



**Minutes of the July 10, 2024, 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	Don Hill	North Stonington Representative	A
Kevin Seery	East Lyme Alternate Representative	A	Alan Ladd	North Stonington Alternate Representative	P
Todd Babbitt	Griswold Representative	P	Brian Long	Norwich Representative	P
Stacey Leitch	Groton Representative	P	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier	Preston Representative	A
Steve Masalin	Ledyard Representative	P	Cheryl Blanchard	Sprague Representative	P
Joe Lozier	Ledyard Alternate Representative	A	Paul Copenhagen	Sprague Alternate Representative	A
Ronald McDaniel	Montville Representative	P	Jill Senior	Stonington Representative	P
John Carlson	Montville Alternate	A	Gary Schneider	Waterford Representative	A
Brian Sear	New London Representative	P	Daniel Matheson	Water Alternative Representative	A
Steve Lee	New London Alternate 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; Rich Barger, SCRRRA Legal Counsel; Jim Bolduc, SCRRRA Consultant; Liz Chuff, Administrative Coordinator; & Leonard Bunnell, Mayor of Montville.

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 1- Brian Sear discussed New London's need for wood grinding at Bates Wood Park.
- 2- Stacey Leitch informed the Board that the Town of Groton has reached out to Dave to set up a meeting to discuss a proposal for Town Council of Groton regarding the buyback of nip bottles. Mrs. Leitch and a co-worker will investigate how to do this. They asked if this would be something that the region would be interested in.

Motion to Add Item 6a to the Agenda for a Discussion and Possible Action Supporting Wheelabrator’s Position Regarding a DEEP Regulation.

Discussion: None

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

Motion to Add Item 6b to the Agenda to Discuss Filling the Treasurer’s Position on the Executive Committee.

Discussion: None

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

4. **ACT ON MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON JUNE 12, 2024**

Majority was in favor; none were opposed.

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

5. **FINANCE REPORTS**

Dave Aldridge reviewed May’s Finance Report

Motion to Approve Finance Report as Presented

Discussion: None

**Majority were in favor, none were opposed.
(Motion Ron McDaniel, 2nd Cheryl Blanchard)**

6. **WOOD GRINDING REPORT**

Motion to Approve the Wood Grinder Moving to New London Once East Lyme and Montville have been Serviced. Dave will Keep in Touch with Brian Sear Regarding Timing.

Discussion: None

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

The grinder is currently in Groton. Steve Masalin suggested that we consider a more precise approach to estimating the timing of wood grinding services for our Authority Towns. The goal being that each town will be able to count on a specific time period. Mr. Masalin also suggested that we have a standby available if needed to fill in the gap. Mr. Aldridge responded that going forward we will provide documentation of projected wood grinding dates for our 12 towns. Mr. Aldridge also informed us that if we have a tropical storm identified as an emergency, we can go to our land next to Covanta in Preston as an outlet. This will ensure that Transfer Station Service will not be affected. As long as each town signs up for it, it can be diverted, and we can get funding back from FEMA.

6a) Joe Bragaw stated that Wheelebrator brought up to us that DEEP is proposing regulations regarding emissions which, if promulgated, will result in increases in costs to the Authority. This is being driven by the EPA saying that certain counties, except New London County, in the state of Connecticut need to meet certain air quality thresholds. DEEP's plan is to extend these standards to New London County as well. This would affect Wheelebrator & Covanta. Wheelebrator has offered to write a letter to DEEP supporting the EPA's determination of involved counties. Dave and Rich will review it.

Motion to Authorize the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Committee to Sign a Letter in Support of Wheelebrator Regarding the DEEP Regulation.

Discussion: None

**Majority were in favor, none were opposed.
(Motion Ron McDaniel, 2nd Steve Masalin)**

6b) Filling Treasurer's Position

Mr. Bragaw stated that since Pat McLaughlin recently retired, we do not have a Treasurer on the Executive Committee. If anyone would like to fill these positions, he urges members to reach out to Dave.

7. **AUTHORITY CALENDAR**

Mr. Aldridge reviewed the Authority Calendar for the month of July.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS**

PROJECT:

▪ **Organics Project**

Mr. Aldridge confirmed that the Payloader has been removed from the site clearing the way for clean-up and scheduling the DEEP Biologist for his or her review. We have received two pro-formas. One from Black Earth Compost and one from SCS. We are in the process of merging the two pro-formas and will schedule a Finance Committee meeting to review it before bringing it to the Executive Committee this month. In the Black Earth Compost Pro-forma they address facility operating costs, costs to have them manage the facility, and a potential market for finished compost. They would have a personal stake in the quality of the compost because they would receive a commission from the finished product.

- **Recycling Contamination Update**

In East Lyme there is outstanding contamination present (a lawnmower, street sign, roll of carpet). In these cases, the driver snaps a photo with their cell phone and sends it to the Public Works office so the resident can be contacted. These cases are not calculated in our data reports because the material was never collected. Prairie Robotics developed a program to include pictures from drivers' phones in their system that automatically generates a letter to the resident. We are waiting for an update.

Mr. Aldridge met with Erin Banfield, Director of Municipal Services for Casella at the Solid Waste Action Committee regarding contamination issues this week. Casella is implementing a pilot program with Prairie Robotics in Maine, and she was extremely interested in discussing the opportunity to partner with us.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to go into Executive Session for a Discussion of Recycling RFP.

Time In: 2:56PM

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Stacey Leitch, 2nd Cheryl Blanchard)

Time Out of Executive Session: 3:22PM

Motion to Accept the Casella RFP and Authorize the Executive Board to Negotiate the Contract with Casella.

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Ron McDaniel, 2nd Stacey Leitch)

Motion to go into Executive Session for a Discussion of Proposed Employee Position Change.

Time In: 3:26PM

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Todd Babbitt, 2nd Cheryl Blanchard)

Time Out of Executive Session: 4:02PM

Motion to Accept the Operation Manager Position Description and Appoint Liz Chuff to said Position with a Salary Increase of \$20,000. Funds are Approved for Same Effective 7/11/24 with a Performance Review After 6 Months.

Discussion: None

Majority were in favor, none were opposed.

(Motion by Ron McDaniel, 2nd Stacey Leitch)

10. NEW BUSINESS
NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Bragaw requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Ron McDaniel and seconded by Steve Masalin and was approved unanimously. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Schneider
Secretary