



HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Newtown Municipal Center, Conference Room

3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470

Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Dan Carter (remote)	7
Bridgewater, Curtis Read (remote)	1
Brookfield, Tara Carr	6
Kent, Jean Speck (remote)	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	11
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	11
Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi (remote)	10
Roxbury, Patrick Roy	1
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Weston, Samantha Nestor (remote)	4
Wilton, Matthew Knickerbocker	7
	<u>65</u>

Others Present:

Fred Hurley, Newtown Alternate
Barbara Henry, Roxbury Alternate
Patti Oberg, All American Waste
Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
Jennifer Baum, HRRRA

Members Absent:

Danbury, Redding

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman M. Knickerbocker at 10:35 a.m. with a quorum of 65 votes present from twelve towns. M. Knickerbocker led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Chairman and Members' Comment:

- M. Knickerbocker shared that the 2023 legislative session will soon be coming to an end and the Tire EPA bill, and Governors waste bill are expected to be called to the floor.
- B. Henry introduced herself as the HRRRA alternate for the Town of Roxbury.

Director's and Tonnage Report:

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

- MSW tonnage FY to date is running at 97% and 89% compared to the same month last year.
- Recycling tonnage FY to date is 86% and 80% compared to the same month last year.
- The HRRRA has offered support to WestCOG on forming a new Regional Recycling Authority that is being supported by a CT DEEP grant process.
- The HRRRA is tracking the legislative bills that are active, including the Governor's waste bill 6664 and the tire EPR bill HB 6486.
- The towns of Bethel, Kent, and Newtown were awarded CT DEEP SMM grants to implement pilot composting and unit-based programs at their local transfer station for a total of \$342,100. The HRRRA will receive a grant for a project manager to support the programs.
- HHW Events - The HRRRA facilitated two HHW events since the last Authority meeting.
 - Saturday, April 15, 2023, Danbury Public Works, the event serviced 967 cars.
 - Saturday, May 13, 2023, Newtown Public Works, the event serviced 637 cars.
 - The next event is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2023 at the Bethel High School.
 - J. Heaton-Jones shared concerns regarding towns not sending employees to the HHW events as scheduled. There have been towns who either can not send staff or did not communicate that they were sending staff to the HHW events held in April and May. HRRRA staff will conduct a cost analysis on utilizing town employees versus hiring out.
 - A discussion ensued on HHW events and the policy on municipalities failing to provide staff as scheduled.
 - The Chairman requested the HRRRA to develop a policy on towns sending town employees to HHW events.

R. Marconi inquired about tracking the MSW and food scraps tonnage at the Ridgefield Transfer Station and Recycling Center. J. Heaton-Jones confirmed the HRRRA is tracking the tonnage as part of the USDA grant reporting process.

D. Carter thanked J. Heaton-Jones for her efforts on the CT DEEP SMM grant for the Town of Bethel.

Administrative Approvals:

Minutes: Motion by D. Lowe second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022 (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed;** with 57 votes in favor, with 3 abstentions from D. Carter, H. Rosenthal, B. Henry.

Financial Statements: J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through April 30, 2023 (Attachment C). **Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by R. Marconi, to approve the financial statements through April 30, 2023 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.

Request to add USDA Grant Funds to 2022-23 budget (Attachment D): Motion by J. Speck, second by R. Marconi, to approve adding the USDA Grant Funds to the 2022-23 budget (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.

New Business:

6a.) Nomination Committee – Appointed by the Chairman

The Chairman appointed Tara Carr, Rudy Marconi, and Suzanne Von Holt to the 2023-24 nomination committee.

6b.) Hauler Enforcement of Non-Compliant Haulers

- J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the outstanding non-complaint haulers, including haulers that refuse to register and haulers that violate town ordinances.
- A discussion ensued addressing the enforcement of haulers who are non-compliant and the lack of support and enforcement from CT DEEP despite their own enforcement policy.
- J. Speck recommended sending a letter to the State from the fourteen HRRR member municipalities.
- The Chairman supported the letter and requested the HRRR staff to draft a letter to present at the next full authority meeting.
- J. Heaton-Jones requested to revise the hauler registration requirements to mandate that every truck be required to have a permit sticker affixed. The purpose is to avoid confusion whether a hauler is or isn't registered/permitted. In addition, it would prevent haulers from avoiding adhering their permit stickers in order to swap permit numbers and avoid fees to access the transfer stations. Vehicles used solely to collect and not for access to the transfer station would not be charged an additional fee for the 2023-24 FY. M. Knickerbocker requested J. Heaton-Jones verify its merit with HRRR legal counsel.

6c.) Hauler Insurance requirements for 2023-24 (Attachment E)

J. Heaton-Jones presented the current hauler insurance requirements for auto liability and the proposed changes (Attachment E). The purpose of the change is to allow haulers more flexibility when it comes to insurance coverage. **Motion** by P. Roy, second by J. Speck, to approve the hauler insurance requirements for auto liability to accept one of the following combinations, A.) Schedule 1 (any auto); B.) Schedules 2, 8, and 9 (owned, hired, and non-owned; or C.) Schedules 7, 8, and 9 (scheduled, hired, and non-owned) as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.

Old Business

7a.) By-law subcommittee report on moving to “one town one vote” (Attachment F)

J. Heaton-Jones shared that the HRRR cannot change the by-laws on the voting structure of the member towns until every HRRR municipality revises their local concurrent ordinances.

The Chairman recommended the Chief Elected Officials bring a resolution to their board of selectman to address and revise local ordinance based on all towns agreeing.

Motion by H. Rosenthal, second by P. Roy, to send member towns sample resolution for the Board of Selectman to pass in support of the change to one town one vote. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by P. Del Monaco, second by S. Von Holt, to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.