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Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
HRRRA Office
162 Whisconier Rd, Brookfield, CT 06804

MINUTES

In Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. In attendance were J. Hanson (RE), C. Loudon (NF), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), D. DeMuth (BE BOE), E. Rossini (RI), S. Conn (BK), C. Praissman (BK Schools), K. LeJava (BK Schools), A. Dinho (BW), T. O'Brien (DA), P. Oberg and K. Vallera (AAW), and J. Heaton-Jones and C. Reedy (HRRRA). T. Carlson, HRRRA Educator, was on the phone for the meeting.

Minutes

Motion by E. Rossini, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of March 9, 2017 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

Public Space Recycling

J. Heaton-Jones passed out copies of a [guide](#) from Keep America Beautiful (KAB) that was presented in a DEEP program on public space recycling. The findings of KAB's research showed that people want to recycle but need to be able to make a split-second decision about where and how to do so in public spaces. [Key elements](#) that matter in helping the public to make that decision include clear signage, restricted covers, proper color and shape, calling it mixed not single stream recycling, using icons and words together with the least words possible, placing recycling and trash bins side by side, and the position of the top opening. (J. Heaton-Jones had to leave the meeting at this point to attend a meeting in Hartford.)

DEEP Statewide Public Recycling Education Program

C. Reedy explained that the State of CT DEEP is creating a statewide recycling public education program to help get recycling back in the public eye, to make recycling more consistent across the state, and to improve the quality of recycling coming into MRFs. To date DEEP is not yet ready to publicly release more details on the program, but has had considerable discussions with MRF operators as well as some towns and regions during the development process. Once the program is released, it will require some changes in HRRRA's and its members' recycling public education programs, the school programs, WOW guides, hauler information sheets, etc. For example, the program is likely to drop use of the words single stream recycling and call it mixed recycling instead. Some items now in the regional recycling program that routinely end up as contaminants at the MRFs such as bottle caps, may be left off the list of acceptable recyclables. More information will be provided to the RRTF as the State moves forward with its program.

Model Solid Waste Ordinance

At their request, municipal CEOs were provided with a model solid waste ordinance developed by HRRRA's legal counsel. This model would update the solid waste and recycling ordinances of HRRRA member communities to include all the new solid waste requirements adopted by the legislature in the last several

years. While the CMMS does not require municipalities to update their ordinances until December 2018 at the latest, updating sooner will allow municipalities to score higher on the DEEP competitive recycling grants, especially for those towns who have already received a grant and need to show improvement to be eligible for another.

Items to be Raised by Members

- Newtown now has 419 participants in its food waste drop off program thanks to the hard work of A. Miles and her team in Newtown. She will again be at Earth Day events encouraging more folks to sign up for the food scrap collection program.
- Redding will have numerous activities on Earth Day such as once again building Mount Trashmore on the Town Green, hosting a shred day (for residents only) and encouraging more residents to use the town's food waste drop off program.
- The Ridgefield Lions club will hold a shred day that will be open to residents as well as non-residents.
- C. Reedy asked RRTF members to send in the dates for shred events in their community that are open to the region for posting on the HRRRA website.
- C. Reedy reported that the Authority has asked HRRRA staff to set up a third HHW collection day for the participating towns. Locations in Brookfield and Bethel are under consideration and a possible date in July. For the first year, HRRRA will cover the cost from its fund balance since most municipal budgets are already set for next year.
- This is the time of year when many municipalities and school districts go out to bid for solid waste and recycling services for next fiscal year. Be sure to let your municipal and school purchasing agents know that HRRRA staff is available to review bid specs and make sure they are compliant with state law, with the municipality's contracts with HRRRA, and contain the correct pricing based on the current tip fees.

Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:59 a.m.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director.