



**Minutes of the November 6, 2019 Board 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 2:05 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
Stacy Ohlmann Leitch	Groton Representative	P	Patrick McLaughlin	Norwich Representative	P
Joe Lozier	Ledyard Representative	A	Brian Long	Norwich Alternate Representative	A
Steve Masalin	Ledyard Alternate Representative	P	Robert Congdon	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	P	John Phetteplace	Stonington Representative & Board President	P
David DeNoia	New London Alternate Representative	A	Gary Schneider	Groton Representative	P

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

Quorum present

Others: David Aldridge, SCRRRA Executive Director; Asia Warren, SCRRRA Operations Administrator; Chris Roman, SCRRRA Finance Manager, SCCCRA Legal Counsel Richard Barger.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

David Aldridge introduced the new SCRRRA Operations Administrator - Asia Warren. Mr. Aldridge discussed Rebecca Chapman has accepted an opportunity in North Carolina that she could not refuse, and that Asia Warren has come from the same company that brought SCRRRA other employees. Mr. Aldridge mentions that Asia had an opportunity to work with Rebecca for 3 days before she left. Mr. Aldridge commented that Asia has done a great job hitting the ground running. Members all welcomed Asia Warren. John Phetteplace also mentioned that Stacey Ohlmann Leitch of Groton is also new to the board.

David Aldridge reviewed an AP article in the packet distributed to members about US bottle manufactures investing 100 million dollars in support of recycling infrastructure and they are putting the money out there for improving collection and sorting technology. Mr. Aldridge noted; since we are all hopeful that our recycling markets rebound, he though the member would all be interested in the article.

3. ACT ON MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 9, 2019

There were no minutes from the October 9th Board meeting to approve.

4. FINANCE REPORTS

Chris Roman reviewed the August 2019 finance report. Chris noted he only had one comment for the 2 months ending September 2019 and that was in the recycling expense. The positive performance to budget relates to spending in the HHW events. Dave Aldridge added what was interesting is that our participation rate has gone up a fair amount. He stated there has been a disproportionate amount of paint that has come in. Even though we handled more cars, the cost has been less. Another impact is part of the participation has been with paper recycling, shredding which is less expensive to accomplish than hazardous waste.

Finance Report as presented was approved.
 Majority was in favor, none were opposed.
 (Motion by Joe Bragaw, 2nd by Brian Schneider)

5. PRESIDENT’S / STAFF REPORTS

PROJECT:

I. **SCOGG Meeting:** David Aldridge asked that members who attended the SCOGG meeting to give an update. This was a follow up meeting to one SCOGG had had a couple months ago. SCOGG had a representative from the Conservation Law Federation present a talk on the bottle bill and the effect it has in other states. Kristen Brown of Waste Zero delivered a “Pay as You Throw presentation, similar to what she presented to the SCRRRA Board last month. John Phetteplace noted that most of our region was represented, and he thinks there were only 2 or 3 people who were not from our region. John added that it was interesting Jim Butler, SCOGG Executive Director, asked what a town would have to do to join SCRRRA. John explained that there is a significant tip fee stabilization fund and in order to be a full member you would need invest a significant sum to catch up with the current members investments. The members discussed both the merits and problems with the bottle bill, reaching the conclusion that the biggest problem is that the monies collected went to the State’s general fund and not to fund recycling as is the practice in other states. The presenter suggested that the state needs capture more glass but we don’t currently have a way to effectively recycle glass due to high contamination rates. Joe Bragaw added that the presenter also made the case that recyclables returned through the bottle bill program are cleaner than ones coming through the single stream source. Mr. Phetteplace said the CEOs commented that Pay as You Throw should be a state initiative. Brian Sears noted that we are paying for recyclables by weight and that if glass were taken out of the mix it would save SCRRRA a considerable amount of money. John Phetteplace said the bottle bill states recovered more of the glass when they went from 5 to 10 cents, but it was also pointed out that those states also have other incentives that CT doesn’t have. He asked a few people if they thought the 10 cents would make a difference.

Brian Sears added that the presenter stated that a bottle put through regular recycling ends up being broken, but through one of the commerce stations that it stays in tack.

Several members suggested that is actually crushed. Dave added that he was at Willimantic 2 ½ weeks ago the composition was done, and the glass that came out the back of it ended up with small pieces of garbage included, insisting that the glass does not come out clean. Dave added that the glass is probably crushed but that you have the opportunity to separate by color and that it also keeps non-beverage bottles out of the mix.

