



**Minutes of the July 22, 2026, Wood Grinding Committee Meeting of the
Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority
Held at the Gales Ferry office & via Teams.**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Jill Senior	Stonington Representative	V	Todd Babbitt	Griswold Representative	P
Steve Masalin	Ledyard Representative	V			

P = Present; V = Virtual; A = Absent.

A quorum was present.

Also present: David Aldridge, SCRRA Executive Director (P); Robin Cano, Operations Administrator (P); Elizabeth Chuff, Operations Manager (V).

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

No public communication or correspondence was reported.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Committee Purpose & Policy Statement

The committee discussed its purpose and policy objectives, including the goals of servicing member town transfer stations at least once per year in a cost-effective and efficient manner, and developing clear guidance regarding what is acceptable in a brush pile for grinding. The official statement of purpose was not yet finalized.

b. Situational & Historical Data Analysis

The committee discussed the history of the SCRRA wood grinding operation, as well as the current situation. Key points included that for many years, member town staff assisted the tub grinder operator with the wood grinding process, including providing a payloader and operator, whereas currently, Lenny, the SCRRA equipment operator, does all aspects of the service without that support. With the support of town staff, historically, SCRRA was able to service member towns at least once a year, sometimes two to three times per year. Without that support, and with the dramatic increase in brush volume in recent years, service visits per year have decreased and maintenance needs have become more difficult to manage. SCRRA improved its wood grinder scheduling system to improve travel efficiency; however, this has not been enough to maintain desired service levels.

c. Future Strategies

The committee discussed potential strategies to improve the wood grinding service, including:

- **Additional staffing:** The committee discussed creating a new position to assist with compost facility operations as needs arise and to provide additional operational oversight.

- Equipment maintenance: The committee discussed a more proactive maintenance approach, including biannual equipment service.
- Winter operations: The committee noted that winter weather can slow or stop production and discussed using winter downtime for maintenance and repairs when machinery cannot operate.
- Transfer station access: The committee discussed strategies to maintain transfer station brush pile use for residents only and to prevent commercial loads from entering Authority transfer stations.
- Develop acceptable material instructional page for transfer station personnel and begin declining unacceptable brush loads when appropriate.
- Identify appropriate locations for storm debris in the event of a storm; our current location is where the compost facility is being constructed.
- Invite Lenny to attend the next meeting to provide operational input.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

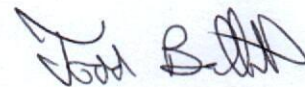
6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Todd Babbitt requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Masalin made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jill Senior. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Todd Babbitt
1st Vice President