



**Minutes of the May 28, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting of the  
Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority  
Held at the Gales Ferry Office**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 2:11 pm.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Joe Bragaw	East Lyme Representative	P	Denise Dembinski	Sprague Alternate Representative	A
Gary Schneider	Groton Representative	P	John Phetteplace	Stonington Representative & Board President	P
Joe Lozier	Ledyard Representative	A			

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

**Quorum Present**

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

**3. ACT ON MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON APRIL 23, 2020**

Majority was in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Joe Bragaw, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Schneider)

**4. FINANCE REPORTS:**

Chris Roman reviewed YTD - March finance report.

**5. PRESIDENT / STAFF REPORTS:**

**I. MSW Volume**

Dave Aldridge received a letter a few weeks ago from James Belden, the Business Manager for Covanta indicating that our receipts were trending towards falling short by 22,000 tons by the end of the year. There will be a \$42 per ton penalty per our contract. We had a significant dip in April due to COVID-19. Lisbon has 10,000 tons delivered at this point, that will trend towards 30,000 tons by year end which is about 5,000 tons above our commitment to them. The second half of the year we are going to have to make changes in routing to try to even this out.

Rich Barger went over a letter we received from Covanta. Mr. Barger informed us that Covanta wanted to remind us that there is a liquid penalty of \$42 per ton for every ton we are short under the 110,000 tons. He preceded to look at the contract and the definition of an unforeseen circumstances. He said it applies to both parties, SCRRRA and Covanta. It covers a governmental order that would impact one parties ability to comply with the contract requirements. The Governor and his executive orders in this case has shut down many businesses that are not deemed

essential. This impacts SCRRRA's ability to direct waste to the Preston facility. Mr. Barger drafted a letter to Covanta expressing that the Governor's orders to shut down non-essential businesses is an unforeseen circumstance. He thinks there needs to be an adjustment to both facilities we use. John Phetteplace agreed. Joe Bragaw asked which towns were going to which plant and expressed that if we redirect waste from any one town that should help with the shortfall. Mr. Aldridge would like to wait until we see how our trend changes in May and June before adjusting deliveries for the second half of the year. He would like to send out the letter that Mr. Barger drafted and revisit the situation next month.

## **II. Recycling Volume**

Mr. Aldridge spoke about where we stand with single stream since we began our new contract with WWP in October. The month of April was the highest tonnage we have had. We do not have per town/per month data prior to October which means we cannot see a trend yet. We also do not have data by commodity delivered. The value of the SCRRRA ton has improved up to \$29.37 a ton as a result of improving markets for paper and cardboard.

## **III. Organics Update**

Mr. Aldridge recently sent a letter to DEEP Commissioner Dykes on behalf of The Board asking for support for our Organics Project. He heard back from her two days later saying that they would follow up accordingly. Mr. Aldridge had a conversation with Alan Deckman and he is working on a letter of support that he will be distributing to town CEO's and State Legislators requesting signatures of support. Last week, Mr. Aldridge had Winston fill out a pre-permit questionnaire and heard back from DEEP on requesting a pre-permit meeting. They are in the process of scheduling that meeting. Mr. Aldridge spoke with Tim DeVivo of Willimantic Waste Paper. He has an organics truck that is sitting idle because UCONN is shut and he said that some of his commercial customers have been inquiring about organics programs, first in line Mohegan Sun. We will contact their large commercial customers about supplying food scraps for our Pilot Test. In summary, we are waiting for our permit and food scraps to come available.

## **IV. Health Insurance**

Mr. Aldridge explained that we have been searching for Health Care options since the beginning of the year and have not found any favorable alternatives to what we have. The size of our organization limits our options. We are going to renew our current plan and the authority will realize an increase of about \$1,600 to last year or 1.3%. Joe Bragaw asked how much the authority is paying towards the deductible and how much is the employee paying. Chris explained that the deductible is \$6000. Mr. Bragaw asked how much of the deductible the authority is paying. Mr. Roman said \$6,000 and Mr. Aldridge clarified that it is \$6,000 of a \$13,000 deductible that the authority is paying. Gary Schneider asked if the insurance amount the authority is paying is within our budget. Mr. Roman expressed that it is well within our budget.

Mr. Aldridge asked if we could revisit Social Security for SCRRRA staff. Last year we discussed the issue and we never quite got to it. I would ask if we could bring

that up again and would like it if Rich and Jim can be part of the conversation due to their extensive background in the area. Mr. Aldridge brought to the committee's attention that since SCRRRA has not had SS in so many years; if once it's approved, for the first year, the authority would gross salaries to cover the employee portion and then the employee would pay for it thereafter. This way the employee is not seeing a reduction of pay to receive the benefit. Mr. Aldridge stated that he would put together a formal letter to look over and act on.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**Motion to move into Executive Session**

**Discussion: None**

**Majority were in favor, none were opposed**

**(Motion by Gary Schneider, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Bragaw)**

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Aldridge informed the committee that we are going to have a soft opening of the office starting June 1<sup>st</sup> and we will have at least 2 staff members in the office but will still be closed to the public. We are going to offer curbside sale of compost bins and pails. We have sold 40 bins since we have shut down. We are getting a ton of calls. I plan to reopen to the public on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will follow social guidelines. HHW events will resume in Colchester on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

ADJOURNMENT

John Phetteplace asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was made by Joe Bragaw and seconded by Gary Schneider.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Schneider  
Secretary