



H·R·R·A
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HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 18, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Brookfield Town Hall – First Floor - Room 133

Members or Alternates Present and Voting:

Bethel, Paul Szatkowski	8
Brookfield, Joni Park	7
Danbury, Joel Urice	35
Kent, Dolores Schiesel	1
New Fairfield, Mike Gill	6
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	13
Newtown, Herbert Rosenthal	12
Redding, Natalie Ketcham	4
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi	11
Sherman, Andrea O’Connor	<u>2</u>
	99

Others Present:

Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Director
 First Selectman Joseph Borst, Newtown
 Selectman Ed Hayes, Sherman
 Dave Dunleavy, AWD
 Vin Langone, WCI
 Rob Pedersen, WCI
 Tom Metzner, CT DEP
 Gabrielle Frigon, CT DEP
 Ruth Byrnes, RRTF, Sherman
 Amy Oddo, RRTF
 David Rainer
 Tony DeFranco

Members Not Present

Bridgewater, William Stuart

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill at 10:32 a.m. with a quorum of 59 votes present from six municipalities. H. Rosenthal entered the meeting at 10:35 a.m. during Public Comment; N. Ketcham and S. Von Holt entered at 10:40 a.m. also during Public Comment. D. Schiesel entered the meeting at 10:44 a.m. during agenda item 3 and P. Murphy entered the meeting at 11:59 a.m. during agenda item 7(c) bringing the total votes present to 99 from ten municipalities.

2. Public Comment

D. Dunleavy asked that recycling tonnage from Ridgefield and New Milford that is not tipped at RTI be reported to HRRRA on a regular basis so that those communities’ recycling rates are accurately represented in the HRRRA reports. (H. Rosenthal entered here.) There was considerable discussion among members about why such reporting is not already being done since the vendors involved, Hudson Baylor and All American Waste, have to make quarterly reports to DEP by state law. M. Gill noted that there is a lot of recycling tonnage from all municipalities not included in the HRRRA numbers, items such as cardboard from large commercial generators, tires from tire dealers, paper from shredding companies, etc. (N. Ketcham and S. Von Holt entered here.)

3. Chairman's and Members' Comments

- Chairman Gill welcomed newly elected First Selectman Joe Borst from Newtown to the meeting and Selectman Ed Hayes, who will serve as Sherman's HRRRA Alternate. H. Rosenthal will continue to serve as Newtown's representative to the Authority until his term ends on 6-30-08. No representative has yet been appointed from the Town of Brookfield to replace J. Murphy. (D. Schiesel entered here.)
- Authority members offered best wishes and a speedy recovery to Redding Alternate T. Newsome, who has recently been battling some health issues.
- Congratulations offered to V. Langone and Wheelabrator Connecticut, Inc. (WCI) for their continuing Star Designation by OSHA in the voluntary protection program for worker and plant safety at the Bridgeport WTE plant. Only 2% of all companies in the country receive this designation.
- Next Monday will mark the first closing of all HRRRA transfer stations for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday under the new holiday schedule approved by the Authority in October.

4. Director's Report

There were no questions or comments on the Director's Report as presented through January 18, 2008. C. Reedy noted the following highlights of the report:

- RTI recycling tonnage for CY 2007 increased almost 7% over 2006, with all the increase coming after the start of the advertising program in February 2007. As a result the Authority will have additional funds from recycling revenue sharing next fiscal year, possibly as much as \$115,000 over the current year. The advertising program costs for the past two fiscal years will thus have a pay back period of only one year, making it a great investment.
- Shrink wrapped Stamford MSW is not currently coming into the Housatonic Railroad transloading site in Hawleyville as expected. For the time being Stamford MSW is being shipped directly out of Stamford to landfills owned by its vendor in Midwestern states. HRRRA is monitoring the status of the Hawleyville site and communicating any information gleaned to CT DEP, WCI and the Town of Newtown.
- Estimated household hazardous waste budget numbers for the 08-09 FY for each municipality participating in HRRRA organized HHW collections are included in the Director's report.
- Information on the Earth Day Poster Contest, "How Does Recycling Help Save the Earth", has been provided to all chief elected officials and all Regional Recycling Task Force members for local distribution. Members were asked to insure that the information is widely disseminated in their municipalities and their school systems. Members will be asked to provide some type of public recognition award ceremony for local contest winners and to participate in an award program in the evening for the regional winners during the first two weeks of April. Union Savings Bank has graciously offered to cover \$3,500 of the cost of awards for the contest.