John Phetteplace also took an exception to the notion that Pay as You Throw programs cause greater contamination to mixed recycling. Recent audits in Stonington show lower contamination rates than towns that do not use the program.

II. Composting Program Review: Dave Aldridge stated that Winston Averill has met with several town officials to inquire about potential sites for a composting facility. There are 2 in particular that looks suitable. First is in the Northwest corner of Ledyard and the other is in North Stonington just above the Stonington border. He points out that there is a good bit of East Lyme a corner of Sprague and a little bit of Montville that aren't within a twenty-mile radius of the North Stonington site, but most of the SCRRRA region is. The Ledyard site is within 20 miles of any location of New London county. Very little clearing work would need to be done at the Ledyard site, it has adequate road access and enough room and no issues with aquifers, environmental justice zones or protected species. It would require a zoning change and it would be available as a long-term lease from the town. The next site in North Stonington is around 500 acres of subdivided lots it's at the intersection of 195 and route 49. Within 20 miles of almost the whole SCRRRA region. It's owned by the Mashantucket who recently signed a long-term lease to develop a solar array. There are no issues with aquifer environmental justice zones, endangered species and it is zoned for commercial industrial, so it'd be less work with zoning. We are contacting the Mashantucket real estate group to gauge the interest on it. The Conservation Commission in Groton considered several sites. He sent them the specs that SCRRRA will be looking for. There was a meeting in the earlier part of the week, and he is awaiting to hear what they have to say. SCRRRA will continue to look as they we would like 4 or 5 site and work with a consultant to identify the best site. Stacy Ohlmann Leitch added that the Pawcatuck River is a big aquafer zone. Dave restated that they looked at the aquafer maps and it indicated the most of it is ok. Don Hill adds that there are only 2 residents on that road, and they are in the process of selling. He also stated that the current plan for the solar panels were to be placed on a portion of the property. He noted the easy access for I95 and mentioned that SCRRRA would probably have to widen the road.

III. DRAFT 2021 OPERATING BUDGET: Several assumptions were made in the development. First assumed was the current trends and waste streams will continue though fiscal 2021. Mr. Aldridge said they trail 3 years of volumes and average that out, as we have done in the past. It is also assumed there would be no change in tip fees charged to member towns. Tip fee are calculated with the formulas listed in the contract. It adjusts at the point that we leave Covanta half-way through the year and switch to Wheelabrator, all of that is accounted for as well as the contract with Willamantic waste. Also accounted

for is the 2 ½ percent cost of living adjustment based on information from polling towns. Dave added that these were sent out in advance and then opened up for discussion. Steve Masalin asked about the Transportation subsidy and Mr. Aldridge followed with a suggestion that we come to a board vote and adjust accordingly.

Mr. Masalin suggested that we get started on it sooner than later as it will take a while. Mr. Aldridge agreed. John Phetteplace asks how it will be handled. Steve Masalin suggest that we not dismiss it and John suggested that we have a discussion. John suggest we look back at the 80s to see why it was determined that it was needed and see if that is still valid. Joe Bragaw stated that the basis for the subsidy was to secure town buy in when the plant first began operation. Joe Bragaw suggested we set up a subcommittee meeting before next month, suggesting Dave sit in. Joe will scan and send out the original report and an analysis the he put together several out years ago.

Pat McLaughlin asked about a line at the bottom of page 4 of the budget that showed subsidy offset. Chris Roman explained that it was meant to show the reduction and offset and if we wanted to absorb roughly a million dollars in recycling costs. Dave Aldridge included it's just to put it into perspective.

Joe Bragaw suggests subcommittee meeting for next Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 2pm.

5. Motion to go into Executive Session at 2:50pm

To discuss personnel topics

(Motion by Dave Aldridge, 2nd by John Phetteplace)

Inviting SCRRRA representatives, SCRRRA staff, Attorney Richard Barger

Exited executive Session at 3:10 PM - No votes were taken during the Executive Session.

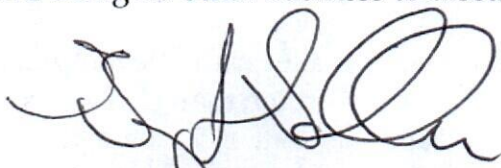
6. NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT

John Phetteplace requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Joe Bragaw and seconded by Denise Dembinski and was approved unanimously.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.



Gary Schneider Secretary

Respectfully Submitted,