



**Minutes of the June 12, 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	A
Gary Schneider	Groton Representative	P	Patrick McLaughlin	Norwich Alternate Representative	P
David Atwater	Groton Alternate Representative	P	Robert Congdon	Preston Representative	A
Joe Lozier	Ledyard Representative	A	Catherine Osten	Sprague Representative	A
Steve Masalin	Ledyard Alternate Representative	P	Denise Dembinski	Sprague Alternate Representative	P
Ronald McDaniel	Montville Representative	P	John Phetteplace	Stonington Representative & Board President	P
Donald Bourdeau	Montville Alternate Representative	A	Brian Long	Waterford Representative	P
Brian Sear	New London Representative	A	Daniel Matheson	Waterford Alternate Representative	A
David DeNoia	New London Alternate Representative	A			

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

Quorum present

Others: David Aldridge, SCRRRA Executive Director; Rebecca Chapman, SCRRRA Operations Administrator/Outreach Coordinator; Chris Roman, SCRRRA Finance Manager, SCRRRA Legal Counsel Richard Barger & SCRRRA Consultant Jim Bolduc

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Dave Aldridge reviewed the two emails we received from Preston and Ledyard regarding the equipment SCRRRA lent them for your clean up events.

3. ACT ON MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 1, 2019

Minutes were approved. Majority was in favor, none were opposed.

Abstentions: None

(Motion by Ronald McDaniel, 2nd by Denise Dembinski)

4. FINANCE REPORTS

Chris Roman reviewed the April 2019 finance report.

Finance Report was approved.

Majority was in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Joe Bragaw, 2nd by Ronald McDaniel)

5. PRESIDENT'S/STAFF REPORTS

PROJECT:

- I. **Activity Update:** David Aldridge provided an overview of all of the events that we have supported (16 classes, 1 Green Scholar program, 1 presentation & 1 trash audit). Mr. Aldridge also updated them on several of his recent meeting (DEEP). Mr. Aldridge advised that he attended a conference on Recycling Contamination. Becky Chapman had attended the annual FOIA conference. SCRRRA had supported two HHW events – the event in May in East Lyme serviced 649 cars – which is a record for SCRRRA.
- II. **Recycling Contamination:** Dave Aldridge advised that he had recently attended a two-day conference in Massachusetts – that was put on by two non-profits, The Recycling Partnership and NERC. The conference was attended by representatives from the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions. The conference was broken up into three sections. One was a deep look into contamination and developing strategies to combat it. Another one was tools for education and outreach and the last one was applying systems change. At the end of the conference there was a comprehensive agreement that the core strategy should be to rank the contamination issues and to greatly simplify messaging to tackle those issues. Mr. Aldridge reviewed the quick reference guide along with the Oops tag and single-issue ad samples. The Recycling Partnership also has developed guides for inspector and driver protocols and curbside data collection tools that are available on their website. Mr. Aldridge stated that if any town would like the information to contact him. Mr. McDaniel commented that Mr. Aldridge should just send out the link to the whole group. Joe Bragaw stated that inspecting the cans does help. Denise Dembinski commented that she likes the articles that Ms. Chapman posts on SCRRRA's Facebook page and that is a great platform to share this type of information.
- III. **Legislative Wrap Up:** Dave Aldridge commented that of the bills that SCRRRA has been tracking only the plastic bag ban made it past both chambers of the legislature. The way the bill was re-written – beginning August 1st, there will be a 10-cent tax every bag at point of sales for two years. Then after two years – it will be an outright ban. Also, retail stores will be required to offer paper bags with a specified percentage of recycled content and printed directions regarding recycling. The other bill #7298 to develop a recycling task force, was passed by the House but not raised in the Senate. Despite the failure to become law, DEEP has committed to include SCRRRA, BRROC and HRRRA in any substantive discussions regarding the issue.
- IV. **Lisbon Tonnage:** Dave Aldridge advised that since our last Board meeting, we have had two towns (Waterford & Montville) redirecting their MSW loads to Lisbon. This has gotten us to budgeted quantities being delivered there. Brian Long commented that the wait times have only been about 15 minutes and the travel time has only been about nine minutes more. Very positive feedback from his drivers. Mr. Long also advised that for the month of May – he had a fuel comparison report (for five trucks) and it was only an increase of 80 gallons for the month. Still a better solution than his drivers sitting in the wait lines in Preston.

