



**Minutes of the February 12, 2020 Board Annual Meeting of the
Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority
Held at the Gales Ferry Office**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

John Phetteplace called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Joe Bragaw	East Lyme Representative	P	Michael Urgo	North Stonington Representative	A
Todd Babbitt	Griswold Representative	P	Don Hill	North Stonington Alternate Representative	P
Stacey Leitch	Groton Representative	P	Patrick McLaughlin	Norwich Representative	A
Joe Lozier	Ledyard Representative	P	Brian Long	Norwich Alternate Representative	P
Steve Masalin	Ledyard Alternate Representative	A	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier	Preston Representative	A
Ronald McDaniel	Montville Representative	A	Catherine Osten	Sprague Representative	A
Donald Bourdeau	Montville Alternate Representative	A	Denise Dembinski	Sprague Alternate Representative	A
Brian Sear	New London Representative	A	John Phetteplace	Stonington Representative & Board President	P
David DeNoia	New London Alternate Representative	P	Gary Schneider	Waterford Alternate Representative	P
			Daniel Matheson	Waterford Representative	A

P = Present, C=Call In (Audio), A=Absent

Quorum present

Others: David Aldridge, SCRRRA Executive Director; Robin Cano, SCRRRA Administrator; Christopher Roman, SCRRRA Finance Manager; SCRRRA Legal Counsel Richard Barger & SCRRRA Consultant Jim Bolduc

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

4. ACT ON MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON DECEMBER 4, 2019

Majority was in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Gary Schneider, 2nd by Joe Bragaw)

5. FINANCE REPORTS

Chris Roman reviewed the 1st half year (July 2019 - December 2019) finance report.

Motion to approve the Finance Report as presented.

Majority was in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Gary Schneider, 2nd by Don Hill)

6. PRESIDENT'S / STAFF REPORTS**PROJECT:****I. Legislative Update**

David Aldridge presented 3 documents to look over. The 1st is the "2020 Key Legislative Dates". The 2nd is the Legislative Agenda that was published by SCCOG. This document includes wording in support of expanding the bottle bill, revision of the DEEP recycling guidelines and the use of crushed glass in infrastructure projects. The 3rd is the "Governor's Bill No. 11." This bill supports the waste reduction initiatives that are outlined in the Governor's 2020 budget revisions. It supports pay as you throw initiatives, reiterates the goal of waste reduction by town, supports the bottle bill legislation and talks about some deadlines for the situation at MIRA, giving the Commissioner the ability to go back and open the RFP. Mr. Aldridge stated that at some point, we need to weigh in on this. He has been in touch with Alan Deckman, our lobbyist, who is keeping an eye on this. Mr. Aldridge expressed that his biggest concern was that they are going to move to have state funding for the renovation of the Hartford plant and that the entire state will be subsidizing it to bail them out. Hartford's tip fees will be \$95 a ton and if they need to fund the renovation of their facilities, they are looking at \$140 a ton and they are going to be desperate to have the cost shared. John Phetteplace and Joe Bragaw are opposed to this. They think we must pay attention to decisions they are looking to make that will affect us.

Mr. Aldridge indicated that the Environment Committee met last week and agreed to write up and expand the bottle bill. They are calling for the increase on bottle deposits from \$.05 to \$.10 a can/bottle. The committee wants to see some money go to support the distribution facilities that sort the bottles. They also want to expand it to include liquor and wine and perhaps juice drinks. Mr. Aldridge does not support this because he feels that if the state is going to take revenue in for something that's an inconvenience, the majority of funds should go back into recycling. As it stands now, 70% of the money from recycled bottles goes in the general fund. Mr. Phetteplace pointed out that even if we do double the price, we are still going to have a problem with the raw material because there's really no use for it. His suggestion is to first fix the infrastructure so that somebody can use this material; not just make people pay twice as much to get rid of it and then put it into a landfill which does nothing for the recycling crisis. Mr. Aldridge informed the committee that he is getting a daily bill summary from TCORS Capital Group and he will keep everyone updated.

