



H·R·R·A
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HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 15, 2007, 10:30 a.m.

Brookfield Town Hall – First Floor - Room 133

Members or Alternates Present and Voting:

Bethel, Paul Szatkowski	8
Brookfield, Jerome Murphy	7
Danbury, Joel Urice	35
New Fairfield, Mike Gill	6
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	13
Newtown, Fred Hurley	12
Redding, Tom Newsome	4
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi	11
Sherman, Andrea O'Connor	2
	<u>98</u>

Others Present:

Cheryl Reedy, HRRR Director
Lynn Waller, Public
Dave Dunleavy, AWD
Dan Arciola, RTI
Vin Langone, WES
Rob Pedersen, WES
Paul Nonnenmacher, CRRA
Jonathan Bilmes, BRRFOC
Susan Hemmenway, BRRFOC
John Frangoulis, Empire Waste
Bob Miller, NewsTimes
Frank Gagliardo, DEP
Roy Piper, DEMHA Region V

Members Not Present

Bridgewater, William Stuart
Kent, Dolores Schiesel

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill at 10:32 a.m. with a quorum of 84 votes present from seven towns. F. Hurley entered the meeting at 10:35 a.m. during agenda item 3 and A. O'Connor entered the meeting at 10:50 a.m. during agenda item 4 bringing the total votes present to 98 from nine municipalities.

Public Comment

L. Waller thanked C. Reedy for appearing on her Comcast cable TV show to talk about recycling.

Chairman's and Members' Comments

- Chairman Gill noted that Rep. Bob Godfrey, Rep. Mary Ann Carson and Rep. Clark Chapin had all been very responsive to provide information and assistance to HRRR during the past legislative session. (F. Hurley entered the meeting at this point.)
- T. Newsome reported that Redding sponsored a "Shred Day" last Saturday for residents who were able to bring their personal documents to the local transfer station for shredding at no charge. Cost to the Town was \$250 for three hours of service from EcoShred.

Director's Report

C. Reedy reviewed some of the highlights of the written Director's Report for through June 15, 2007.

- Recycling tonnage for the first 5 months of 2007 is up 5% compared to the same time period in 2006. The increase didn't start until March, after the HRRRA public information campaign started. It is too early to tell if the increase is the result of that campaign, but the trend is in the right direction. BRRFOC and CRRA have also seen increasing recycling tonnage in 2007, but both also started new public education programs as well.
- In addition to the legislators the Chairman thanked, Rep. Joe Taborsak also sponsored and passed legislation to require consumers to initial indicating their understanding of any automatic renewing contract for solid waste collection and hauling, a very consumer friendly piece of legislation and something HRRRA recommended in its testimony before the Public Safety Committee.
- E-waste legislation was enacted by the legislature which will be phased in through 2011. Municipalities will have some responsibility under this new law but will be reimbursed for any costs.
- As a result of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Oneida-Herkimer case, flow control is now a tool municipalities can use to implement solid waste management as long as there is public ownership of the transfer station facilities.
- Best Sanitation, Thomas Powell, and AWD and all its affiliated companies will distribute HRRRA's Easy Recycling Guide to residential customers with their invoices. Scalzo Property Management has agreed to send out the Easy Recycling Guide to 500 condo owners in the region who have curbside recycling services.
- 11 x 17 color posters urging recycling of plastic bottles and fiber have been printed for every town hall, senior center, library and school in the region. Town Hall posters were distributed to those in attendance. The school posters will be distributed in September.
- There has been a problem with the building and retaining wall at the Ridgefield Transfer Station for several weeks that WES and the Town have been working to address. R. Marconi added that the building was built on wooden piles and is not sinking as originally thought. Somehow, perhaps through wind damage, the building got out of square and one bay door would not shut, resulting in one bay being closed for the past few weeks and causing delays for residents on Saturdays. The retaining wall is moving away from the building and must be fixed. V. Langone said a WES structural engineer inspected the building and wall and came up with five options for a fix. Those have been sent to the Town of Ridgefield, with a copy to HRRRA. WES will pay to fix the building, as required by the contract. WES and Ridgefield are discussing who will pay for correcting the retaining wall problem. R. Marconi asked if WES would open up one bay on the opposite of the building for trucks on Saturdays to help prevent delays for residents using the facility. (A. O'Connor entered the meeting at this point.)

Consent Action Items

- **Motion** by J. Murphy, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2007 HRRRA meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor, except R. Marconi who abstained because he was not at the April meeting.
- **Motion** by R. Marconi, second by J. Murphy, to approve the HRRRA financial statements through May 31, 2007 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.
- **Motion** by R. Marconi, second by A. O'Connor, to approve a transfer of \$403 from the insurance line and \$190 from the miscellaneous line, for a total of \$593 to the public education line in the 2006-07 HRRRA budget. **Vote:** All in favor.

