periodic basis
 - Implement a statewide internet link to every municipal website detailing proper disposal practices, laws and enforcement, and fines.
 - Improve the dissemination of information and educational efforts on disposal and recycling programs and facilities. Increased awareness will instill a sense of ownership and pride in the lands in Rhode Island. These informational materials should be multi-lingual to ensure the entire population can have access to the materials.
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- According to the EPA’s State Scrap Tire Program Quick Reference Guide (dated 1999), 64 million scrap tires are landfilled, stockpiled or illegally dumped, representing 24% of scrap tires generated. Few states, including Indiana, Maine and Nevada, appear to have addressed the issue of a tire

manifest system, either on the retailer or hauler. The State of Rhode Island should further explore what other states are doing and develop and implement the best system for tire disposal possible.

- Convenient access to the disposal site was listed as a primary concern. Satellite collection facilities should be set up to support the need, especially in highly urbanized areas, including the Olneyville and Elmwood sections of Providence and also in Central Falls.
- RIRRC should adopt pertinent recommendations from this report into their Comprehensive Plan. This would include endorsing the recommendation for state mandated municipal collection sites in every community for hard-to-dispose-of items, implementing “*milk-runs*” to pick up the items and to provide technical assistance to municipalities to properly set up such collection facilities.

While there are currently many local efforts and programs, there are too many to fully assess the impact being made by these individual efforts or to analyze the related costs. There is a potential that if several groups work together, and consolidate their efforts, they could provide for less expensive methods of educating the public and conducting such programs.

Attachment 2

Fishing Litter Report—July Lewis

I spoke to Christine Dudley (RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife, Freshwater Fisheries) about the issue of fishing litter. She reports that:

- Different fishing sites have different jurisdiction/management. While many DEM sites are managed by Fish & Wildlife, others are managed by Parks and Recreation, or Forestry. Furthermore, there are many fishing sites managed by towns and organizations, not DEM. There is some overlap—there are some town sites stocked by RI Fish & Wildlife, and they usually do litter control at these sites too.
- All DEM fishing sites under the Division of Fish & Wildlife, or sites that they stock or manage, have signage in English saying it is a carry-in, carry-out site.
- A very few sites have trash barrels—they often attract more litter/dumping and are costly to maintain. A few marine sites have dumpsters and they contract to have them emptied. Ex: Pier 5, Narragansett.
- Some DEM fishing sites (approx. 15) have fishing line recycle boxes, both marine and freshwater. Some of these were built and placed by Boy Scout Troops, some by Development Staff. We could use a lot more. Those sites with recycle line boxes are emptied weekly and the line brought back to the Great Swamp for collection. The boxes are left out all year and repaired or replaced when needed.
- At least 65 sites are inspected and trash removed by hand each week by Development Staff from Great Swamp and Roundtop. Staff polices the entire fishing site area to find and pick up trash in the water and in the bushes. All freshwater fisheries staff and interns are required to carry bags with them; so that if they encounter litter while doing field work, they can pick it up. If they get a report of a trash problem, they go out and clean it up right away. Christine thinks they do a great job at this. It's possible that a few urban areas can't be effectively kept clean.
- During the year, many groups conduct clean-ups around the state. Christine thinks that some fishing clubs adopt fishing sites to keep clean.

I researched and found that:

- The Freshwater Fishing Abstract has a list of “Angler Ethics” on p. 24, including the following: “The Ethical Angler...Doesn't pollute, properly disposes of trash or packs it back.”
- The Marine Fishing Abstract says nothing about fishing litter.

Areas we could proceed:

- Identify problem sites—where are they, who has jurisdiction? Eugenia notes that Salters Grove and Sachuest Point have been problems in the past.
- Create multi-lingual signage.
- Find resources to build and put out more fishing line recycling boxes.
- Request addressing litter issue in marine abstract.
- Make larger mention of litter in freshwater abstract.

Questions to be answered:

- Are there pamphlets about fishing litter at licensing areas? Where are the licensing areas? What about bait shops?