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Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, November 2, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
HRRR Office
162 Whisconier Rd, Brookfield, CT 06804

MINUTES

In Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. In attendance were S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), D. DeMuth (BE), R. Byrnes (SH), S. Conn (BK), B. Hanna (NM), C. Praissman (BK), K. LeJava (BK), J. Barnell (Winters Bros), B. Leonard (Winters Bros), P. Oberg (AAW), K. Vallera (AAW), J. Hanson (RE), K. Munrett (NM), K. Gunzel (RI), J. Kearns, and J. Heaton-Jones, T. Carlson (via conference call) and R. Bennett (HRRR).

Minutes

Motion by A. Miles, second by R. Byrnes to approve the minutes of October 5, 2017 as presented.

Vote: All in favor.

Poll for future Task Force meetings

J. Heaton-Jones polled Task Force members on the best meeting day and time of the week for meetings. It was determined most preferred to keep the current schedule. J. Heaton-Jones confirmed that the schedule will remain the same with the first Thursday of the month at 10:30am at the HRRR office and will post the 2018 meeting dates.

TREX Contest

J. Heaton-Jones reported that it is not too late to get schools signed up to participate in the TREX contest. Stephanie Hicks is the TREX contact person if members need assistance. R. Byrnes shared the Sherman school might sign up.

Recycling Bins and School Grants Available

- J. Heaton-Jones reported that there is a Coca-Cola/Keep America Beautiful Grant available for outside recycling bins to be used in public venues (each attending Task Force member was given a paper copy). The application is due November 17, 2017. J. Heaton-Jones commented that it is very similar to the previous Dr. Pepper grant. The grant does not award money, only recycling bins. J. Heaton-Jones said in the past Brookfield received 24 recycling bins for their parks. J. Heaton-Jones reminded the Task Force members that these bins could help municipalities stay in compliance with the CT DEEP CMMS that requires public venues to have a recycling bin next to every garbage can.

- J. Heaton-Jones also reminded Task Force members that the RecycleCT School Grant application deadline is November 29, 2017 (each attending Task Force member was given a paper copy). The grant awards \$500-1500 to fund waste reduction in K-12 schools. J. Heaton-Jones encouraged Task Force members to complete the applications and contact her if they have any questions or concerns prior to submitting it.

Task Force Annual Goals

J. Heaton-Jones asked if the members had looked at last year's goals and had any concerns with meeting them. J. Heaton-Jones emphasized that HRRRA is here to help. Discussion ensued:

- E. Rossini, not present at this meeting, had emailed her updated annual goals. Bethel, New Milford, Brookfield and Ridgefield are all expecting to have them completed for the December meeting.
- M. Flanagan said that upcoming municipal elections might factor into how the municipality will choose to allocate funds for certain projects.
- A. Miles commented that Newtown's Board of Ed and Superintendent needs to support and enforce recycling efforts in the schools.
- R. Byrnes said she needs help with writing grants.

Items Raised by Members

- **Transfer Station Accepted Items**

J. Heaton-Jones reported that firearms or ammunition cannot be accepted at any municipal transfer stations or drop off locations, as discussed in the prior Task Force meeting 10/5/17. The only option for residents is to drop off these items at a police station. The state police send the items to Middletown where they are dismantled and melted down. If a transfer station operator or attendant discovers such items in the recycling or MSW disposal areas, the operator must transfer them directly to the police or call them for a pick-up. At no time, should a transfer station willingly take these items from a resident.

- **Clarification from last meeting**

M. Flanagan asked for a clarification from the last minutes' meeting regarding diesel oil versus fuel oil collected at transfer stations. J. Heaton-Jones said that diesel motor oil is permitted, but not fuel oil.

- **Billboard Contest and Video Ideas, Emails**

J. Heaton-Jones asked Task Force members if they had received her email regarding the home biogas project and the Jason.org video and poster contest.

- J. Heaton-Jones solicited ideas from the members about a theme for this year's billboard design.
- J. Heaton Jones also asked if the members want HRRRA to handout the contest templates at the December RRTF meeting or at the January RRTF meeting. J. Heaton-Jones also will be reaching out to sponsors during the month of November. Comments included:
 - K. Gunzel suggested giving an option to students of 5 topics for students to choose as a theme for their design such as confusing recyclables that are allowed in/out of recycling bins, i.e. tops on coffee cups and caps on bottles. K. Gunzel also thinks the students should be allowed to come up with their own ideas for videos and posters.

- D. Demuth liked the Jason.org theme of choose an item that is “bigger than the bin” and describe how to recycle it!. Carlson suggested focusing on carton recycling in the schools. **Issues with Bay State Textiles**
 - Members still have issues such as tracking, pick-ups and general lack of information.
 - J. Heaton-Jones said that it’s important for members to be sure to check the e-waste and textiles tonnage reports for accurate numbers. J. Heaton-Jones reminded members there are other textile recycling organizations such as Goodwill and Salvation Army that offer similar programs.
 - B. Hanna offered contact information for Salvation Army. He also noted he has no issues with Bay States services.

- **Issues with Mattresses**
 - B. Leonard asked if municipalities inspect mattresses for bed bugs, wetness, stains, etc. before accepting mattresses at their transfer stations. Many members responded they do check them while others do not. B. Leonard reported that Winters Bros. will often receive unacceptable mattresses and pays for the disposal. J. Heaton-Jones said she will check with the MRC representative about the policy to reimburse Winters Bros. for the disposal cost of bad mattresses.
 - A. Miles and B. Hannah asked how to report mattress tonnage on the CT DEEP transfer station quarterly reports.

- **Packaging progress for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
- S. Von Holt asked if there had been any progress with the EPR program for packaging. J. Heaton-Jones reported no progress has been made. There is an active Task Force appointed by the state to research Packing EPR. It is clearly a controversial issue. If a Packing EPR program was implemented it would likely be a voluntary system. Packaging EPR is a program that addressed the disposal of the material in the blue bin. Unlike other EPR programs such as Paint, Mattresses and E-Waste there is already a system in place to handle the material, i.e. private haulers and municipal contracted haulers. The idea is to shift the financial responsibility from the municipalities to the manufacturers and producers of the products in the bin. **HHW updates**
 - S. Von Holt reported that because of the PaintCare EPR program and accepting paint at the New Milford HHW events they get a lot more material such as pesticides which has resulted in an increase of tractor trailers from 1 to 3 from recent years to present. J. Heaton-Jones shared that the other regional events have had the same experience. It’s a result of residents bringing in legacy paint and therefore other household hazardous waste items In addition to HRRR and municipal outreach efforts.
 - J. Heaton-Jones requested that Task Force members and or Recycling Coordinators advise residents to take all items that can be disposed of such as paint, CFL’s and e-waste to their local transfer station/recycling center, or for paint participating retailers rather than going to a regional HHW event
 - J. Heaton-Jones shared that local businesses that have hazardous material can make arrangements with MXI Environmental Services before an event or contact Clean Harbors. In addition, if there is a resident who has material and cannot wait for an event, they can contact an HHW vendor, such as Clean Harbors or MXI for a pick-up. However, it is very costly. J. Heaton-Jones encouraged any Task Force member or

municipality to contact HRRRA with special cases, such as elderly individuals needing assistance.

Adjournment

Motion by J. Hanson, **second** by M. Flanagan, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am. **Vote:** all in favor of adjournment.

Minutes taken by Robin Bennett, HRRRA Administrative Assistant.