



**HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 29, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**Members or Alternates Present**

Bethel, Matt Knickerbocker	8
Bridgewater, Curtis Read	1
Brookfield, Steve Dunn	7
Danbury, Joel Urice	34
Kent, Jean Speck	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	6
New Milford, Pete Bass	12
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	12
Redding, Julia Pemberton	4
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi	10
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Weston, Chris Spaulding	4
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	<b>100</b>

**Others Present:**

Sheldon Conn, Brookfield Alternate
Kim Hanson, New Fairfield Alternate
Fred Hurley, Newtown Alternate
Suzanne Von Holt, New Milford Alternate
Eric Fredericksen, All American Waste
Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
Jennifer Baum, HRRRA

**Members Absent**

None

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order via zoom by Chairman M. Knickerbocker at 10:33 a.m. with a quorum of 100 votes present from twelve towns. M. Knickerbocker led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Comment:** No public comment

**Chairman and Members' Comments:**

The Chairman shared that Lynn Waller, a long-standing devoted member of the public is recovering from an accident. The HRRRA wished her a full recovery.

The Chairman announced that several environmental bills supported by the HRRRA and the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) have passed through committee. The Chairman acknowledged J. Heaton-Jones for her involvement.

The Chairman announced the ACR was reduced from the previous quarter.

J. Urice expressed his concern on behalf of the City of Danbury on the validity of the vote pertaining to admitting the Town of Wilton into the HRRRA. At this time, the City will not pursue legal action against the Authority but believes the vote taken was not valid.

H. Rosenthal does not agree with J. Urice. He believes the issue with the City of Danbury is more regarding the loss of voting power than the Authority not having a membership policy. H. Rosenthal referenced Danbury voted to allow Weston and Roxbury as a member with the same process without objection. H. Rosenthal suggested that a policy should be in place for future membership.

R. Marconi agreed a policy or sub-committee should be in place. Although he did not agree that the vote to admit Wilton was invalid, he acknowledged the Authority should be sensitive to the impact additional traffic may have on the City of Danbury. R. Marconi stated the Director assured the Authority at the previous meeting that Wilton's tonnage would be diverted from Danbury and transported directly to Bridgeport and Shelton.

The Chairman tabled the discussion and will request volunteers for a membership subcommittee.

#### **Director's and Tonnage Report:**

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed highlights from the written Directors Report and tonnage reports (Attachment A).

- J. Heaton-Jones reviewed MSW and recycling tonnage as of March 31, 2021. Tonnage is healthy and running higher than the previous fiscal year.
- Public education programs have been running extensively through the month of April, with strong attendance.
- Roxbury and Wilton are progressing on their membership status to join the HRRRA.
- The Sherman organics program has been tabled due to pricing concerns. Additional options are under consideration.
- J. Heaton-Jones is exploring the option of utilizing official DOT flaggers at the Household Hazardous Waste events.
- All HRRRA municipalities have received a container to collect glass separately. The publication program has been put on hold until Urban Mining is able to accept all the material.
- All recycling markets are healthy as reflected in the reduced tip fee.

#### **Administrative Approvals:**

**Minutes: Motion** by R. Marconi, second by D. Lowe, to approve the minutes of February 25, 2021 (Attachment B).

**Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

#### **Financial Statements:**

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through March 31, 2021.

**Motion** by R. Marconi, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the financial statements through March 31, 2021 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

#### **New Business:**

##### **6a.) Hauler Registration Policy and Enforcement**

J. Heaton-Jones presented the concerns and difficulty in obtaining hauler registrations from new businesses and requested the Authority approve an updated tier of enforcement for late or delinquent haulers. The HRRRA staff strives to be fair and consistent with all haulers, whether large or small. The majority of haulers doing business in

the HRRR region are compliant and work well with the Authority to follow state regulations, however the noncompliant haulers often have no regard for the regulations and do not always take the requirements serious. J. Heaton-Jones shared the purpose of enhancing the penalty policy is to reduce the number of haulers ignoring the requirements. By being noncompliant they often save money from avoiding the cost of registration, permitting and additional insurance coverage, this gives their business a financial advantage over the compliant haulers. The suggested penalties that also include adding an additional \$1000 base fee removes what the violator would otherwise save from noncompliance.

**Discussion:** J. Urice suggested including denying access to the transfer stations. The Chairman shared that is already a component of the current policy.

The Chairman recommended a meeting with CT DEEP to review enforcement at the state level. J. Heaton-Jones shared that staff has been in contact with DEEP. The department is working on enhancing their enforcement policy as well.

**Motion** by J. Urice, second by D. Lowe, to approve and adopt the hauler registration policy and enforcement as presented by the Director. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

#### **6b.) Nomination Committee**

The Chairman nominated R. Marconi, D. Lowe and S. Von Holt to serve on the nominating committee.

The Chairman requested volunteers for the by-law subcommittee to address membership. Interested members should submit a request to J. Heaton-Jones.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion** by D. Lowe, second by C. Spaulding, to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. **The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Baum