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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, June 2, 2011, 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. Those present included L. Kulowiec (RE), E. Rossini (RI), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), D. Leslie (BK), J. Calhoun (NM/BOE), P.J. Prunty (DA), C. Reedy (HRRRA) and J. Iannucci (HRRRA). Guest, Nathan Zoe (RI Intern). The RRTF welcomed P. J. Prunty from the Mayor's office in Danbury as the newest member. He replaces Ted Cutsumptas who is no longer working for the City.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by A. Miles, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2011 as presented.

Vote: All voting in favor.

Final Single Stream/E-Waste Flyer – Customize for Municipalities

Cheryl Reedy shared the final version of the single stream recycling and e-waste flyer. It is posted on the HRRRA website and Facebook page. HRRRA can customize flyers for each municipality, if requested; example of New Milford's customized flyer was passed around. The flyers were also made available to haulers last month, at a well-attended haulers' meeting, with an offer from HRRRA to make up to 500 copies for each hauler if requested.

After July 1st the flyer will run in all the local weeklies except for the *Newtown Bee* (unless directed otherwise by Newtown). A. Miles announced that a recycling notice/flyer will go out with the Newtown tax bills.

D. Leslie asked if it's okay to leave container lids on recyclables. C. Reedy responded that it's still preferable to leave the lids off, but since material is no longer being baled at White Street it is less of a safety concern than before.

S. Von Holt asked if there will be a Single Stream facility built in Danbury. While Winters Bros. has expressed a desire to build a single stream recycling facility at White Street sometime in the future, C. Reedy noted that it would likely not happen soon since at present there is not sufficient tonnage coming through the facility to make it financially feasible.

D. Leslie asked if paper plates are recyclable. Yes, if they are clean.

D. Leslie asked if Jen Iannucci could produce an article for the *Brookfield Patch* regarding single stream recycling. C. Reedy suggested since HRRRA is running advertisements after July 1st, and there is not money in the budget for HRRRA to do anything else before, that Task Force Members check their individual town websites for resources on local recycling and waste management and/or links to information available on

the HRRRA website. Information on municipal websites must be readily available and easy to find on where and how to recycle.

Update on Paint Product Stewardship Program

The Paint Bill passed both the Senate and the House and is now waiting to be signed by Gov. Malloy any day. All state legislators from the region voted in favor. In fact the votes were unanimous in both the House and the Senate and the bill had bipartisan sponsors. Rep. Clark Chapin who serves as the Ranking Member of the Environment Committee is once again deserving of special recognition for his help in getting the bill raised as a Committee bill and getting it through the public hearing and committee process. Rep. Bob Godfrey was once again helpful in making sure the bill got to the House floor for a vote. Sen. Mike McLachlan helped to solidify support among fellow Republican senators, which allowed the bill to pass the Senate on the Consent Calendar. And Reps. Bob Godfrey, David Scribner, Chris Lyddy, Debralee Hovey and Jan Giegler all signed on as co-sponsors for the bill. The legislation requires the paint stewardship program to be active no later than July 2013. Tom Metzner from DEP will lead a series of stakeholder conference calls to work with the American Coatings Association and the paint producers it represents to implement the program. S. Von Holt and L. Kulowiec both expressed interest in being part of those conference calls.

A question was raised about how latex paint will be dealt with at future HHW collections. It is still too early to know exactly how this will work, but at least the program is implement in 2013 the HHW collections in the region will continue only to accept oil-based paint. RRTF should continue this conversation. Amazon Environmental, one of the largest paint recycling companies in the country, now intends to build a new paint recycling facility in the New Haven area.

Mattress Recycling Information Sent to all Towns by Bridgeport Mayor

C. Reedy shared a letter written by Mayor Finch of Bridgeport regarding a new mattress recycling company starting to do business in Bridgeport. This letter was e-mailed to all chief elected officials in the State. C. Reedy said if there is away to deal with mattress disposal within the private sector, without the use of tax dollars, and it makes financial and logistical sense for your community, it won't interfere with future stewardship plans and municipalities should take advantage of what this new company has to offer. The new mattress recycling business in Bridgeport completely refurbishes the mattresses. That has to be done right to prevent the spread of bed bugs. Municipalities need to be aware of the bed bug issue before storing quantities of mattresses at a transfer station site for any length of time. C. Reedy asked what towns do currently with mattresses. S. Von Holt mentioned they go into bulky waste in New Milford.

Items to be Raised by Members

Plastic manufacturers and ASTM International are reworking plastic resin identification codes to help make them more consumer friendly. More information is available at <http://www.astmnewsroom.org>

- Questions were raised regarding the removal of propane tanks. Could they be aggregated for a pick-up to save money? L. Kulowiec knows of a company that is willing to pay \$1 per tank. His transfer station permit does not allow him to collect and store tanks with valves on the property, but it is not safe to remove the valves from tanks brought to the transfer station. He asked if C. Reedy can contact DEP to look into a special permit.
- At the HHW event in May, more than 19,000 ft of fluorescent bulbs were collected, most from municipalities at a total cost of almost \$7,000. In 2010, only 5,480 ft of fluorescents were collected and the cost to the towns was \$1,918. Most of this increase is due to some towns and schools bringing in large quantities of fluorescent bulbs changed from municipal buildings. The cost of

disposing of municipal fluorescent bulbs as universal waste at local transfers stations through WeRecycle! is \$.065/ft. while the cost of disposing of the same bulbs as hazardous waste at HHW collections is \$.35/ft, about 5 ½ times more expensive, not counting transportation to and from town coming to the HHW site. C. Reedy is bringing this issue to the next HRRRA meeting asking the chief elected officials to set a policy on fluorescent bulb disposal that is fair to all municipalities involved in HHW collections.

- S. Von Holt raised a concern about a hauling company that is unresponsive to customers that leaves dumpsters on residential properties in the New Milford area with residents having few options to get the dumpster removed. There are also issues of customers not paying haulers for dumpsters. C. Reedy suggested that municipalities urge consumers to check the HRRRA website for the list of registered haulers before choosing one to do business with.
- D. Leslie announced the Brookfield Lions Club will have a shred day on June 11th.
- E. Rossini thanked guest and RI Intern, Nathan Zoe for drafting an employee recycling policy for town hall. It is in draft form and now needs to go to the HR department. Nathan did a great job. E. Rossini will send a copy to Cheryl. The other intern Nicki, created a recycling insert to go in the Motor Vehicle Tax bills. It's a refrigerator guide on how to recycle in Ridgefield printed on cardstock.
- C. Reedy asked E. Rossini to send updated information on Ridgefield for HRRRA website. C. Reedy also reminded all members to let HRRRA know if there are changes to links on town websites that are linked to HRRRA. Information should be easy for residents to find. There are broken links that need to be repaired.
- L. Kulowiec suggested the next RRTF meeting be a field trip to a recycling center in the region. The RRTF then suggested that L. Kulowiec be its host at the next meeting to be held at the Redding Transfer Station with a stop at the Ridgefield Transfer Station and Recycling Center on the way back.
- Regarding the poster theme for next year, C. Reedy suggested that the RRTF review options and approve the poster contest theme for next year by e-mail so the flyers for next can be ready to go as early as October. HRRRA may pay for an ad in the News Times or the Task Force could get a public service announcement in the News Times for next year's poster contest as a way to reach out directly to Danbury children without going through the schools. P. J. Prunty indicated he has some ideas about increasing participation by Danbury students next year as well.

Adjournment

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