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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
Room 209, Brookfield Town Hall**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. Those present included, J. Hanson (RE), S. Von Holt (NM), D. DeMuth (BE), M. Flanagan (BD), C. Praissman (BK), E. Rossini (RI), R. Bingham (Winters), K. Vallera and B. Creighton (AAW), and J. Iannucci and C. Reedy (HRRA). There was no one on the phone for the meeting.

Approval of minutes

Motion by S. Von Holt, second by J. Hanson, to approve the minutes of June 4, 2015, as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

2016 Municipal/School Recycling Goals

The municipal recycling checklist was sent out twice prior to the meeting as an aid in preparing goals for 2016. No one in attendance yet had goals for 2016. J. Iannucci noted that the municipal/school recycling goals for 2016 will be the focus of the November meeting and urged everyone to come prepared to discuss their goals at that meeting.

Mattress Stewardship Updates from Towns

- M. Flanagan reported that Bethel has sent two 40-yard containers full of mattresses to the recycling facility in Bridgeport so far. He said residents love the program and do a good job of self-stacking in the container.
- S. Von Holt reported that New Milford has started accepting mattresses as a part of the program after the Recycling Center staff were provided with N95 masks.
- E. Rossini said that there has been no container at the Ridgefield transfer station for hours or days at a time. Residents leave the mattresses on the ground and they get wet.
- R. Bingham replied that the program is seeing an increase in volume and the transporters are working to improve the turn-around time for containers. Only three loads have been contaminated to date.
- J. Hanson said there are no problems with the mattress program in Redding. It is working out great.

Organics Programs

- The Bridgewater organics program will be switching over from curbside collection to a drop off program at the town garage as soon as DEEP approves the town's general permit for the town garage. All American Waste is the participating hauler.

- The Ridgefield organics program is set to start on November 14th to celebrate America Recycles Day. It is a drop off program at the town recycling center and Winters Bros. is the participating hauler. Ridgefield applied for a grant from DEEP to help cover some of the cost of bags, bins, etc.
- New Fairfield is in the process of surveying residents about their willingness to use an organics drop off program at the town's Drop Off Center.
- Newtown wants to start an organics drop off program at its transfer station on November 14th with the town absorbing the cost through the Sustainable Energy Commission which has funding. The program will provide containers for residents, but users will have to buy their own bags from the town. The material will be processed by New England Compost in Danbury. To date no hauler has yet agreed to participate in this program.
- K. Vallera noted that tying the bags in knots is a big problem for the processor since the knots do not compost as fast as the rest of the material. As a consequence, AAW drivers are cutting the knots off bags at each stop in Bridgewater. J. Iannucci said the motto must be, "Twist it, tuck it, stick it in your bucket, " to remind residents not to tie their bags.

Poster Contest Startup

J. Iannucci suggested renaming the poster contest the billboard contest to make it more appealing and attract more participants. The RRTF agreed with that change. The 2016 theme may possibly have something to do with keeping plastic bags out of the recycling single stream.

TREX Contest

Towns or schools wishing to sign up for this year's TREX contest must do so by November 15th at the following link: <http://www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/>. There was some discussion about grocery stores in the region not understanding the program. J. Iannucci said the local coordinator in each participating town needs to reach out to the grocery store s/he will be using for the contest and make sure everyone is on the same page. She also mentioned that DEEP is looking for towns to work with WRAP, an organization of plastic film recyclers.

America Recycles Day- November 15th

None of the towns/schools present has plans for an event to commemorate ARD other than Ridgefield and Newtown starting their organics drop off programs. In Newtown the Lions Club is also doing their annual clean up day on Nov. 15th.

DEEP Grants

Bridgewater was the only HERRA town to receive a Recycling Rewards DEEP grant, but there are other programs that towns can apply for as well as re-apply for Recycling Rewards in February. Ridgefield just submitted an application to pay for part of the cost of its organics drop off collection, and New Fairfield is considering submitting an application for the same thing. HERRA will also apply for regional programs, and the grants are open to public schools as well. Towns/schools can find the grant applications and information sheets on the DEEP website at the following link:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2714&q=324872&deepNav_GID=1645#MRRAP

DEEP Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS) Process

There will be a roundtable meeting at DEEP on October 15th, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. for DEEP and its consultant to get input from municipalities and regions on the draft CMMS to date. The final draft should be ready for public input by December with a final strategy going to the legislature in January 2016.

Issues that expected to play a major role in the CMMS include organics, PAYT, EPR, recycling enforcement and education and the role of MIRA.

Items to be Raised by Members

- E. Rossini asked that Keurig K-cups be considered for an EPR program.

- Members asked for the link to the telephone book Opt Out program:
<https://www.yellowpagesoptout.com/>
- The HHW collection in Danbury in September served 1209 cars, the highest turnout ever due to the Mayor of Danbury making a reverse 911 call to all residents reminding them of the event. New Milford's HHW collection served 959 cars.
- Ridgefield reported that Bay State Textiles has been unresponsive in picking up the full container from their transfer station. J. Hanson said Redding is going to be picked up every Tuesday from now on. J. Iannucci spoke with Paul Curry to correct the Ridgefield situation. Any town having an issue with Bay State or the textile collection, please report it to J. Iannucci.
- HRRRA will be hosting a one day electronics collection and shred event on October 17th from 9am - 1pm at the Brookfield Public Works Department, 1 Gray's Bridge Rd, Brookfield. Residents of any HRRRA town are welcome to participate. NewTech is handling the e-waste and Winters Bros the shredding.
- CT law requires that only green non-toxic cleaning products be used in schools. Teachers are not allowed to bring their own cleaning supplies into the classroom. Lysol and/or Clorox wipes, often requested on school supply lists, are not considered non-toxic, green cleaning products. The DEEP Pollution Prevention section has prepared a video for schools to use for training on green cleaning supplies. It can be found at this link:
<http://www.depdata.ct.gov/video/mainpsa.asp?url=http://www.u10videos.com/DEP/Waste/WastebustersGreenCleaning.wmv&name=Wastebusters%20Green%20Cleaning%20in%20Schools>
- S. Von Holt reported attending a training session that provided data showing that cell phones are actually dirtier than toilets.
- J. Iannucci reported that DEEP is running two bedbug training seminars on Oct. 29th in Hartford and Nov. 12th in New Haven. Members asked Jen to try to arrange a seminar locally that would be easier for transfer station staff and haulers to attend. (Jen has since done this and the training locally will take place on Thursday, December 10th, 4-6 pm at the Brookfield Town Hall. See the flyer at this link:)
- J. Hanson reported that the Town's waste oil recycler sent a letter saying that prior to every pickup the town will have to test its waste oil tank for PCBs at a cost of between \$30 and \$75 per test. Jeff will send a copy of the letter for all to review. (Copy attached to the minutes.)
- M. Flanagan suggested that the HHW flyer should no longer contain paint since there are other opportunities for recycling and it confuses people.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at Noon.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director.