Old Business:

- a. *Legislative Update*– The expanded bottle bill and state hauler licensing did not pass during the last legislative session consistent with HRRRA's position. Yesterday, the Attorney General and President Pro Tempore of the Senate called for the legislature to take up the issue during the special session, but the Speaker of the House instead said it would be referred to the Judiciary Committee for investigation and hearings. HRRRA has requested to be kept apprised of and provide information for the Judiciary Committee's efforts on hauler licensing.
- b. *Executive Committee Report on IPC Procurement* – Chairman Gill reported that the Executive Committee met last week and decided to retain control of the IPC process until more information is gathered before expanding the group to include others.

New Business:

- a. *2007-08 HRRRA Budget* – **Motion** by R. Marconi, second by J. Urice, to approve the HRRRA budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008, with expenditures of \$303,200 and revenue of \$303,200, as recommended by the Executive Committee. **Vote:** All in favor.
- b. *Municipal Strategies for Disaster Debris Management* - Frank Gagliardo, Environmental Analyst 3, Office of Recycling, Bureau of Materials Management & Compliance Assurance at CTDEP made a presentation on municipal planning and responsibilities for debris management after a major disaster. Guidance on the process was sent to municipalities in September 2006 and is now available online. A worst case scenario, such as a Category III hurricane, for which CT is due, could produce 5 million tons of C&D that would have to be disposed of, the equivalent of the annual State C&D tonnage. Per the Army Corps of Engineers, the typical debris breakdown is 30% clean, woody debris and 70% mixed C&D. The debris would all need to be stockpiled, either on a municipal or regional level, volume reduced and then shipped out of state for disposal. Separation of materials for recycling would take place either at the point of generation and/or at the staging/processing locations.

DEP will be working with municipalities through regional planning agencies starting in July to get the planning process started at the local level. Municipalities will be asked to identify temporary debris staging site locations, gain approval of those locations by DEP, and pay for a study, similar to a Phase I environmental audit, to determine the baseline conditions of the sites. After use, the site would have to be returned to its original condition.

Mr. Gagliardo also reported on the FEMA public assistance process and the types of pre-event planning, such as contractor identification and bidding, required to obtain maximum reimbursement. He also reviewed a voluntary pilot program funded by FEMA for the planning process. Several DEP and FEMA documents and pamphlets further explaining the program were distributed at the meeting.

The presentation elicited a lively discussion, especially from representatives of the municipalities that suffered significant damage in May from a tornado and microburst in the region. R. Marconi said there is no time for separation of recyclables during a major

disaster. He thought towns should be required to provide a site to stockpile debris and the State should be responsible for debris removal in the event of a major disaster. F. Hurley said that it is local tree companies who got Newtown back online after the tornado. Those companies will never qualify to be on the State/FEMA bid list, thus, the towns won't be reimbursed for their services. R. Marconi and F. Hurley both argued that local officials know their towns and their resources best because they have experience dealing with natural disasters. Local officials should be given a free hand to do what needs to be done to get their municipalities operating again after a major disaster and not have their hands tied by State or FEMA bureaucratic rules that may work on paper but don't work in a real situation. It was that bureaucracy that went wrong in the federal government's response to Katrina, said F. Hurley.

S. Von Holt suggested that debris management should be made an Annex to local emergency management plans.

F. Gagliardo noted that existing facilities will be overrun in a major disaster and that municipalities will have to have a place to store C&D debris until the existing infrastructure can recover enough to handle it. M. Gill noted that the flooding earlier in the year cause a one day problem at the White Street Transfer Station. D. Dunleavy noted that was exacerbated by the debris collected at the City of Danbury clean up day held the same week.

M. Gill asked V. Langone how exposed the Bridgeport burn plant was to a major hurricane. V. Langone said the plant already has more MSW than it can handle now resulting in diversion to other sites owned by WES or its parent company, Waste Management, in Lisbon, CT, New York and Massachusetts. WES has access to out of state landfills as well.

- c. *Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers* – S. Von Holt reported that the Nominating Committee (S. Von Holt, J. Murphy, A. O'Connor) recommended the following slate of officers for HRRA for 2007-08: Chairman – Mike Gill; Vice Chairman – Rudy Marconi; Secretary – Andrea O'Connor; Treasurer – Herb Rosenthal; and Asst. Treasurer – Mark Boughton. There were no nominations from the floor. **Motion** by J. Murphy, second by P. Szatkowski, to elect those nominated as a slate. **Vote:** All in favor.

Adjournment: Without comment or opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.