



H·R·R·A  
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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 4, 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), R. Byrnes (SH), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), E. Rossini (RI), M. Flanagan (BE), P. Oberg and K. Vallera (AAW), and J. Heaton-Jones and C. Reedy (HRRRA). The group introduced themselves to the newest member, New Milford's new Recycling Coordinator, Bob Hanna.

**Minutes**

**Motion** by S. von Holt, second by J. Hanson, to approve the minutes of April 6, 2017 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor with R. Byrnes and M. Flanagan abstaining.

**Municipal Recycling Self-Evaluation Checklist**

New Milford and Redding turned in their signed and completed checklists. Per R. Byrnes, Sherman's checklist will be done by the next meeting. Danbury and Brookfield turned in their completed checklists last month. All other municipality's checklists remain outstanding and need to be turned in by the June meeting so they can be presented to the full HRRRA at its annual meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**DEEP Statewide Public Recycling Education Program**

The expected launch of the new statewide program is May 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be focused on What's In and What's Out of the blue bin. There will be changes from HRRRA's existing program that will need to be made on the website, flyers, the school recycling education program, and all future advertising. For example, pizza boxes are in and bottle caps now out. The new statewide recycling website will be sent out to all RRTF members as soon as it is available.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> HHW Collection in Newtown**

HRRRA has advertised this collection event on Facebook to see if that will help boost turnout. Municipalities are reminded to use their flashing road signs from public works for advertising for the day. Another HHW collection is being added in the region this year in either Bethel or Brookfield (to be determined at the HRRRA June meeting) on July 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. New Milford's annual HHW collection will be September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And the Danbury event will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Newtown is promoting its organics program at all HHW events in the region this year. Other towns can participate in the organics promotion as well by contacting A. Miles in Newtown.

**WRAP Conference Call**

This has been pushed to a later date after issues with hauler collection of the material from local transfer stations has been addressed.

## **Items to be Raised by Members**

- B. Hanna agreed to share his expertise with purchasing agents from HRRRA municipalities through the RRTF to help develop model bid specs for solid waste and recycling hauling and collection contracts for regional towns. RRTF members are asked to send in the name and e-mail address if their municipal purchasing agent as well as their BOE purchasing agent.
- J. Heaton-Jones urged RRTF members to let HRRRA know about shred events happening in their communities so that HRRRA can promote them on its website and Facebook page. In addition, she suggested creating a form for local sponsors to use to get shred companies to report the tonnage collected at these events to the municipality.
- J. Heaton-Jones reported that HRRRA received a \$20k grant from DEEP to do six promotions throughout the region of a back-yard composting program, sell home composters at below cost and provide recycling bins to schools that have received the HRRRA recycling program, that have a school wide recycling program and have buy in from the school administration for the school recycling program. HRRRA will contract with NERC to run the back-yard composting program.
- Jeff Demers at New England Compost has sold his collection routes for local transfer stations to Nick Skeadas. Mr. Skeadas is ONLY a compost transporter. He does not set the rules for the regional food scrap collection program despite what he may have said to some local transfer station staff. Biobags will continue to be used as a part of the program. HRRRA may consider purchasing additional Biobags for all communities in the program to give out to residents at no charge.
- J. Heaton-Jones has been intimately involved in the fight at the legislature to defeat the repeal of the bottle bill program as it currently operates (turning the deposit it into a non-refundable fee) and to support passage of legislation that would increase the deposit, cover more types of containers and increase the handling fee for grocers and redemption centers. There is a Webinar on the bottle bill fight tomorrow (May 5<sup>th</sup>) at 2:00 p.m. J. Heaton-Jones will send information to RRTF members on accessing the Webinar.
- J. Hanson noted that Redding's Earth Day shred event was the most successful ever.
- J. Hanson noted that currently the town has 50 participants in the food scrap program and it's costing \$75 per week for hauling plus the tip fee. There are not enough participants for it to be cost effective, so the Town is considering self-hauling to New England Compost.
- Redding has stopped collecting WRAP at the local Recycling Center since the town couldn't work out a hauling arrangement with Winters Bros. They needed a minimum of 1T of WRAP at a time to haul, and there is no place to store that much plastic film at the local transfer station. J. Heaton-Jones noted that Price Chopper grocery stores have indicated a willingness to accept deliveries of plastic film collected at local municipal transfer stations, and perhaps other grocery stores in the HRRRA region would as well.

## **Adjournment**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:51 a.m.

*Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director.*