



H·R·R·A
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HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 25, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
Room 209, Brookfield Town Hall

Members or Alternates Present and Voting

Bethel, Matthew Knickerbocker	8
Danbury, Joel Urice	36
Bridgewater, Curtis Read	1
New Fairfield, Mike Gill	6
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	12
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	12
Brookfield, William Tinsley	7
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Others Present:

Ryan Bingham, Winters Brothers
Ken Vallera, All American Waste
Lynn Waller, Public
Rob Pedersen, Wheelabrator
Jen Iannucci, HRRRA Director

Members Not Present

Towns of Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman and Kent

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill at 10:36 a.m. with a quorum of 82 votes present from seven municipalities.

Public Comment: None

Chairman's and Members' Comments: M. Gill informed members that R. Marconi could not make the meeting due to the town experiencing power outages and trees down from the previous days storm. The Ridgefield Transfer Station was closed due to the power being out on Wednesday, June 24th. J. Iannucci worked with Wheelabrator, Winters Brothers and the Newtown transfer station to accommodate customers until the power returned. M. Gill thanked everyone who helped with the transfer station emergency.

M. Gill shared that he on behalf of HRRRA reached out to Joe Winters and Kevin Nolan regarding the tragic accident that happened at the Winters Brothers Transfer Station this spring with one of their employees. He spoke with Mr. Nolan because Mr. Winters was out of town.

Director's Report:

- J. Iannucci reported as requested from the last HRRRA meeting that there is no sunset day for HRRRA as an organization. Each municipality has the option of leaving within the guidelines of the

concurrent ordinance.

- MSW tonnage was down for April and May compared to the prior year. Year to date running at 92.4% of the same time last year. M. Gill noted that attachment A-5 has a discrepancy under the totals for 2015. It should state 43,089.04 tons.
- Recycling tonnage is holding its own and running just about at the same point this year as last.
- E-waste being disposed of at local transfer stations is about 10% above the same point in 2014. E-waste rebates to all HRRAs towns for 2014 totaled \$23,445.
- The new WOW Guide for Kids is complete and will be printed at the end of June. It will be available for towns through the Regional Recycling Task Force and will be distributed to teachers when HRRAs visits class rooms.
- Mitchell Oil generously picked-up and disposed of all 20 lb. propane tanks from the Newtown HHW event in May.
- The town of Bridgewater and the Lake Lillinonah Authority utilized the Bridgestone Tires4ward program for their annual lake clean-up. Winters Brothers donated a large dumpster, volunteers collected 2.5 tons of material; it was a \$620.00 savings to the town and lake authority.
- J. Iannucci attended the June SWAC Meeting in Hartford.
 - There is a new general permit to construct and operate a commercial facility for the management of recyclables and certain special waste. This will impact the towns of Bridgewater and Brookfield. HRRAs can work with those towns to comply.
 - It also allows C&D Haulers to take material back to their yard to separate for recycling purposes.
 - There is an informational meeting scheduled for July 23rd at 6pm at DEEP regarding this new GP.
- J. Iannucci met with Kristen Brown, a consultant for DEEP and Waste Zero representative to discuss Pay As You Throw in the state of Connecticut and continued ideas on how the HRRAs region may utilize and implement a PAYT program. More will be shared and discussed at the September HRRAs meeting
- It's the annual Hauler municipal registration and permit renewal season.

Administrative approvals:

- a. **Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by J. Urice, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting as presented. **Vote:** All voting in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)
- b. **Motion** by J. Urice, second by M. Knickerbocker, to approve the HRRAs financial statements through May 31, 2015 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)

Old business:

- a. **Update on MSW Associates VRF DEEP permit intervention:** J. Iannucci shared the hearing officer had a reconvening hearing on June 9th pertaining to the traffic issue of the deceleration lane entering the property. No other information on the hearing was available to report.
- b. **Legislative session update:**
 - The Bottle Bill that included adding more beverage containers died.

- Plastic Bag legislation died because Legislatures felt it should be addressed at a local level as Westport did. They are also worried the bill would spark economic concerns for the low-income.
- The Battery Bill also did not make it, however it is planned to be re-introduced next year.
- Tires died early and DEEP will do an independent study.
- The \$1.00-\$2.50 increase on MSW and C&D tonnage for transfer stations and WTE plants had died in the regular session but was reintroduced in special session according to R. Bingham from Winters Brothers. M. Gill asked J. Iannucci to send an email to Legislators that HRRRA takes the same position as before and does not support this legislation. *(Since the HRRRA meeting the issue was dropped from the agenda in special session.)*

c. **Update on efforts to increase MSW tonnage into HRRRA system and WES capacity issues**

J. Iannucci shared that Wheelabrator has been unable to set up a meeting with the principals of All American Waste to discuss a change in pricing to increase tonnage into the system, similar to what was discussed with Winters Bros. earlier in the year.

