



HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 10:30 a.m. Via Zoom

These are notes – This meeting did not have a quorum

Members or Alternates Present

Bridgewater, Curtis Read
Brookfield, Tara Carr
Kent, Jean Speck
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal
Redding, Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi
Roxbury, Patrick Roy
Wilton, Lynn Vanderslice

Others Present:

1 Sheldon Conn, Brookfield Alternate
6 Jonathan Barney, Danbury
1 Fred Hurley, Newtown Alternate
5 Kim Hanson, New Fairfield Alternate
11 Peggy Palmer, Redding Alternate
11 James Gracy, Redding
4 Sandra Cointreau, Roxbury Alternate
10 April Regan, All American Waste
1 John Decker, Oak Ridge Waste
7 Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRR
Jennifer Baum, HRRR

57

Members Absent:

Bethel, Danbury, Sherman, Weston

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order via zoom by Secretary and acting Chair H. Rosenthal at 10:36 a.m. with 57 votes from ten towns. **(A quorum was not established)**

H. Rosenthal led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: No public comment

Chairman and Members' Comment:

H. Rosenthal expressed sentiments to the Chairman to feel well soon.

R. Marconi stated the town of Ridgefield received a complaint of a hauler violating the noise ordinance by conducting business at 3:45am.

T. Carr suggested members and guests stand for the pledge of allegiance.

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, 2022.
- MSW tonnage FY to date is running at 105% and 113% compared to the same month last year.
- Recycling tonnage FY to date is running at 100% and 110% compared to the same month last year.
- Glass collected from March 1, 2019, to date - 855 tons
- The HRRR facilitated the Household Hazardous Waste Event in Danbury on April 9th and serviced 759 cars.
- The Legislative session has been active. HB5142 An Act Concerning Extended Producer Responsibility for Certain Gas Cylinders passed unanimously out of the environmental committee and the house.
- The Ridgefield ASP project is moving along well. J. Heaton-Jones extended gratitude to the volunteers and local businesses that donated time and supplies. Dwayne Escola, Vincent Giordano, Bob Mahni, and Gavin Watson donated their time to build the shed, mount the electrical equipment, build the solar panel structure and ballast forms, and install the solar panels and wiring. O&G donated the concrete made from Pozzotive, a ground glass pozzolan and industrial filler made from 100% recycled post-consumer glass from the HRRR glass collection program. Ridgefield Supply donated the lumber and parts to build the shed. Dan Rella is donating a fence from Youngs Fence.
- An RFP was issued for electronic waste collection. The proposal response is due May 6, 2022. J. Heaton-Jones will create a report and call a meeting to review and determine the vendor.
- The Recycling Billboard contest awards ceremony is Thursday, April 28th, via zoom. The grand prize winner is a student from Brookfield.
- The Transfer Station Permit for the Plum Trees Road Transfer Station is up for renewal. The HRRR is working with CT DEEP and Oak Ridge to ensure the current stipulations are held in place.
- Hauler Registration applications will be sent out in May 2022. HRRR staff is working on streamlining the annual registration and permit process.

Administrative Approvals:

Minutes: The minutes of December 3, 2021 (Attachment B) to be voted on at the next Authority meeting.

Financial Statements: Financial statements through March 31, 2022 (Attachment C) to be voted on at the next Authority meeting.

Old Business:

6a.) By-Laws – Request to form subcommittee to review

H. Rosenthal stated that the Chairman requested the members to form a subcommittee to review the municipal by-laws and stated M. Knickerbocker volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

R. Marconi, P. Del Monaco, and J. Pemberton volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

J. Heaton-Jones will inform Chairman Knickerbocker of the volunteers to be appointed.

6b.) Non-Compliant Haulers

J. Heaton-Jones shared that HRRRA staff spends a large amount of time with non-compliant haulers who refuse to register, delay registration, break local ordinances, or break the law.

HRRRA staff registers the haulers on behalf of the municipalities and is a state requirement.

