



HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Newtown Municipal Center, Conference Room

3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470

Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Dan Carter	8
Bridgewater, Alan Dinho	1
Brookfield, Steve Dunn	7
Danbury, Roberto Alves	32
Kent, Eric Epstein	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	10
Redding, Julia Pemberton	3
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi	9
Roxbury, Barbara Henry	1
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Wilton, Matthew Knickerbocker	<u>7</u>
	85

Others Present:

Bruce Walczak, First Selectman, Newtown
Fred Hurley, Newtown
M. Bond, USA Waste & Recycling
Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
Jennifer Baum, HRRRA

Members Absent:

New Milford, Weston

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman P. Del Monaco 10:35 a.m. with 85 votes present from 12 towns. D. Carter left the meeting at the end of item 6d.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Chairman and Members' Comment:

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected Chief Elected Officials and newly appointed HRRRA members:

- Bruce Walczak, First Selectman of Newtown
- Eric Epstein, First Selectman of Kent and HRRRA Member
- Alan Dinho, HRRRA Alternate, Bridgewater

HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

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BRIDGEWATER | BETHEL | BROOKFIELD | DANBURY | KENT | NEW FAIRFIELD | NEW MILFORD
NEWTOWN | REDDING | RIDGEFIELD | ROXBURY | SHERMAN | WESTON | WILTON

The Chairman reminded members to update local municipal ordinances per the language voted on by the authority in 2017 and in 2024.

Director's and Tonnage Report:

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

- The Director announced the recycling tip fee was set at \$78.55/ton for the period of January 1st to March 31st. \$27.07 of the \$78.55 is for residual aka contamination. The director requested permission from the authority to review the recycling tip fee formula with IWS to consider that haulers who are bringing clean recycling material do not pay the same fees as haulers bringing contaminated material. The authority expressed support with the director contacting IWS to review the recycling tip fee formula.
- The Northwest Hill towns established the new *Northwest Resource Recovery Authority (NRRRA)*. HRRRA continues to provide guidance to the towns throughout the transition.
- HRRRA's lease with the Town of Brookfield expires in September 2026. The Director has requested an extension with no increase in cost.
- The Director reported that HRRRA's Household Hazardous Waste vendor, MXI, has been acquired by Arcwood. The current contract expires on March 31, 2025. In accordance with the contract amendment, the Director requested a one-year extension, which Arcwood has approved. She also noted that HHW cost trend data is included in the meeting packet to assist member towns with budget planning.

Administrative Approvals:

- a.) **Minutes: Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by H. Rosenthal, to approve the minutes of November 13, 2025, (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed;** with 84 votes in favor with an abstention from B. Henry (RX).
- b.) **Financial Statements:** J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through December 31, 2025 (Attachment C). **Motion** by D. Carter, second by M. Knickerbocker, to approve the financial statements through December 31, 2025, as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 85 votes in favor.

Business:

6a.) Beyond 2029 Subcommittee – IWS Proposal to the Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement. **(Attachment D Confidential)**

Motion by M. Knickerbocker, second by D. Carter, to enter executive session under Subsection (6)(D) of CGS 1-200 and Subsections (b)(7) and (b)(24) of CGS 1-210 for the purpose of discussing the IWS Proposal to the Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement, inviting HRRRA members, HRRRA staff, and B. Walczak. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 85 votes in favor. HRRRA members, HRRRA staff, and B. Walczak entered Executive Session at 10:52 a.m. The HRRRA members, staff, and B. Walczak came out of executive session at 11:20 a.m. There were no action items taken.

6b.) Legislative agenda (Attachment E)

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the legislative agenda (Attachment E) for the following:

I. Legislative Items to Prioritize or Monitor in 2026

1. Vape EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility).
2. Tire EPR Amendment – Retailer Participation Requirement.
3. Funding the RecycleCT Foundation.
4. Needs Assessment for EPR for Packaging and Solar Panels.
5. Enhanced Enforcement of the Bottle Bill – Cross-Border Fraud Prevention.

II. Policy Issues HRRRA Should support the development of in 2026 for Introduction in the 2027 Legislative Session

1. Nip Bottle Legislation – Municipal Option to Ban the sale of nips in their own towns.
2. Addressing Connecticut's Waste Capacity Shortage.
3. Amendment to the Cylinder EPR Law – Include Nitrous Oxide Cylinders.
4. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) EPR.

Motion by H. Rosenthal, second by M. Knickerbocker, to approve the legislative agenda (Attachment E). **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 85 votes in favor.

Motion by D. Carter, second by M. Knickerbocker, to maintain the Tire EPR implementation date of March 21, 2026. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 85 votes in favor.

6c.) Establish a protocol for Haulers who deny operating in the region despite public advertising

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the list of non-compliant haulers, noting that fourteen collectors are advertising junk removal services within the HRRRA region while claiming they are not operating there. J. Heaton-Jones confirmed that while there are some haulers who are genuinely inactive, there are haulers who completely refuse to come into compliance.

A discussion ensued on potential barriers to registration. The Director confirmed that, based on communication from collectors to HRRRA staff, the greatest obstacle is the cost of insurance.

R. Marconi recommended exploring insurance options available to haulers.

6d.) Ordinance update

J. Heaton-Jones reminded members that the Authority voted in 2017 to update the Solid Waste Ordinances and directed HRRRA legal counsel to draft revised language; however, many towns have not yet adopted these updates. She also noted that the One Town, One Vote provision, approved in 2024, has likewise not been adopted by all member municipalities. Local ordinances must be updated to reflect these changes and to incorporate the enhanced enforcement language approved in 2025, which will be included within the solid waste ordinance.

The Director reiterated that she is available to attend town meetings to discuss the ordinance updates and answer any related questions.

Adjournment

Motion by M. Knickerbocker, second by R. Marconi, to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 77 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Baum