

## **Some notes and assignments from April 10 TAWF meeting**

Meeting with IBWA (attended by Kris, Eleanor, Betsy, Paul, Hannah Seligmann, and by IBWA President Joe Doss and Bob Hirst, Vice President of Education, Science, and Technical Relations). It was a civil and engaged, open exchange of views. They did not change their stance on bottle deposits, which they label as a tax. They support recycling as the solution to litter. Their version of extended producer responsibility is their “material recovery program,” which they provided copies of to us. They are proud of their “lightweighting” of water bottles, which uses much less material. We pointed out that the litter problem in our streams exists in a very affluent, well-educated area with strong curbside recycling programs, as evidence that recycling is not enough to solve the litter problem. We pointed out that their website says that bottle deposits would be burdensome to retailers and manufacturers, but they have unfairly shifted the burden of cleaning up water bottle litter to volunteers and government. Their product ends up polluting the ocean, and never biodegrades. We asked about recycling of water bottles, and they reported that, between 2008 and 2014, between 3.3 and 20.8% of water bottles used recycled PET. They believe water bottles comprise a very small (0.3%) portion of the waste stream, and we asked whether that fraction is based on weight or volume of trash. (They did not seem to get the question—water bottles are very lightweight, hence a much smaller proportion by weight than by volume.) They did not seem aware that PET clamshells are not recyclable at present, though they can be made with recycled water bottles. We asked them what they could do to promote recycling and prevent their product from becoming litter. They have joined the Recycling Partnership, but IBWA has a small budget (\$4 million) and do not do their own litter-prevention projects. Some of their members are involved with Keep America Beautiful, but IBWA is not; too expensive. We offered to be a pretest or demonstration project if they decide to work on anti-litter campaign or messages. They asked for our ideas. Hannah mentioned educational and promotional materials that have been developed by Alice Ferguson Foundation, and they were interested in seeing these materials. They have a Board of Directors meeting on June 5-7, and invited us to send our thoughts if we come up with ideas. We learned they did not succeed in getting Congress to stop the National Park Service from banning sale of water in disposable bottles at national parks. Rather, parks can apply on a case-by-case basis to ban sale, and 22 have done so. The IBWA has FOIA'd the required reports on the benefits from these bans, but hasn't received them. They think it's very unfair that bottled sodas can be sold in national parks, but bottled water cannot be. They promote bottled water as a healthier alternative to bottled soda.

They are not happy about our planned demonstration. As Joe Doss said, our “Day of Action is not cooperative.”

Kris posted a brief report of our meeting on FB.

Reconnaissance. Paul and Betsy reported on early morning (7 a.m.) scouting of the protest area. There are bathrooms in establishments that are open at that hour (Dunkin Donuts on King Street; Hilton Hotel, Whole Foods on Duke St). Pedestrian traffic is light at that hour, and parking was plentiful. Driving around the area is circuitous, due to one-way street segments (on Reineker) and restrictions on left turns from Diagonal to Daingerfield. The largest number of people were on the Metro platform, waiting for trains. There are several entrances into Metro; do we need to have leafletters at all? Can we leaflet at the bottle of escalators?

Groups/electeds/media outlets/events to reach out to.

West Potomac Green Festival 4/22--Wendy

NOVA Green Festival 4/25—Wendy

Sustainability Fair 4/19--Wendy

Movie at Oakton Library--Flint

MV Unitarian Church--Betsy

March for Science 4/22

FOLHC and FACC cleanups

Four Mile Run Clean up group—Eleanor?

Climate Change March 4/29

Mount Vernon Chapter, Sierra Club—Eleanor to contact new head

Springfest

Virginia Climate Network

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment—Betsy

Sen. Chap Petersen—Flint, Betsy

Sen. Scott Surovell

Delegate Paul Krizek—Paul

Chants/slogans: Liz offered up several:

Be fantastic, live without plastic.

SOS: save our streams

Filter it, don't purchase it.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Leaflet to distribute at May 8 Day of Action. Meghan will take a shot at this, and we will all comment on her efforts. Meghan, Paul, and Kris will form a little advisory committee on content. Ideas offered for messages to communicate in the leaflet:

- IBWA stop opposing bottle deposits
- Messages should be bumper-sticker short
- Taking responsibility—both IBWA, and public
- Message should be positive—use reusable bottles.

Press release. Paul is to draft, get comments from Kris and Meghan, and distribute to the group by Weds, for distribution to Philip's media/press list by Friday. Kris advocated that the contact person in the press release should be Betsy.

Clarification of Metro's rules about having a card table, passing out lit on platforms. Paul will report on this at next meeting.

Next meeting: 7:00 PM on Monday, April 17, at the George

Mason Library at 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.