There had been some capacity issues at Wheelabrator soon after the last HRRRA meeting. J. Iannucci spoke with Glenn Lockhart on several occasions to keep HRRRA informed of the status of wait times. Much of the issue stemmed from other plants in the state that had mechanical issues. Both Hartford and Bristol had burners down. Wheelabrator was at full capacity with long wait lines and were forced to tell spot customers to go somewhere else. This is an example of the importance of having a contract in place for material to go; otherwise you could be turned away. Without a contract there is no disposal guarantee. The issue of capacity and the number of WTE plants must be addressed by the state. All the plants are aging and there needs to be a plan for the future of WTE in the state.

New business

a. **Personnel Report**

Motion by M. Knickerbocker, second by S. Von Holt to accept the personnel report as recommended by the executive committee. **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)

H. Rosenthal reviewed the personnel reports of J. Iannucci and C. Reedy. The full report is available in the April 23, 2015 Executive Committee meeting minutes. The Executive committee is pleased with both of their performances and the transition of the new director switching positions with C. Reedy. The committee therefore recommended they both receive a 2.5% increase which is included in the 2015-16 budget. The committee did add items to their goals.

1. Set up workshop meetings for members and CEOs to chart a path for HRRRA through and beyond 2019.
2. Explore the use of student teachers and/or interns to take on some of the HRRRA school educational programs. Consider adding curriculum for older students to the HRRRA educational recycling programs.
3. Follow CT DEEP CMMS process to protect the interests of HRRRA and its member municipalities.

b. **FY 15-16 Budget Approval**

Motion by J. Urice, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the 2015-16 HRRRA budget as recommended by the Executive Committee (Attachment D) J. Iannucci asked members to be aware that the renewal of the Winters Brothers Recycling Contract may impact projected revenue for the 2015-16 budget.

Vote: All in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)

c. **Funds Transfer to Investment Account**

Motion by H. Rosenthal, second by M. Knickerbocker to transfer \$100,000 from the HRRRA checking account to the Vanguard Short Term Investment Grade Fund. **Vote:** All in favor, except C. Read abstained (Vote tally: 81 in favor, 1 abstained) B. Tinsley requested the director look into the cash flow of the organization and to determine if more additional funds should be transferred out of the checking account into the Vanguard Short Term Investment Fund Account and review at the next HRRRA meeting in September.

d. **Appointment of Auditor for 2014-2018 FYs**

Motion by J. Urice, second by S. Von Holt, to appoint Nanavaty, Nanavaty & Davenport as HRRRA auditors for FY 2014-15 through FY 2017-2018 **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)

e. **Winters Bros. Recycling Agreement Extension**

Motion by J. Urice, second by B. Tinsley, to authorize the Executive Committee to negotiate to extend the Winters Bros. Recycling Agreement through March 31, 2019. **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)

M. Gill suggested that at least 2 members of the Executive Committee meet with Winters Brothers along with the Director to begin negotiations and then get back to the full Executive Committee to meet and discuss the details. J. Urice requested that after negotiations have been made and before the contract is signed there be an open meeting for the public to attend. It was agreed the Executive Committee meetings are always open to the public.

f. **DEEP grant opportunities for recycling and waste reduction (Attachment E)**

J. Iannucci explained the CT DEEP Recycling Incentive Grants Program being offered to municipalities and regional organizations actively engaged in reducing solid waste, reducing disposal costs and increasing reuse and recycling.

The grants are divided into three categories:

Section 1 – Recycling Rewards (deadline is Monday, June 29 at 3:00pm. And then again February 1 for future years)

Section 2 – Unit-Based Pricing Programs (ongoing and grants will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis for as long as funding is available)

Section 3 – Waste Reduction Initiatives (ongoing and grants will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis for as long as funding is available)

Funds may be used for an array of solid waste and recycling expenses. Funding is currently available for FY2016 and additional funds may become available for FY2017 and beyond. J. Iannucci discussed and reviewed the examples that were included in the agenda packet. Members asked the Director to re-send the grant application links to each Municipality following the HRRRA meeting.

g. **Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers**

S. Von Holt shared the report of Nominating Committee for 2015-16. In June 2015, the HRRR Nomination Committee met in absentia to consider candidates for officers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. After a review of all qualified candidates, the Committee unanimously agreed on the following slate of nominations to serve as officers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Chairman, M. Gill – Vice Chairman, R. Marconi – Secretary, M. Knickerbocker – Treasurer, H. Rosenthal – Assistant Treasurer, M. Boughton. **Motion** by C. Read, second by M. Knickerbocker, to accept the slate of Officers for 2015-16. **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)

Adjournment

Motion by M. Knickerbocker, second by S. Von Holt, to adjourn the meeting at 11:50a.m. **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 82 in favor.)