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HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Room 209, Brookfield Town Hall

Members or Alternates Present and Voting

Bethel, Matthew Knickerbocker	8
Danbury, Joel Urice	36
Kent, Bruce Adams	1
New Fairfield, Mike Gill	6
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	12
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	12
Redding, Jeff Hanson	4
Ridgefield, Andy Bodner	11
Sherman, Ruth Byrnes	2
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Others Present:

Ryan Bingham, Winters Brothers
Lee Sawyer, CT DEEP
Ken Vallera, All American Waste
Lynn Waller, Public
Glenn Lockhart, Wheelabrator
Jen Iannucci, HRRRA Director
Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director

Members Not Present

C. Read, Bridgewater and W. Tinsley, Brookfield.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill at 10:35 a.m. with a quorum of 92 votes present from nine municipalities.

Public Comment

Glenn Lockhart thanked HRRRA for its support in advocating to have the additional \$1.00 per ton solid waste fee removed from SB 946, Sec. 25.

Chairman's and Members' Comments - Chairman Mike Gill had the following comments:

- The Executive Committee just completed the annual review of staff and approved a draft budget to come before the full Authority at the annual meeting in June. One of the goals for the next year is to chart the course about where or what HRRRA wants to be after 2019. It will be important to re-engage the municipal CEOs in that process after the November elections.
- It's not too late for municipalities to contact their legislative delegation and ask them to oppose SB 946, Sec. 25, that would impose another \$1.00 per ton fee on solid waste and raise the tip fee in the region even higher.
- Member communities are encouraged to carefully review the 2014 calendar year end numbers on the tonnage report and note that 7 of the 11 member municipalities finished the year below their individual put or pay tonnage, although the region as a whole remains above the total put or pay

number. There are ongoing discussions with V. Langone and G. Lockhart about how to attract more tonnage to remain in the system and alleviate this problem.

Director's Report - J. Iannucci highlighted the following from her written report:

- MSW tonnage is running at 94% YTD compared to the same time last year and recycling at 102%.
- J. Iannucci and C. Reedy have been meeting with V. Langone and G. Lockhart to set up discussions with the larger haulers in the region about what pricing incentive could keep more trash in the system. H. Rosenthal expressed his frustration about MIRA, a quasi-state agency, taking so much of the region's trash after promising for years not to.
- A new recycling ad, "Recycling . . . It's not what it used to be" is now on display on the tail of HART buses for 8 weeks.
- C. Reedy, J. Iannucci and Lou Burch from the Citizens Campaign for the Environment met with Rep. David Arconti to review the proposed language on the battery stewardship bill. Staff continues to work with all stakeholders to try to push a battery bill through this session.
- The RRTF visited Park City Green in Bridgeport to see firsthand how they will dismantle mattresses for recycling under the mattress stewardship program that starts May 1st. Most of the municipalities in the region have signed on for the program. New Milford is waiting on some training before finalizing their participation. Brookfield and Sherman will participate through the New Milford Recycling Center. And Bridgewater is waiting for its annual bulk pickup week to utilize the program.
- For municipalities participating in an annual lake, river or other watercourse cleanup, Bridgestone Tire offers a tire recycling program for such cleanups at no cost. J. Iannucci will send out the online sign up link to all municipalities.
- The Bridgewater organics program is one year old! Over 22 tons of food scraps were collected from 140 residents and made into compost. J. Iannucci is working with Winters Bros. to start a similar program in Ridgefield that will start first at the Town's recycling center and then move to a curbside collection program for residents. Plans are in the works to bring a similar program to New Fairfield later in the year.

Administrative Approvals

- a. **Motion** by S. Von Holt, second by H. Rosenthal;, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting as presented. **Vote:** All voting in favor. (Vote tally: 92 in favor.)
- b. **Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by J. Urice, to approve the HRRR financial statements through March 31, 2015 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 92 in favor.)

