

**CITY OF TORRINGTON
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

SWAC Minutes
October 8, 2009
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PRESENT: Solid Waste Advisory Committee:
David Bascetta, Robert Raleigh, James Zeller,
Naomi Boccio (arrived at 4:35pm)

PARTICIPANTS: Jerry Rollett, Public Works Director
Gerry Zordan, former SWAC Member

REPORTED BY: Jerry Rollett, Advisor to SWAC

CALL TO ORDER: 4:35 PM

1. Update on Solid Waste & Recycle Operations & Costs

Jerry Rollett reported that the bidding of collection services resulted in a \$600,000 increase in process. Costs were reduced through negotiations with the contractor, reduction of services and implementation of single stream recycling. Final MSW Management costs for 2010 ended up about \$60,000 higher than 2009 costs.

2. Single Stream Recycling Status

Single Stream Recycling was started for FY 2010 and after three months of collection history, recycle tonnages have increased by 54%. The increases are continuing to go up monthly and with further public education can continue to significantly increase. Dave Bascetta reported that the Middle School has started recycle contests and has improved their recycling requiring the addition of extra recycle pickups. Bob Raleigh suggested that we look into further incentives such as Recycle Bank. It was also discussed that the Single Stream flyer should be updated for 2010 and distributed to the public. Jerry will work on update and provide copies to Dave for distribution in schools.

3. Discussion of CRRA Contract Expiration

Jerry Rollett presented a brief history of the CRRA contract and pending studies (copy attached).

4. CRCOG Formation of a Regional Solid Waste Authority

Jerry Rollett presented a brief outline of the Capital Region Council of Governments proposal to study the formation of a regional solid waste authority (copy attached). A request to the City Council to pass a resolution indicating interest in the formation of a new authority along with a \$500 fee will be made at the October 19th Council Meeting. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be tasked with reviewing draft documents and reports to make recommendation to the City Council regarding the CRCOG study and any other studies as developed. All CRCOG Documents are available on their website. The SWAC Members indicated that they support the recommendation to join the CRCOG study.

MEETING ADJOURNED 5:30 PM

SUMMARY OF CRRA MID-CONNECTICUT PROJECT

CRRA Project Expiration:

- CRRA project bonds expire by November 15, 2012 = Project Expiration
- Towns have on liability to CRRA after expiration
- Facilities are and remain property of CRRA
- Legislation can discontinue CRRA, assets revert to State
- Project reserves not required represent over collection of tipping fees and will be returned to towns (currently happening in Bridgeport Project)
- All Mid-Connecticut towns assured access to the project through December 2012
- CRRA should be able to offer lower tip fees following bond payoff
- CRRA expects to continues service beyond 2012 at net-cost process and no-cost recycling

MSW Services Contract:

In May 1984, the City of Torrington entered into a long term contract with CRRA for solid waste disposal, resources recovery and solid waste management services. The contract remains in full force up until the time of retirement of all bonds issued by CRRA which is planned to occur in November 2012.

The contract does not give Torrington any vested ownership rights in the system but does provide for payments consistent with Torrington's interest in the system in the event of a disposition or liquidation.

Construction of Recycle Transfer Station:

In October 1992, the LHCEO and CRRA entered into a five-year agreement for the financing, construction and operation of a transfer station for recyclable materials. The LHCEO and represented Municipalities were responsible for the design and construction of the transfer station. The LHCEO also entered into an agreement with the DEP under which the DEP would provide substantial funds for the project.

The agreement allowed CRRA to impose surcharges to reimburse it for the operating costs associated with the recycling transfer area. CRRA has not imposed any such surcharges.

In January 1998 the CRRA requested that the agreement not be extended, as in the opinion of CRRA, it was no longer needed. CRRA indicated that renewal of the agreement would preserve the right to impose surcharges and that this was not their intention.

Host Community Agreement:

In October 2007, the City of Torrington entered into a ten-year contract with CRRA for the payment of PILOT payments in the amount of \$.50 for each ton of acceptable solid waste processed at the Torrington Transfer Station.

