



H·R·R·A
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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2009, 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. Those present included L. Morelli, D. Leslie and J. Tomanio (BK), M. Pascento (SH), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), L. Kulowiec (RE), T. Yonsky and A. Morosky (BE), E. Rossini (RI), D. Dunleavy (RTI), S. Hastings (Hudson Baylor), H. Ruopp (HEAT), Sally Flynn and Maryellen Rockwell from Global Environmental Services (guests), and C. Reedy (HRRA).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by S. Von Holt, second by A. Miles, to approve the minutes of May 7, 2009 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

New DEP Annual Municipal Recycling Reports

C. Reedy briefly reviewed some of the requirements of the new annual municipal recycling report and what things members of the Task Force can do over the next year to improve their municipality's annual report, e.g. showing DEP "How To" videos on grasscycling and home composting on the local cable channel. She noted that the State's goal is to reduce or recycle 58% or more of the waste stream by 2024. If municipalities are not making voluntary progress toward that goal, it is possible that either financial carrots or sticks could be used as an incentive to improve the rate of progress. C. Reedy urged all municipalities to start working seriously on waste reduction and recycling in order to be in the best position possible to avoid fines in the future or take advantage of special grant programs open only to those towns with above average recycling rates. The low hanging fruits for material that would have a big impact on the recycling rate if diverted from the waste stream are food waste and textiles.

Salisbury Fourth Grade Transfer Station Booklet

Prior to the meeting C. Reedy e-mailed copies of a booklet prepared by the 4th Grade language arts enrichment students at Salisbury Central school. Titled, *It's Not a Dump!*, the booklet was distributed to local residents to explain what they can take to the transfer station, what is recyclable at their local transfer station, where waste and recyclables go after they leave the transfer station, how much of various types of waste residents generate each year, the cost of disposal for various waste streams and lot of other valuable information. Creating such a booklet for each municipality in HRRA would be a wonderful public service, a good Earth Day project, and something that other schools or classes might want to consider.

Food Waste Collection

Maryellen Rockwell and Sally Flynn from Global Environmental Services of New Haven made a presentation to the Task Force about the food waste collection services their company provides through John's Refuse. Whole Foods stores in CT have contracted for the service and Stop & Shop is in discussion about food waste collection from their CT stores. Global plans to start full time service in the HRRRA region in January 2010. The company has two vacuum trucks, to prevent leakage, and can pick up between 1 and 3 times per week. Global provides toters for food waste collection and storage to customers. The toters are weighed empty and again after pick up and customers are invoiced at a per ton rate. The cost of the service is driven by volume and weight. Food waste from this region would be tipped at New Milford Farms. New Milford Farms has lowered the tip fee for food waste collected within a HRRRA community through the end of 2009 from \$55/ton to \$39.50/ton in order to get a program up and running in the region.

A number of the school systems represented on the Task Force are interested in pursuing food waste separation from the rest of the waste stream and collection for composting. The Sherman School appears to be the most advanced in its planning for and commitment to implementing such a program. Services offered by Global include helping customers calculate the savings from removing food waste from their waste stream, working with customers to find the proper location for toters both inside and outside of buildings, helping customers develop a food waste separation process that is easy for staff to implement, and helping to train staff in what materials should and should not be put in the food waste bin for composting. Sally and Maryellen can be contacted at 203-234-7311 for discussions on how the Global program would work at specific sites.

Items Raised by Members

- Ridgefield – E. Rossini reported that the Ridgefield Police Department, working with a local pharmacist, held a prescription medication disposal day for town residents that was very successful. More options are needed throughout the region for proper disposal of prescription drugs.

Recycling Goal Setting for 2009-10

C. Reedy asked members to review their Municipal Recycling Checklist prior to the next meeting and come prepared to report on what goals each municipality and/or school has set for recycling during the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.