



HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Newtown Municipal Center, Conference Room

3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470

Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Dan Carter	7
Bridgewater, Curtis Read (remote)	1
Brookfield, Tara Carr	6
Kent, Jean Speck	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	11
Newtown, Fred Hurley	11
Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi	10
Roxbury, Patrick Roy	1
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Weston, Larry Roberts	4
Wilton, Matthew Knickerbocker	7
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	65

Others Present:

Dan Rosenthal, First Selectman, Newtown
Barbara Henry, Roxbury Alternate
Zane Kmietek, Oak Ridge 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 10:41 a.m. with 59 votes present from 11 towns. T. Carr joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m. under item 6a. establishing a quorum of 65 votes from 12 towns.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Chairman and Members' Comment:

- The Chairman announced that several of the bills that passed in the 2023 legislative session will go into effect on October 1, 2023, including the tire EPR bill. The Chairman thanked members of the Authority who worked hard to support the bill's passage as well as the Executive Director J. Heaton-Jones who has worked on the bill for many years. It is building a movement for sensible

regulations of the industry and putting strong programs in place to improve the environment and reduce costs for taxpayers. The major provisions will take approximately two years.

- M. Knickerbocker shared that he was asked by the CT DEEP Commissioner to continue his role as co-chair the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM). The CCSMM meetings have resumed, and all municipalities are encouraged to attend. The Chairman believes that the tire EPR bill and the expansion of the bottle bill would not have passed without the strong support of municipalities.

Director's and Tonnage Report:

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

- Adding to the Chairman's comments, the Director asked the members to begin thinking about priorities for the 2024 legislative session. One regulatory item to consider is to support Battery EPR. It is believed that a lithium battery caused the fire at the Oak Ridge Material Recovery Facility in Shelton. Lithium batteries are a growing issue for the waste and recycling industry as well as municipal waste facilities.
- The Director is attending a press conference at Hammonasset State Park on September 29th for the cylinder EPR bill that passed in 2022. CT DEEP ran a pilot at the state park over the summer to promote and educate the public on the proper disposal of gas cylinders. The press conference will also highlight the success of the pilot.
- The HRRRA was not a recipient of the EPA grant application submitted February 15, 2023.
- MSW tonnage FY to date is currently 98% and 100% compared to the same month last year.
- Recycling tonnage FY to date is 87% and 82% compared to the same month last year.
- Glass collected from March 2019 to date 3,172,000 lbs. / 1586 tons.

Administrative Approvals:

Minutes: Motion by D. Lowe second by P. Del Monaco, to approve the minutes of June 29, 2023, (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed;** with 54 votes in favor with abstentions from C. Read and L. Roberts.

Financial Statements: J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through August 31, 2023 (Attachment C). **Motion** by J. Speck, second by P. Roy, to approve the financial statements through August 31, 2023 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 59 votes in favor.

New Business:

6a.) Bottle/Can redemption – increasing access to residents. (Attachment D)

J. Heaton-Jones shared CT DEEP has reached out to the HRRRA to partner with municipalities to expand access to bottle/can redemption. They are seeking municipalities who may be willing to support a collection system at transfer stations and or other municipal locations.

This program is targeted to create easy access for residents and would not replace local programs that collect bottles/cans for donations.

A discussion ensued regarding space available at transfer stations and staffing.

The Chairman suggested the HRRR Executive Committee review the logistics of adding bottle/can redemption at HRRR municipal transfer stations.

B. Henry questioned the recycling procedure for cardboard at the Roxbury transfer station inquiring if cardboard had to be collected separately and expressed concerns about cardboard mixing with waste.

J. Heaton-Jones shared that municipal transfer stations are run by the municipality and the town can choose to collect the cardboard separately or mixed with single stream. The HRRR staff will look into the concern raised by Roxbury that their OCC is being mixed into either the MSW or Recycling stream.

A discussion ensued on how to increase recycling education at transfer stations to encourage residents to recycle right and reduce recycling contamination.

6b.) Creation of new Member Policy

M. Knickerbocker reminded members that the current HRRR by-laws do not include adding membership to the Authority, only rules to expel a member. The Chairman is looking for volunteers to create a subcommittee to develop a new member policy. J. Heaton-Jones pointed out that Legal Counsel provided a list of other items to consider in the new policy that are outlined in the Directors report on page A4. P. Del Monaco, P. Roy, and M. Knickerbocker volunteered to develop a new membership policy that will address accepting new membership to the HRRR and other items suggested by legal counsel.

6c.) HRRR Enforcement Policy amendments

The Chairman shared the need to continue development and amendment to the HRRR hauler enforcement policy relating to HRRR's role and the individual municipality's role in enforcing non-compliant haulers.

A discussion ensued on the state, municipality, and HRRR's role in hauler enforcement.

The Chairman stated the Executive Committee will develop the language to share with the authority.

6d.) HRRR Authority Retreat – planning beyond 2029

M. Knickerbocker announced that a retreat will be scheduled with Chief Elected Officials for the spring/summer of 2024 to begin planning for the contract with Oak Ridge that expires in 2029.

6e.) Bylaws – adding electronic meeting and voting (Attachment E)

M. Knickerbocker stated "Electronic Meeting and Voting" was added to the by-laws per state statute as advised by the HRRR attorney. J. Heaton-Jones noted a typo in Attachment E. The addition to the By-laws should be listed as "E. Voting (7)"

Motion by B. Henry, second by P. Del Monaco, to approve adding E.7 "Meetings Conducted by Electronic Equipment. The Authority may conduct any meeting by means of electronic equipment or by means of electronic equipment in

conjunction with an in-person meeting. Such meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes section 1-225a.” (Attachment E), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.

6f.) 2024 Meeting Dates (Attachment F)

Motion by R. Marconi, second by D. Carter, to approve the 2024 HRRRA Meeting dates (Attachment F), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.

Adjournment

M. Knickerbocker thanked J. Speck and D. Rosenthal for their service as Chief Elected Official.

J. Speck thanked the HRRRA staff for public education support in the Town of Kent.

Motion by J. Speck, second by B. Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 65 votes in favor.