Old Business

- a. **Update on MSW Associates VRF DEEP permit intervention** – The Hearing Officer has made a ruling to reopen the hearing for a limited purpose to allow the City of Danbury to submit previously withdrawn testimony from its traffic experts since the proposed deceleration lane on the revised plans submitted by MSW Associates is located on land that is not owned by or under the control of MSW Associates. The City has requested the right to submit additional expert testimony since the entrance to the facility on the plan now under consideration is on a different end of the property than it was when reviewed by the City's traffic experts. A conference call is scheduled for next week to find a date for the reconvened hearing. HRRR and its legal counsel are monitoring the progress of the hearing to insure that the agreement previously worked out with MSW Associates and DEEP is included in any final decision of the Department.

b. Legislative Session Update -

- HB 5405 - This legislation, introduced by Rep. David Arconti from Danbury, would have required municipal land use approvals for new solid waste facilities before a permit application could be made to DEEP. It is apparently going nowhere
- HB 5243, 5244 and 5336 - These bills that would have repealed or revised the paint stewardship program have all been killed.
- SB 869 - The tire stewardship bill has been changed from a program to a yearlong study of tire stewardship and beneficial reuse options with a report due to the legislature in February 2016. We will try again next year for a tire stewardship bill.
- HB 6957 - The battery stewardship bill is still alive, although Rep. Arconti described it as a "heavy lift" to get it passed this session.

New Business

a. Efforts to increase MSW tonnage into HRRR system - This item was previously covered and discussed during the Director's report.

b. CMMS Dialogue with Lee Sawyer from CT DEEP (During this agenda item B. Adams from Kent and J. Urice from Danbury left the meeting reducing the quorum present to 55 votes from seven towns.) -

- Preliminary Ideas for Discussion on the CMMS, prepared by L. Sawyer, were sent to members prior to the meeting. The Goal of the CMMS process is to "provide a clear and actionable roadmap to achieving the state's goal of 60 percent diversion from disposal by 2024." To that end, the strategy developed must be bold, actionable and measurable. The areas of focus per DEEP are (1) coordinating state, regional and municipal roles, (2) measuring and communicating success, (3) supporting the growth of recycling-related businesses and markets, (4) organics, (5) the state leading by example, (6) revising permitting requirements to accommodate new RRF technologies, and (7) education and outreach.
- The new relationship between MIRA (formerly CRRA) and DEEP required by last year's legislation has resulted in an RFP process seeking proposals to redevelop the MidConn RRF in Hartford and perhaps its feeder transfer stations. The RFP process will take approximately 2 1/2 years. Three proposals will be chosen to do feasibility studies. The Department hopes to have a draft of the RFP by September 2015, proposals due in January 2016, and a May 2017 target date for final selection.
- The CMMS timeline is to have a draft plan by October 2015, then solicit public comment. The final plan will go to the Environment Committee in February 2016, with final approval in July 2016.
- H. Rosenthal asked how the state hopes to get to a 60% diversion rate when it hasn't been able to get to the 40% diversion rate already required. L. Sawyer noted that part of the problem has been the way in which the rate is now measured. Lots of items have been left out of the count such as scrap metal, deposit bottle returns, etc. The state will likely switch to using a per capita disposal rate to measure diversion success, a better metric than a recycling rate.
- A. Bodner, H. Rosenthal and M. Gill all stressed that whatever program is recommended must be cost effective with the least burden on municipalities as well as residents and businesses. Programs that increase the cost of disposal or recycling will not be effective.

Nominating Committee - Chairman Gill appointed S. Von Holt and J. Urice to the Nominating Committee for this year. J. Urice noted that at this time of uncertainty with regard to HRRR's future

after 2019 there needs to be as much continuity as possible, and asked if the current officers would be willing to serve for another year. The Chair asked the Director to send out a note to Executive Committee members to gauge their willingness to serve again and notify the Nominating Committee.

Adjournment: Motion by S. Von Holt, second by R. Byrnes, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 a.m.
Vote: All in favor. (Vote tally: 55 in favor.)