II. Simple Recycling

There is a growing interest from our towns in curbside textile recycling through the Simple Recycling program. John Phetteplace is getting ready to implement this program in Stonington. Mr. Aldridge has been told that WWP has dropped its objection to the program. He recaps that the 2 ways Simple Recycling can work is as follows; 1- the Simple Recycling Operator can follow the route of the recycling truck, or 2- If the hauler doesn't want to give out his route information, the hauler can push a button on a tablet in his truck when he sees a pink or purple bag and GPS will generate a route. A couple of hours later, the Simple Recycling truck will come by and pick up the textile recycling bags. Mr. Aldridge has also requested feedback from 2 municipalities that have been running the program for about 6 months. Milford and Stamford had a very positive response. The only issues they have come across is when they have a truck out for service, and they must use a truck without a tablet. Milford also claims there are times that service is spotty in certain coastal locations. Since inception of their program, they have only had 10 complaints about missing a pickup and there doesn't seem to be a customer service problem. Mr. Phetteplace will be starting the program in Stonington on April 6th. They will mail out bags to residents for the 1st time explaining how the process works. Residents will place the pink/purple bags next to their recycling bin and the hauler will put it on a shelf in their truck and bring it to the transfer station. Simple Recycling then comes and picks up once a week. Mr. Phetteplace continues to state that this program does not interfere with other collections, like people who donate to thrift shops. Those individuals will continue to do so. This is more for those that don't do anything with their unused textiles. Mr. Aldridge is sold on the program and Selectmen in Ledyard and Preston have shown interest as well. Gary Schneider expressed interest in starting the program in Waterford as well as Don Hill in North Stonington. Mr. Phetteplace claimed that it takes about 2 months to get up and running. Stacey Ohlman-Leitch asked how we would calculate tonnage? Mr. Phetteplace imagines that they will collect the recycling with one truck and then weight it. Mr. Aldridge asked for all members to e-mail him with the towns interest level so he can contact Simple Recycling.

III. Transportation Subsidy

In order to give towns an idea of the impact of the change on their 2021 budgets we have calculated as estimate of what the subsidy is for each town so they can plan accordingly. The current budget is in place till June 30th. Next fall, we will be implementing the new program which has a couple of changes. In the first 6 months, we're going to be deducting it from the town's bills instead of seeing a check at the end. Some are going to Lisbon, some to Preston. The second six months, all the towns will be going to Lisbon. Chris Roman reworked the spreadsheet that Joe Bragaw did. The first six months determined how much was going to Preston and Lisbon and adjusted the mileage based on that. We made assumptions that the mileage from each towns transfer station to the plant would be used, that the total amount the board would approve is \$250,000.00 and lastly, in our budget for fiscal 2021, we made the assumption that the volumes of MSW are consistent and therefore we used the same tonnage as we had this past year.

IV. Organics Update

Mr. Aldridge stated that since the board last met, we have eliminated the Navy property as an option for our facility. We have two sites that meet our criteria and zoning: the Mashantucket property and a privately owned property at the intersection of 184 and Route 2 in North Stonington. They are both very interested in doing business with us. Mr. Aldridge plans on moving ahead with an RFP for a consultant to assist with final siting, permitting, design and a business plan. Mr. Aldridge and Winston Averill found 4 good consultants that have a great amount of experience. Mr. Aldridge met these consultants at the US Composting Council's annual conference a few weeks ago. He interviewed them and states that they all have the qualifications we are looking for and have all done hundreds of projects like ours. He thinks it will come down to cost. Mr. Aldridge plans on developing an RFP document for the Executive Committee to review at our next meeting. Mr. Aldridge took an additional marketing class while at the conference and his takeaway was that we need a marketing plan in order to design the facility. He would like to do some pilot composting to understand what the resulting composting would be from a nutritional standpoint. Additionally, he expressed that we would need to figure out who our target customer is, do a market survey to see what products are available now, what their price is and figure out our storing capacity which is integral in selling it. Mr. Aldridge explained that compost deteriorates in nutritional value so the first thing we would need to address is moving the volume. In our case, Mr. Aldridge assumes our audience would be landscapers, but once we identify our potential market, we would look at the seasonality of what we do and then we can build the facility appropriately. In our case, a cold climate, we must be able to handle the fluctuations in the feedstocks we have as well as handle the stockpile we produce. Another development is the Quantum Biopower who runs the anerobic digester in Southington are still interested in working with us. While it's an effective way to move organics, the financial benefits are different than a compost facility. Composting would be less of a financial burden. Mr. Phetteplace stated that an anerobic digester does not leave you with compost. In an effort to do our research, Mr. Aldridge has set up a meeting to tour Quantum Biopower with the Executive Committee but extended invitation to anyone that would like to come along.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

ADJOURNMENT

John Phetteplace requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Joe Lozier and Gary Schneider seconded and was approved unanimously. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Schneider
Secretary