V. **Food Scrap Composting:** Dave Aldridge commented that since SCRARRA had completed our disposal deal, we will be working out a recycling deal in the coming months, and the New London transfer station is on hold awaiting CT DOT lease extension, he would like to turn SCRARRA’s attention to looking at the feasibility of developing a food scrap composting facility. Mr. Aldridge believes that a composting facility is the next best opportunity for reducing our outflow of subsidy dollars. Initial conservative estimates that he has looked at indicate that SCRARRA could save \$600,000 per year in subsidy costs. Mr. Aldridge reviewed a photo of a food scrap composting facility (OCRRA). Mr. Aldridge stated that he had completed an analysis of chip hauling for the last year. SCRARRA hauled over 45,000 yards of material at a cost of \$185,000. SCRARRA can utilize this material ourselves. SCRARRA can haul it to our mulch / food scrap composting area. Mr. Aldridge advised that he has visited sites in Syracuse several years ago and visited a Massachusetts site last month and he is convinced that this is the next big project that SCRARRA can look at to stretch our reserves for as long as possible while improving our services to the towns. A video on OCRRA’s food scrap composting process was shown. The first step is looking for a location for the project. Somewhere within SCRARRA’s Authority, within 20 miles of a major producer, and a place near roads that can handle trucking traffic. John Phetteplace commented that Stonington had done a pilot a couple of years ago with a facility in Rhode Island. Mr. Phetteplace also agreed that this is a good project for SCRARRA to proceed with. This biggest step is to get DEEP to permit this quickly. Mr. Phetteplace advised Lee Sawyer (DEEP) that this would help SCRARRA meet the requirements of the CMMS. Patrick McLaughlin asked what the estimated capital cost to build a facility like OCRRA’s. Mr. Aldridge advised that the total cost for the OCRRA facility was four million. That included the land, facility, equipment and permits. Mr. Phetteplace commented that SCRARRA already owns most of the equipment that would be needed. Mr. Aldridge advised that we would need a mixing truck, screener and bagger equipment. Gary Schneider commented that this can have two business plans (contract out, or SCRARRA run). Mr. Aldridge advised that it was recommended that he join a composting council and he has a meeting with this council next week. SCRARRA does own land in Preston (next to the WTE facility) a meeting with Preston needs to be had to see if they would support a composting facility. It was stated that in the past Preston has not been supportive. The person who was involved with the building of the OCRRA facility will be sending blue prints and other documents to Mr. Aldridge. Denise Dembinski stated that she will talk to Senator Osten about this venture. After some group discussion – it was recommended that an engineering firm be contacted about this process. Steve Masalin commented that Ledyard has a good piece of land available at the Ledyard/Preston border (across from the Preston Park) on RTE 117.

Motion to authorize the Executive Director and Executive Committee to proceed with investigating the feasibility of developing a food scrap composting facility. Majority was in favor, none were opposed.
(Motion by Gary Schneider, 2nd by Joe Bragaw)

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to go into Executive Session at 3:04 pm
To discuss the contract negotiations
(Motion by Steve Masalin, 2nd by Ronald McDaniel)

Inviting SCRRRA representatives, SCRRRA staff, Attorney Richard Barger & Jim Bolduc

Joe Bragaw left at 3:15pm

Exited executive Session at 3:20 PM - No votes were taken during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

John Phetteplace requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Gary Schneider and seconded by Denise Dembinski and was approved unanimously. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Schneider
Secretary