



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 17, 2011**

The Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Council (“MAC”) held a regular meeting on August 17, 2011, at the CRRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, Connecticut. In attendance were:

<b><u>Town</u></b>	<b><u>First Name</u></b>	<b><u>Last Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title/Proxy</u></b>
Avon	Richard	Barlow	Proxy for Town Manager Brandon Robertson
Barkhamsted	<b>Donald</b>	<b>Stein</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>
Bloomfield	William	Hogan	Proxy for Town Manager Louie Chapman
Bolton	Joyce	Stille	Proxy for First Selectman Robert R. Morra
Canton	<b>Richard</b>	<b>Barlow</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>
Chester	Timothy	Griswold	Proxy for First Selectman Tom Marsh
Clinton	Timothy	Griswold	Proxy for First Selectman William Fritz
Deep River	Timothy	Griswold	Proxy for First Selectman Richard Smith
East Granby	<b>James</b>	<b>Hayden</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>
Enfield	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Coppler</b>	<b>Town Manager</b>
Farmington	Richard	Barlow	Proxy for Town Manager Kathleen Eagen
Glastonbury	Michael	Bisi	Proxy for Town Manager Richard Johnson
Granby	<b>John</b>	<b>Adams</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>
Haddam	Ralph	Eno	Proxy for First Selectman Paul DeStefano
Harwinton	<b>Frank</b>	<b>Chiaramonte</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>
Hebron	<b>Bonnie</b>	<b>Therrien</b>	<b>Town Manager</b>
Killingworth	<b>Catherine</b>	<b>Iino</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>
Litchfield	Donald	Stein	Proxy for First Selectman Leo Paul
Lyme	<b>Ralph</b>	<b>Eno</b>	<b>First Selectman</b>
Manchester	Brooks	Parker	Proxy for Town Manager Scott Shanley
Middlefield	Ralph	Eno	Proxy for First Selectman Jon Brayshaw
Naugatuck	Sheila	Baummer	Proxy for Mayor Robert Mezzo
New Hartford	Donald	Stein	Proxy for First Selectman Dan Jerram
Norfolk	Donald	Stein	Proxy for First Selectman Susan Dyer
Old Saybrook	Timothy	Griswold	Proxy for First Selectman Michael Pace
Rocky Hill	Larrye	deBear	Proxy for Town Manager Barbara Gilbert
Salisbury	Ralph	Eno	Proxy for First Selectman Curtis Rand
Sharon	Ralph	Eno	Proxy for First Selectman Robert Loucks
Torrington	<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Bingham</b>	<b>Mayor, M-CPMAC Chairman</b>
Waterbury	Timothy	Griswold	Proxy for Mayor Michael Jarjura
Westbrook	Timothy	Griswold	Proxy for First Selectman Noel Bishop
Wethersfield	<b>Jeff</b>	<b>Bridges</b>	<b>Town Manager</b>
Winchester	Donald	Stein	Proxy for Town Manager Dale Martin
Windsor Locks	John	Adams	<b>Proxy for First Selectman Steven Wawruck</b>

**CRRA MANAGEMENT ATTENDEES:**

Paul Nonnenmacher, Director of Public Affairs, CRRA Liaison  
James P. Bolduc, Chief Financial Officer (arrived at 8:50 a.m.)  
Peter W. Egan, Director of Operations & Environmental Affairs (arrived at 9 a.m.)  
Marianne L. Carcio, Executive Assistant  
Tracy Persico, Brown Rudnick

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:**

John Pizzimenti, USA Hauling & Recycling  
Susan Hemenway, Bristol Resources Recovery Facility Operating Committee  
James Sandler, Sandler & Mara  
Cheryl Thibeault, Covanta Energy

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Municipal Advisory Committee **Chairman Ryan Bingham** called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Mr. Nonnenmacher** called the roll and announced that 36 members were in attendance or represented with valid proxies, and thus a quorum was present.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Ms. Therrien** moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2011, meeting. **Mr. Eno** seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with **Ms. Baummer** abstaining.