Legislative Study:

In May 2008, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee approved a Scope of Study on impending changes in the ownership of the state's trash to energy plants.

The study focus will review MSW management services provided by haulers, transfer stations, recycle facilities, trash-to-energy facilities, MSW landfills, ash landfills and out-of-state disposal to assess if the services are adequate, affordable, sustainable and compatible with the state's policies and goals.

The report is due by December 31, 2009

CRRA Study:

In 2003, Legislation (§22a-268f) was passed requiring CRRA to form a special committee to evaluate and present options for disposing of solid waste from municipalities after the expiration of the municipal contracts. Study options will include private sector management.

The report is required by November 2010 which is two years prior to the project expiration.

CRCOG FORMATION OF REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

In June 2008 the Capital Region council of Governments (CRCOG) began the study to evaluate and recommend option to be considered by the Mid-Connecticut Towns following expiration of the CRRA contracts in 2012. *(See Executive Summary Recommendations & Conclusions)*

The CRCOG has requested that member towns including Torrington not make commitments of solid waste and pass resolutions indicating interest in the formation of a new authority. *(Commitment Form & Resolution attached)*

- A request to the Torrington City Council to execute Commitment Form and adopt the Support Resolution was made at the October 5, 2009 Council meeting.
- The CRCOG Commitment Form deadline is November 2, 2009.

Visit “http://www.crcog.org/municipal_ser/sw.html” for information and copies of all documents.

SWAC Future Task:

Torrington Solid Waste Advisory Committee will review draft documents establishing the solid waste authority and make recommendations as determined to best serve Torrington.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

There are clearly a wide range of options available for Mid-Conn Towns to optimize their solid waste management system. Primary recommendations are provided below.

ES 5.1. GOVERNANCE

If the Towns are primarily interested in solving only the long term disposal issue, then it would seem that the Norwalk procurement model would be the easiest to pursue.

Conversely, if the Towns are truly interested in establishing an organization that can implement a disciplined, accountable, integrated system that employs best practices and optimized technology in all phases of waste management, then it would appear that the formation of a Mid-Conn RRA is warranted, followed by pursuit of management control of integrated solid waste system assets.

ES 5.2. LONG TERM DISPOSAL

Once the governance issue is determined, there appear to be a clear set of steps that should be pursued to secure disposal capacity:

- ◆ **Define Service Requirements:** Develop a draft contract with terms and conditions approved by the Towns, for long term solid waste disposal including transfer and transportation. In short, define what kind of system you want.
- ◆ **Engage CRRA:** It seems reasonable to request a comprehensive, long term proposal from CRRA to see if this already established organization can continue to be the Mid-Conn service provider for the foreseeable future at a rate comparable to the \$62/ton offered for next year (with reasonable, transparent annual rate increases).
- ◆ **Procure from the Open Market:** If CRRA cannot or will not provide a workable long term solution in writing, proceed to issue an RFP to interested private vendors for disposal (including transfer station operations, transportation, and final disposal).

ES 5.3. COLLECTION OPTIMIZATION

There are two primary opportunities to improve the collection of wastes and recyclables in the Mid-Conn Region:

- ◆ **Establishing exclusive collection programs** will immediately reduce collection costs and provide greater municipal control of recycling, which will be critical if the State is going to achieve a 58 percent diversion rate.
- ◆ Investigate cooperation among two or more Towns to **implement multi-jurisdiction or regional curbside collection**. Regional collection systems will impart benefits of better economies of scale, as well as more efficient routing.

