



HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Thursday, September 29, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

In-Person/Hybrid via Zoom

Newtown Municipal Center

3 Primrose Street

Newtown, CT 06470

Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Richard Straiton	7
Brookfield, Tara Carr	6
Kent, Jean Speck	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	11
Newtown, Fred Hurley	11
Redding, Jamie Gracy	4
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi	10
Roxbury, Patrick Roy	1
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Wilton, Matthew Knickerbocker	7
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Others Present:

Dan Rosenthal, First Selectman, Newtown
Sandra Cointreau, Roxbury Alternate
Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRR
Jennifer Baum, HRRR
Peggy Palmer, Redding
John Sullivan, Loureiro Engineering Assoc.
Stephen Diaz, Loureiro Engineering Assoc.
Nicole Nowacki, GreenTek
Bob Johnson, GreenTek

Members Absent:

Bridgewater, Danbury, Weston

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman M. Knickerbocker at 10:34 a.m. with a quorum of 64 votes present from eleven towns. M. Knickerbocker led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: No public comment

Chairman and Members' Comment:

- The Chairman announced the Beyond 2029 Subcommittee is organizing a tour of Wheelabrator, if members are interested in joining, please let J. Heaton-Jones know.
- The Chairman encouraged members to join the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM). J. Heaton-Jones will send Chief Elected Officials the contact information at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- J. Speck encouraged all HRRR member towns to join the CCSMM so the entire HRRR region has one voice.
- The Chairman welcomed, Richard Straiton, acting First Selectman of Bethel and Jamie Gracy, Town of Redding's Public Works Director, and new alternate.

Director's and Tonnage Report:

- The Director provided an update on the ASP Compost project at the Ridgefield Transfer Station.
- The Director gave an update on the e-waste contract and is waiting on signed contracts from municipalities.
- The Town of Washington is interested in joining the HRRRA. Additional information will be shared at the December 2022 meeting.
- S. Cointreau raised the question of the non-compliant hauler list in the Director's Report. J. Heaton-Jones responded the list consists of haulers who have been identified as haulers operating, or possibly operating in member municipalities and are not registered. HRRRA staff is assisting municipalities in bringing the haulers into compliance.
- J. Heaton-Jones reviewed highlights from the written Directors Report and Tonnage Reports (Attachment A).

Administrative Approvals:

Minutes: Motion by J. Speck second by D. Lowe, to approve the minutes of June 30, 2022 (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed;** with 57 votes in favor, with 1 abstention (BE).

Financial Statements: J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through August 31, 2022 (Attachment C).

The Director emphasized that as of September 29th, the legal budget is at 68%. This is due to the New Milford Transfer Station Operator, Bob Hanna, filing a FOIA complaint pertaining to the Executive Committee meeting held on April 6, 2022. Mr. Hanna's complaint was the Executive Committee violated FOIA by going into executive session and adding public comment to the agenda. The HRRRA executive committee hired legal counsel to address the complaint. Although the FOIA commission agreed the executive committee had the right to go into executive session, the format in which the committee entered into session was not in compliance with FOIA. The HRRRA agreed to settle the complaint by agreeing the HRRRA will ensure compliance with the FOIA Act.

Motion by F. Hurley, second by D. Lowe, to approve the financial statements through August 31, 2022 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 64 votes in favor.

Old Business:

6a.) By-Laws – Member updates on moving to one town one vote

The Chairman shared the By-Laws subcommittee has not held a meeting since the last Authority meeting. A meeting will be held before December to evaluate moving to one town one vote.

New Business:

7a.) Green Tek & Loureiro Engineering Associates

Green Tek and Loureiro Engineering gave a presentation to the authority on the Sustainable Environment Innovation Center in New Milford. (Attachment D) A demanufacturing plant for e-waste and white goods.

7b.) Chairmanship

M. Knickerbocker announced he is now the Town Administrator of the Town of Wilton and is no longer the First Selectmen of Bethel. Given the change in roles, M. Knickerbocker offered the committee the opportunity to elect a new Chairman or to continue with M. Knickerbocker serving as Chairman.

Motion by D. Lowe, second by R. Marconi keep M. Knickerbocker as Chair of HRRRA, representing the Town of Wilton. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 64 votes in favor.

7c.) Review and consider changes to the Hauler Enforcement Policy

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed and explained the recommended changes to the hauler enforcement policy, (Attachment E). A short discussion ensued.

Motion by D. Lowe, second by R. Straiton to accept the Hauler Enforcement Policy revisions.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously; with 64 votes in favor.

7d.) 2023 Legislative priorities and request for funding

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the proposed legislative priorities which include tire EPR, minimum recycling content, exploring HHW EPR for 2024 session, and EPR for packaging.

J. Heaton-Jones requested the Authority allocate \$7,000 to the CT Product Stewardship Council for research and development of EPR for packaging. J. Heaton-Jones shared that in 2010 the HRRRA supported a similar initiative with paint EPR that resulted in for a stewardship organization for paint. To date, HRRRA member municipalities have saved nearly a million dollars in disposal.

The Executive Director's goal for EPR for packaging is to address the financial burden of member towns for the cost of disposal for recycling. The collection infrastructure in the region is strong and the authority appreciates the private haulers who collect, and material recovery facilities that process the material. However, the municipalities are often left with the financial burden of the end-of-life disposal, particularly the Town of Newtown who has a curbside collection program that cost approximately \$850,000 annual for transportation and disposal. It is assumed that EPR would eliminate the financial burden to municipalities as it will for the other four states that passed legislation in 2021 and 2022, CA, CO, ME and OR.

Motion by R. Marconi, second by F. Hurley to donate \$7000 to the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council via PSI from the general fund to support the research and development of EPR for packaging on behalf of the HRRRA. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 64 votes in favor.

7e.) Beyond 2029 Subcommittee update

The Chairman announced the Beyond 2029 Subcommittee is looking for members to the join the committee. The committee was established to prepare for the end of the contract that expires in 2029. Please send interest to J. Heaton-Jones.

Adjournment

Motion by R. Marconi, second by D. Lowe, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 64 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Baum