**Ms. Therrien** moved to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2011, meeting. **Mr. Eno** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. MID-CONNECTICUT PROJECT UPDATE**

**Mr. Nonnenmacher** said that since President Thomas Kirk was unavailable today and Mr. Egan has been delayed, he asked to begin with the tonnage reports. He said garbage deliveries continue to decline, down about 1 to 2 percent between fiscal 2010 and 2011, a bit less of a decline compared to the previous year. He said recyclables continue to increase, and the Mid-Connecticut Project had its fifth straight increase in recyclable tonnages across the Project. He congratulated everyone for the job well done on recycling and said the work the towns are doing is paying off. He said towns saved about \$5 million to \$6 million in aggregate last year in disposal fees that the towns did not have to pay just by recycling.

He continued to say that garbage is down primarily because of the economy, though in the Mid-Connecticut Project the increased tons in recycling almost corresponds on a one to one basis with the tons lost in garbage, which may be a reason for the impact as well.

**Mr. Nonnenmacher** offered to take questions regarding tonnages or that section of the report.

There being none, **Mr. Nonnenmacher** continued with the Finance and Variance Report. He said the report shows the books closed through May 31, with another month to go, but the projection on an 11-months-plus-one-month basis shows a relatively small surplus of about \$1.5 million out of a \$100 million budget, which is a little less than 1.5 percent. He said management will continue to watch expenses quite carefully in the coming year.

**Mr. Nonnenmacher** briefly reviewed the Operational Summaries. He said CRRA is processing more garbage than has been the case in a long time. A number of improvements have been made in the last several months to the plant which has been discussed previously which help the efficiency of the plant. One improvement being worked on now is an over-fire air system, which, he understands, helps the efficiency of the plant and has made it possible to process more garbage which helps defray CRRA's fixed costs; ultimately a benefit to the project there.

**Mr. Nonnenmacher** then encouraged everyone to visit the Trash Museum if they haven't already.

**Mr. Barlow** questioned the amount of "unscheduled tube repair time" in the Operational Summaries report. He said there was quite a bit in July of 2010 and November 2010 and asked whether any progress was being made on the unscheduled time. **Mr. Nonnenmacher** said he knows work is being done to replace the old boiler tubes with tubes that are coated with a new alloy and Operations personnel are pleased with the new alloy so far. He added the boiler tubes are always under extreme pressure just by the nature of what they do, and the engineers are confident that the new alloy is going to be a big help.

## **7. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MID-CONNECTICUT PROJECT MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman Bingham** suggested moving on to this item until Mr. Egan arrives.

**Mr. Barlow** asked whether CRRA would post a list of signees on its website. **Mr. Nonnenmacher** said a number of MSAs have been signed. CRRA has made a number of presentations to a number of towns explaining the different options, and that town officials have said the presentations have been helpful. He asked for feedback on the presentations, with feedback being helpful as CRRA continues to visit towns.

**Mr. Griswold** thanked CRRA for coming to Old Lyme on two occasions and said everyone was impressed by the completeness of the presentation. He said his town's only alternative was Covanta and they couldn't offer a destination for the garbage. No clear commitment from them.

**Mr. Nonnenmacher** advised that CRRA is making a presentation to the CCSWA on Thursday morning where they will outline the MSAs including the new Tier IV Agreement that is being offered to the CCSWA towns.

**Mr. Adams** asked who makes the decision for CRRA to send Freedom of Information requests to member towns and whether Mr. (Thomas) Kirk who does that. **Mr. Nonnenmacher** said he could not

answer who makes those decisions and added that he reports to Mr. Kirk who reports to the Board of Directors.