ES 5.4. RECYCLING OPTIMIZATION

There are several steps that should be taken to fully evaluate the opportunities to improve recycling within the Mid-Conn Region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ◆ The Mid-Conn Towns should jointly investigate a long-term (5-year to 7-year) agreement for processing recyclables. The market for recyclables processing is similar to the market for disposal, and market solutions should be explored for both dual stream and single stream processing.
- ◆ Mid-Conn Towns should obtain full control of recycling collection, through either public or contract collection. Only with municipal control will the Towns have a chance to achieve significantly higher recycling rates.
- ◆ Explore volume-based pricing, which gives a financial incentive to residents to recycle. This will require many Towns to reconfigure their solid waste revenue mechanisms.

ES 6. CONCLUSION

Despite the apparently daunting challenges that lay ahead, in reality the Mid-Conn Region has numerous opportunities to improve waste management for its Towns. Doing so will require commitment to several basic principles:

- ◆ **Control and Accountability Leads to Optimization:** From an organizational standpoint, establishing a Mid-Conn solid waste management entity that is directly accountable to the Mid-Conn Towns and also has the organizational control (charter and mission, management and technical expertise, procurement power, financial flexibility) to optimize the system will win out over all other options towards serving the Towns' financial and service needs within the context of the Connecticut SWMP.
- ◆ **Bigger is Better:** The more Towns willing to bundle their waste flows or customer bases prior to procuring a service, the better the resulting proposals will be.
- ◆ **Use Market Forces:** The Northeast region private market has evolved sufficiently such that there are multiple qualified, financially secure vendors that are capable of providing any of the transfer, transportation, disposal, or processing needs of the entire Mid-Conn Region. This market should be leveraged to provide the Towns with a true picture of the best available pricing for various services.

Despite the current disposal contracts not expiring until 2012, the Mid-Conn Region should initiate the decision making process immediately to provide sufficient lead time to enact the recommendation contained in this report. There will almost certainly be unforeseen obstacles, so longer lead time is appropriate.

**PRELIMINARY INTEREST COMMITMENT FORM:
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY**

Your signature below:

(1) indicates your municipality's preliminary interest in the formation of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA);

(2) indicates your municipality's agreement to pay a fee of \$500 to the CCSWA to help pay the professional fees necessary to draft a model ordinance which your municipality would then adopt if it decided to become a member of the authority as well as other costs of creating the authority; and

(3) indicates your municipality's commitment to:

- (a) review the final draft documents establishing the CCSWA; and
- (b) take appropriate municipal action to join this authority if such action is determined to be in the municipality's best interest.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Position _____

Municipality _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____ Fax # _____

E-Mail Address _____

**Please fax this form back to Jennifer March-Wackers' attention at (860) 724-1274
no later than Friday November 2, 2009.**

Please call with any questions (860-522-2217, ext. 239) or email
jwackers@crcog.org.

SAMPLE

Note: Please take out blanks and insert appropriate information. You may copy and paste the sample into a format more appropriate for your municipality.

Support Resolution Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority

WHEREAS the municipalities constituting the Mid-Connecticut Project have been researching solutions for long-term solid waste disposal when their contract with the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority expires in 2012; and

WHEREAS other municipalities in the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials and elsewhere have expressed interest in joining efforts with the Mid-Connecticut Project municipalities to find long-term solid waste disposal solutions; and

WHEREAS the Capitol Region Council of Governments has performed a regional solid waste options analysis and successfully tested the presence of alternatives in the private market through a Request for Information for Integrated Regional Solid Waste Management Services covering Transfer, Transportation, Disposal and Processing/ Recycling Services; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments Executive Committee has authorized CRCOG staff to facilitate the forming of a solid waste management authority to represent municipalities interested in conducting an RFP and negotiating for long-term solid waste disposal services; and

WHEREAS the Town of _____ has expressed preliminary interest in taking part in the solid waste authority formed by the Capitol Region Council of Governments, the "Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Town Council does hereby preliminarily endorse the above referenced Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority and authorizes the _____ (*chief administrator, i.e. town manager, first selectman, etc.*) to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow the Town to pay a fee of \$500 to help defray the professional fees necessary to draft a model ordinance which the Town would then adopt if it decided to become a member of the Authority, as well as other costs of creating the Authority.