



HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Newtown Municipal Center, Conference Room

3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470

Members or Alternates Present

Bridgewater, Eric Gsell	1
Brookfield, Steve Dunn	7
Danbury, Roberto Alves	32
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	11
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	10
Redding, James Gracy	3
Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi	9
Roxbury, Barbara Henry	1
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Weston, Larry Roberts	4
Wilton, Toni Boucher	<u>7</u>
	91

Others Present:

Bruce Walczak, First Selectman, Newtown
Fred Hurley, Newtown
C. Stanley, IWS
Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
Jennifer Baum, HRRRA

Members Absent:

Bethel, Kent

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman P. Del Monaco at 10:30 a.m. with 84 votes present from 11 towns. T. Boucher entered the meeting at 10:42 a.m., under agenda item 6a., bringing the total votes to 91 from 12 towns. T. Boucher left the meeting at 11:35 a.m. during Executive Session, bringing the total votes to 84 votes from 11 towns.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Chairman and Members' Comment:

The Chairman expressed appreciation to the HRRRA Director and staff for organizing and facilitating a successful Billboard Recycling Contest Awards Ceremony on April 22nd at the Newtown Community Center.

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

Director's and Tonnage Report:

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

- MSW tonnage to date is currently 100% for the FY, and 106% the same month last year.
- Recycling tonnage to date is 123% for the FY and 130% compared to the same month last year.
- Glass collected from March 2019 to date 5,531,520 lbs. / 2765.76 tons.
- The Director expressed gratitude to HRRRA staff for implementing the MetroSTOR smart organics (food scraps) collection bins in nine HRRRA municipalities.
- HRRRA has partnered with Circular Services (formerly Quantum) to plan the launch of the region's "Don't Throw It, Grow It" campaign for large organics generators. The partnership is aimed at providing outreach, technical assistance, and training to businesses and institutions with significant amounts of food waste. The campaign kickoff event is scheduled to take place in May.
- Connecticut's first-in-the-nation tire Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program took effect on March 21.
- HRRRA staff facilitated a successful Repair Café in New Milford on March 21st.
- The Executive Director has been assisting the newly formed Northwest Resource Recovery Authority by providing information regarding the HRRRA organization, registration and permitting processes, and contract support, as well as ensuring the Authority has appropriate guidance as it moves forward with efforts to obtain the Torrington Transfer Station formerly owned and operated by MIRA.

Administrative Approvals:

- a.) **Minutes: Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by B. Henry, to approve the minutes of February 26, 2026, (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed;** with 84 votes in favor with abstention from S. Von Holt (NM).
- b.) **Financial Statements:** J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through March 31, 2026 (Attachment C). **Motion** by D. Lowe, second by H. Rosenthal, to approve the financial statements through March 31, 2026, as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 84 votes in favor.

New Business:

6a.) HRRRA 2026 Legislative update (Attachment D)

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the bills in legislative session:

- SB457 An Act Concerning the State's Bottle Bill.
- SB521 An Act Conveying a Parcel of State Land to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority.
- SB516 An Act Concerning the Redemption and Refund Value of Beverage Containers.
- SB147 An Act Concerning a Study on the Need for Extended Producer Responsibility for Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products and Including Aerosol Paints under the Pain Stewardship Program.
- HB5524 An Act Concerning the State's Materials Management System.

- HB5157 An Act Concerning the Tire Stewardship Program.
- HB5154 An Act Concerning Certain Revisions to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Permitting Authority.
- SB299 An Act Concerning Redemption of Out-of-State Beverage Containers.
- HB5156 An Act Concerning Climate Change Superfund.
- HB5151 An Act Concerning Proposals Derived from the Waste Characterization Study.

6b.) Nomination Committee – Appointed by the Chairman

The Chairman appointed Steve Dunn and Suzanne Von Holt to the 2026-2027 nomination committee.

6c.) HRRR Future projects and regional plan for hard to manage material

The Director proposed that the HRRR issue a bid for the collection of hard to manage material at the HRRR transfer stations, including motor oil, bulky material, and construction and demolition. The objective is to expand resources available for residents and streamline resources across the region.

A discussion followed regarding the development of a regional plan for hard-to-manage material.

Members requested additional information on current services, vendors, and pricing at each transfer station and expressed support for the Director continuing research.

HRRR staff will update the existing data analysis for services, vendors, and cost to distribute to member towns.

6d.) Review and approve the draft MOU between the HRRR and the NRRR to expand the Regional Solid Waste and Recycling System Agreement to cover NRRR. *The authority may enter Executive Session under Subsection (6)(D) of CGS 1-200 and Subsections (b)(7) and (b)(24) of CGS 1-210 (CONFIDENTIALITY ATTACHMENT E)*

J. Heaton-Jones stated that she has been providing support to the NRRR regarding resources and operations. The NRRR is not prepared to go out to RFP to operate the facility by June 30, 2026.

Motion by R. Marconi, second by H. Rosenthal, 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 reviewing and approving the draft MOU between the HRRR and the NRRR to expand the Regional Solid Waste and Recycling System Agreement to cover NRRR, inviting HRRR members, HRRR staff, and B. Walczak.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously; with 91 votes in favor. HRRR members, HRRR staff, and B. Walczak entered Executive Session at 11:17 a.m. The HRRR members, staff, and B. Walczak came out of executive session at 11:31 a.m.

R. Marconi expressed concern that NRRR MSW tonnage may be diverting HRRR tonnage and emphasized the importance of ensuring that HRRR MSW continues to be directed to the Waste-to-Energy facility.

Motion by S. Dunn, second by H. Rosenthal, to approve the draft MOU between the HRRRA and the NRRRA to expand the Regional Solid Waste and Recycling System Agreement to cover NRRRA. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 84 votes in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by B. Henry, second D. Lowe, to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 84 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Baum