5. Consent Action Items (a-c)

Motion by H. Rosenthal, second by J. Urice to approve all items on the consent agenda, including approval of the October 19, 2007 minutes, approval of the HRRRA financial statements through December 31, 2007, and revision of the 2008 Meeting Schedule to change the March meeting date to March 14 from March 21. **Vote:** All in favor except J. Park, who abstained because she was not in attendance at the October 19, 2007 meeting.

6. Old Business

- a. *Ridgefield Transfer Station* – V. Langone reported that WCI is ready to move forward with the repairs outlined in the report of DiSalvo Ericson, the engineering firm hired by Ridgefield. R. Marconi is in agreement that it is time to move forward and get the work done.
- b. *Asphalt Tear Off Roof Shingle Recycling Location* – T. DeFranco expressed his thanks to HRRRA for the sites for the recycling business provided to date. The Putnam property on Plumtrees Rd in Danbury does not have enough room. The owner of the Taylor property in Brookfield on Delmar Dr is not interested in renting out part of his property. The Town of Newtown public works area is a very good fit and T. DeFranco and D. Rainer have met with F. Hurley, PWD, who has expressed serious interest in having the business locate there. With the change of administration in Newtown and the winter snow plowing season in full swing, F. Hurley has not yet had time to present the information to the new First Selectman for his consideration. The municipal approval process is much too slow for the business plan, but T. DeFranco and D. Rainer hope that the process of securing a location will soon be wrapped up. (They were introduced to First Selectman J. Borst at the meeting.)
- c. *Retreat for New Regional Recycling Program* – Members agreed to at least one and possibly two half day retreats in order to discuss and decide on critical policy issues to move the new regional recycling program forward in a timely fashion. D. Schiesel suggested a half day retreat going through the dinner hour. C. Reedy suggested the Regional YMCA's Great Hollow Wilderness School and Retreat Center in New Fairfield as a possible location, and the majority of members expressing a preference agreed. Members would like the first retreat scheduled in May 2008, after the end of the municipal budget process.

7. New Business

- a. *Additional Appropriation* – **Motion** by A. O'Connor, second by D. Schiesel, to approve an additional appropriation of \$7,000 from fund balance to the Public Education line to cover the cost of the poster contest awards and other give aways for school presentations. **Vote:** All in favor.
- b. *Regional Recycling Task Force Report* – Ruth Byrnes of Sherman and Amy Oddo of Bethel presented a report on the work to date of the Regional Recycling Task Force (RRTF). The group first met on May 3, 2007 and has met monthly since then. Many towns have appointed a representative from the municipal government as well as the school system, but some have not participated at all. Meetings have included reviewing a checklist of best practices for municipal and school recycling, touring RTI, hearing from New Milford Farms and a local hauler interested in organic waste hauling, and a recycling workshop for teachers, parents and the public hosted at the Sherman School and conducted by the Northeast Recycling Council. Lots of recycling programs have been started in the region as a result of the RRTF. At Huckleberry Hill and Center School in Brookfield, for example, students and staff implemented a new recycling program and parent volunteers send a monthly flyer with the tonnage recycled each month. The RRTF has found working with children to be the most productive for increasing recycling. The RRTF operates with encouragement and cooperation among the participating communities.

Amy Oddo, a concerned parent who volunteers with the RRTF but does not officially represent the Town of Bethel, said she was inspired by what the Sherman 3rd grade was taking on and thus the Green Teams at Johnson School and Bethel Middle School were born. There are 125 participating students who collected ten 40-gallon bags of plastic water bottles at their school for

recycling in the first week. Bob Germinaro, the Facilities Manager for the Bethel Public Schools, has gotten on board with gusto and has been a tremendous help in making the program work. There are recycle and reuse bins in every single classroom in every single school in Bethel now, and Bethel students are becoming role models for recycling.

R. Byrnes said Sherman has benefited from tremendous support from First Selectman A. O'Connor and a very proactive school system. Assistant Principal Mike Pascento has even become a member of the RRTF along with a member of the Sherman BOE, who also volunteered his time and materials to build outdoor recycling containers for the town's ball fields. The NERC workshop in Sherman in September was attended by approximately 50 people from various municipalities in the region. The group did a walk through of the school, went to Town Hall for a presentation by NERC and everyone received a Recycling Toolkit from NERC to take home. The outdoor receptacles at the ball fields have been very successful. Using clear bags has helped insure compliance. The 45-gallon bags must be emptied every other day during the season at the ball fields and daily at the town beach. The Town switched to a hauler who takes recyclables to RTI. Town Hall has done away with throw-away hot beverage cups entirely and switched from plastic to recyclable paper cold cups. The town now purchases only 100% recycled content paper. And, the school system is in negotiations with its food service vendor, Aramark, to do away with Styrofoam trays in the cafeteria. The Sherman School had a school-wide assembly on recycling with Cyril the Sorcerer, from the CT Recycling Coalition, and will participate this spring in the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe recycling program. When they get "caught" recycling, Sherman students receive "trash cash" that they can use to purchase lunch with their favorite teacher or the First Selectman or an extra recess or other desirable things.