An enhanced hauler enforcement policy was established in the fall of 2021 to have a concise set of guidelines of hauler responsibilities and the HRRRA rules of enforcement.

HRRRA staff needs the support of the municipalities to enforce local ordinances and state requirements.

J. Heaton-Jones stated that the Chairman suggested a special meeting of the authority to discuss the mission of HRRRA, the state requirements surrounding material management and haulers, and perhaps invite CT DEEP to participate.

S. Cointreau inquired as to why a hauler was suspended in the Town of Roxbury.

J. Heaton-Jones stated the hauler was denied registration by two municipalities and continued to operate without authorization. In addition, it was reported by the Town of Roxbury the hauler in question had violated their stipulation by the Attorney General's office and received a notice of violation from the Town. The HRRRA does not decide on their own to suspend a hauler, the HRRRA after being directed, acts on behalf of member municipalities.

H. Rosenthal suggested that S. Cointreau address the concern with the First Selectman of Roxbury.

A discussion ensued in regards the municipalities differences in ordinances for non-compliant haulers.

H. Rosenthal requested J. Heaton-Jones to email the Chief Elected Officials a template on ordinances and to schedule a special meeting review municipal ordinances on non-compliant haulers.

Action Item: J. Heaton-Jones to email ordinance template and schedule a special meeting.

New Business:

7a.) Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement – Regarding tip fee surcharges

H. Rosenthal stated a special executive meeting was held on April 6, 2022, to review the fuel surcharge implemented by Oak Ridge Waste and Recycling. There were some concerns related to the time frame of one day notice of implementing the fee. As a result of the executive meeting, the fuel surcharge was postponed to May 1, 2022, and will be reviewed monthly rather than quarterly.

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the invoices at the Oak Ridge office to determine the validity of their request.

J. Decker stated that the short notice of the fuel charge was a result of the market becoming volatile so quickly that there was not time to give notice. Oak Ridge is currently absorbing the fees until the surcharge is implemented.

S. Cointreau inquired about a formula to determine the rate.

J. Heaton-Jones explained the contract specifically relating to implementation of a fuel surcharge.

R. Marconi asked J. Decker if Oak Ridge was able to lock into diesel fuel rates.

J. Decker stated Oak Ridge locked in for on-road, however a majority of the fees were a result of the third-party haulers that were hired. The smaller third-party haulers are not able to lock-in as they don't have the volume. In addition, much of the fuel cost is off-road at Transfer Stations.

7b.) Nomination Committee

H. Rosenthal announced that per the by-laws, no officer should serve on a nominating committee. Volunteers are needed for the nomination committee and selections should be made by the next meeting. R. Marconi, S. Von Holt, and P. Del Monaco volunteered to serve on the nomination committee. Members will be appointed by the Chairman.

7c.) Federal Funding for Municipal Material Management Infrastructure

J. Heaton-Jones announced there are millions of dollars in grants available for material management infrastructure. The application process has not been released to date. The information available is shared in Attachment D.

R. Marconi requested J. Heaton-Jones to schedule a meeting with Oak Ridge to evaluate where they need improvement at the transfer station to be more efficient.

T. Carr asked if the grant application could be done collectively as a regional effort.

J. Speck suggested that the HRRRA schedule a special meeting to develop ideas to be prepared when the application is released. This will assist with the quick turn-around time in between the application being released and the due date.

H. Rosenthal also suggested the HRRRA apply as a region.

Action Items:

J. Heaton Jones to schedule meeting with R. Marconi and Oak Ridge

J. Heaton-Jones to send doodle poll and schedule a special meeting to plan for the available grant.

Adjournment

H. Rosenthal shared that the celebration of life for Joel Urice is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st. J. Heaton-Jones shared the details in the chat.

The meeting ending at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Baum

**A full recording of the April 28, 2022, HRRRA Full Authority meeting is posted on the HRRRA website.
<https://hrra.org/meetings-minutes-and-audits/>*