



Minutes of the May 14, 2025, Board Meeting of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority Held at the Gales Ferry Office & via Zoom

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Joe Bragaw called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Joe Bragaw	East Lyme Representative	P	Alan Ladd	North Stonington Representative	V
Justin Porter	East Lyme Alternate Representative	A	Phillip Whitman	North Stonington Alternate Representative	A
Todd Babbitt	Griswold Representative	P	Brian Long	Norwich Representative	P
Stacey Leitch	Groton Representative	P	Jeff Dewey	Norwich Alternate Representative	V
David McBride	Groton Alternate Representative	A	Jared Harris	Preston Representative	P
Steve Masalin	Ledyard Representative	P	Adam Collins	Preston Alternate Representative	A
Joe Lozier	Ledyard Alternate Representative	A	Cheryl Blanchard	Sprague Representative	A
Ronald McDaniel	Montville Representative	V	Paul Copenhagen	Sprague Alternate Representative	A
John Carlson	Montville Alternate	A	Jill Senior	Stonington Representative	P
Brian Sear	New London Representative	P	Gary Schneider	Waterford Representative	P
Steve Lee	New London Alternate Representative	A	Daniel Matheson	Waterford Alternative Representative	A

P = Present, V = (Virtual), A=Absent

Quorum present

Others: David Aldridge, SCRRRA Executive Director (P); Liz Chuff, Operations Manager (P). Robin Cano, SCRRRA Operations Administrator (P); Chris Roman, SCRRRA Finance Manager (P); Rich Barger, SCRRRA Legal Counsel (P); & Jim Bolduc, SCRRRA Consultant (V)

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE - None

4. ACT ON MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON APRIL 09, 2025 Majority was in favor; none were opposed. (Motion by Stacey Leitch, 2nd by Jill Senior)

5. FINANCE REPORTS

Dave Aldridge reviewed February's Finance Report

Motion to Approve the Finance Report as Presented

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Ron McDaniel, 2nd by Stacey Leitch)

6. WOOD GRINDING REPORT

The wood grinder repairs are complete, Lenny has finished in Ledyard, he is finishing Sprague today and will move onto Griswold tomorrow.

7. AUTHORITY CALENDAR

Mr. Aldridge reviewed the April/May Authority Calendar.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

PROJECT:

I. Discussion and Possible Vote on 2025 Healthcare Package

The Executive Committee recommends to the full Board to approve the 2025 Anthem Silver Pathway CT PPO healthcare plan. There was also a discussion about adjusting the HSA contribution for SCRRRA employees to match the change in deductible of \$500.

Motion to Approve the 2025 Anthem Pathway CT PPO Health Care Plan as Presented.

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Steve Masalin, 2nd by Todd Babbitt)

Motion to Approve an Additional \$500 to Employee's HSA Account.

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Steve Masalin, 2nd by Todd Babbitt)

II. Organics Update

- Vote on Amended MMI Grant Motion

Amended MMI Grant Resolution:

It is hereby Resolved by the Authority's Board of Directors that it desires to accept such DEEP grant and accordingly, authorizes the Authority's President, Joseph Bragaw, to enter into the aforementioned Agreement with the State of Connecticut, DEEP, regarding the \$4,500,000 grant awarded to the Authority for the development of the Regional Composting Facility for Southeastern Connecticut. This Resolution shall authorize the President to execute all documents necessary or required in connection with such Grant Award.

Motion to Amend the MMI Grant Resolution as Presented

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Ron McDaniel, 2nd by Jill Senior)

- Discussion and Possible Vote on RFQ Selection

Mr. Aldridge recapped SCRRRA's Compost Project Timeline. In 2022, the SCRRRA Board passed a Plan of Action that stated two primary goals in the efforts to develop a food waste disposal strategy:

- 1- To decrease SCRRRA's MSW disposal cost by finding the least cost alternative for food waste, and
- 2- To pursue an environmentally acceptable alternative for food waste being disposed of at a WTE incinerator or landfill.

We received four RFQ responses in November 2024. The responses were analyzed and narrowed down to WeCare Denali and Black Earth Compost. The Executive Committee (EC) interviewed both finalists and toured both company facilities. Early April, the EC requested additional information and reviewed it in a Special Executive Committee Meeting on May 5th and decided to recommend moving forward with Black Earth Compost for SCRRRA's composting facility operation, marketing & hauling.

Motion to Move Forward with Negotiations with Black Earth Compost for SCRRRA's Composting Facility Operation, Marketing and Hauling.

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Ron McDaniel, 2nd by Jill Senior)

- **Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding USDA Grant Equipment Order**

The USDA is requesting that we begin drawing down our grant award by June 1st. After consulting with both SCS Engineers and Black Earth Compost we are considering what machinery is necessary for the operation of a facility. We reached out to Barry Equipment and obtained a quote for two front loaders.

Motion to approve the purchase of the following equipment: Two new 2025 Develon DL280-7-US10 4WD loaders, or equivalent, including accessories, up to \$500,000, and, further, to authorize the use of previously approved United States Department of Agricultural grant funds in the amount of \$400,000, which grant requires a 25% participation by the award grantee and, therefore, further authorizing the use of Authority Funds in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, to be used for the purchase of the aforesaid equipment, such equipment to be used by the Authority in the operation of its composting facility.

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Stacey Leitch, 2nd by Todd Babbitt)

III. Recycling Update

- **Recycling Composition Audit Results**

Mr. Aldridge commented on the audit that was conducted on April 19, 2025, at Willimantic Waste Facility. He toured the facility the day of the audit and was impressed with the new machinery's speed and accuracy. Also, the glass percentage went up and contamination went down, which is consistent with the audits conducted in 2016 & 2019. A preliminary calculation of the value of a SCRRRA ton shows the value improving between \$10-\$15.

- **Contamination Reporting**

Mr. Aldridge informed the Board that we have been unable to download the report data that Casella is sending to us regarding town recycling audits. As soon as we retrieve the data, he will schedule a Recycling Committee Meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Stacey Leitch discussed a grant program, administered by DEEP which supports unit-based pricing programs and innovative solutions. Mrs. Leitch asked the Board if any municipalities are interested in applying for this grant.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Discussion Regarding Certain SCRRRA Employee's Compensation

Motion to Move into Executive Session to Discuss certain SCRRRA Employee's Compensation

Time In: 3:08PM

Discussion: None

**Majority were in favor, none were opposed.
(Motion by Steve Masalin, 2nd by Brian Sear)**

Time Out of Executive Session: 3:26PM

11. Possible Action Regarding a Specific SCRRRA Employee's Compensation

Motion to Approve the Adjustment to the Annual Salary of the Operations Manager to \$92,250 retroactive to March 1, 2025, and to Adjust a Like Amount from the Recycling Account to the Payroll Account to Offset the Increase in both the Current and Next Fiscal Budgets.

Discussion: None

**Majority were in favor, none were opposed.
(Motion by Todd Babbitt, 2nd by Ron McDaniel)**

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Bragaw requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made. by Steve Masalin and seconded by Brian Long and was approved unanimously. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Schneider
Secretary