R. Byrnes noted that each participating municipality and school system has set recycling goals for 2008. She encouraged HRRRA members to sit down and spend an hour with their RRTF representative(s) to learn more about what new recycling programs have been implemented in their community.

HRRRA members were thrilled and excited to learn about all that the RRTF has accomplished in only nine months and gave both presenters a round of applause. Chairman Gill suggested that RRTF members be invited to the retreat when that is scheduled.

- c. State E-Waste Requirements – Tom Metzner, accompanied by Gabrielle Frigon, both from CT DEP, provided members with an overview of Connecticut's new e-waste law passed in the last legislative session and the requirements for municipalities under that law.
- Connecticut's law is a producer responsibility law, passing financial responsibility for recycling electronics to their manufacturers.
 - The covered electronic devices (CED) under the law include televisions, computers, computer monitors and printers only.
 - Municipalities are required to provide residents with free, convenient and accessible recycling for covered electronics devices.
 - Residents will deliver their CEDs to a location designated by each municipality. The municipality will make arrangements with an electronics recycler certified by DEP to take away the CEDs, who will sort by manufacturer, recycle and then bill the manufacturer for the costs involved.
 - Most costs will be paid by electronics manufacturers. Potential costs to municipalities could include municipal staff required to oversee the collection site and recycling or disposal costs for non-CEDs that residents may bring to the site in error.

- The cost to the municipality of renting PODs or Gaylord containers to collect the CEDs will be a covered cost under the program.
- Municipalities can develop their own plan for convenient and accessible recycling of CEDs to meet the unique characteristics of the municipality and present it to DEP for approval prior to the start date of the program on January 1, 2009.
- The law covers only CEDs that come from residential properties/use, not commercial CEDs and not municipal or school generated e-waste. Mr. Metzner suggested that municipality's try to make arrangements with the certified electronic recycler (CER) they hire to haul away their e-waste to take non-covered CEDs, including municipal and school e-waste, at no charge or at a very low cost or to contact the manufacturer of municipal e-waste directly for recycling arrangements.
- The DEP is in the process of formulating regulations for operation of the new e-waste law. HRRRA has participated in some of the conference calls coordinated through DEP to discuss issues involved for municipalities, recyclers, and other interested parties. The draft regulations will be presented for public comment prior to final adoption.
- Between October 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009, the DEP will certify electronics recyclers and post a list of those certified on the DEP website.

M. Gill noted that New Fairfield, Redding, Ridgefield are already recycling e-waste at their local transfer stations, that Danbury does a once a year collection, and that New Milford is looking into collection at its local Recycling Center. The New Fairfield program is the longest running program in the region, and 18 months into the program still collects enough e-waste to require containers to be pulled once or twice per month. Its vendor is WeRecycle! from Meriden.

In response to a question from the Authority members on the going rate for e-waste recycling, Mr. Metzner said the current going rate is \$.20-\$.25 per pound. Recyclers who offer a much lower price are likely not following appropriate disposal rules and meeting all environmental regulations and municipalities should be very leery of doing business with such companies. (P. Murphy arrived here.) After the new law takes effect, municipalities will no longer be charged for disposal of CEDs by their electronics recycling vendor.

- The law requires that CERs report to municipalities and to HRRRA the tonnage of CEDs recycled in each community and in the region so that tonnage can be included on the annual DEP recycling report.
 - Local transfer stations that don't currently collect electronics will need to upgrade their transfer station permit through DEP to collect at that location. The Department has recently adopted a new General Permit for such municipal transfer stations that is easier to use and less expensive than older permits. Electronics fall under the universal waste category. The new DEP permits will be good for five years and cost \$800 per year.
 - Municipalities may adopt plans for compliance either on an individual basis or on a regional basis. One day collections will likely not meet the requirement of convenient and accessible under the law.
 - Municipalities may collect e-waste at their transfer stations and charge a permit fee to use the transfer station without violating the law.
 - DEP plans to do some statewide advertising when the new program starts in early 2009.
8. Adjournment - On a motion by J. Urice, second by P. Szatkowski, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. without objection.