**Ms. Therrien** asked for a status of CRRA's intervention into the Nutmeg Road Recycling permit modification being considered by the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection ("DEEP"). She asked for the background and rationale for CRRA's involvement. **Mr. Nonnenmacher** said Peter Egan would be able to address that upon his arrival, but his understanding is that CRRA is concerned about an inherent conflict with the state's solid waste plan and Nutmeg Road Recycling's plans. The state Solid Waste Management Plan specifically says that there is a lack of capacity for disposal of construction and demolition ("C&D") material in Connecticut, but what Nutmeg Road Recycling wants to do is take some of that C&D capacity and convert it to use for municipal solid waste, which would exacerbate what DEEP has already identified as a problem.

**Ms. Therrien** asked whether that was something in which the CRRA Board would get involved. **Mr. Nonnenmacher** said that could have been a Board decision but that he could not be the final authority on that answer.

**Mr. Barlow** said that as the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (of which he is chairman) towns looked at options it became obvious that another vendor had offered a higher rate for recyclables than the \$5-per-ton rebate CRRA has given towns over the last several years. He said that vendor is a for-profit company and asks why it can give a higher rebate or cash value for recyclables than CRRA has been able to do. He asked whether CRRA uses that money to hold down trash disposal fees or to pay for central-office expenses. He would like an explanation of why the towns are not seeing a return on the ton charges. He said the other vendor is offering \$22.50 per ton for recyclables as opposed to CRRA's \$5 and making a profit.

**Mr. Nonnenmacher** said that if you look at the total picture they are also charging the towns \$6 or \$7 a ton more for MSW than CRRA is going to charge. **Mr. Barlow** said he wants to look at it purely from the recycling issue. He asks whether it is the policy of CRRA to use some of the profits that are gained from the recyclables to lower the trash tip fee, and if that is the case full disclosure would dictate the towns should know that.

**Mr. Bolduc** said this is not correct continuing that the assumption that there is a subsidy. He said 100 percent of the recycling net dollars go back as a rebate. He said that as to why the private sector will pay more for recyclables, he suspects the vendor is doing one of two things: using recycling as a loss-leader to get CCSWA towns' business or cross-subsidizing recycling with the trash tip fee. Private vendors do not have the costs of transporting recyclables from transfer stations that CRRA has.

**Mr. Barlow** asks what CRRA gets on average per ton for recyclables. **Mr. Bolduc** responds that he does not have exact numbers. He said it varies all over that FCR markets it out through the contract. **Mr. Barlow** said that he thought there were long term markets. **Mr. Bolduc** explained that there was a revenue share. **Mr. Barlow** said he would like to know the value per ton.

## **5. MID-CONNECTICUT PROJECT UPDATE (continued)**

**Mr. Egan** arrived and, at the request of **Chairman Bingham**, completed this item. He said that in the Metropolitan District ("MDC")'s lawsuit against CRRA over CRRA's selection of a contractor to operate the trash-to-energy plant, trial was completed in May, briefs and reply briefs had been filed and

CRRA expects a favorable ruling soon. He said regardless of the outcome there would be no interruption of service.

With regard to MDC's seeking arbitration over its claim for end-of-contract costs, **Mr. Egan** said the two sides are still arguing over the selection of members of the arbitration panel. **Mr. Stein** asked whether CRRA had reserved money for those costs. **Mr. Bolduc** said it was curious that MDC is seeking more than \$32 million in end-of-contract costs but only had an \$8.5 million receivable for those costs on its books. He said management is still discussing with the CRRA Board whether to reserve any funds for this matter, but CRRA's lawyers have advised that those costs are not a CRRA liability. He went on to explain that MDC has an unfunded pension liability.

**Mr. Egan** said that, in regard to Ms. Therrien's question about Nutmeg Road Recycling, the CRRA Board decided to intervene because of the proposal's inconsistency with the state Solid Waste Management Plan.

**Mr. Egan** said that, in response to Mr. Barlow's question, CRRA has received signed MSAs from eight towns – Rocky Hill, Norfolk, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, North Canaan and Torrington. In addition, the Bloomfield Town Council had authorized the signing of an MSA. **Mr. Nonnenmacher** added that in a number of other towns, CRRA had been recommended by officials in those towns.

**Mr. Hogan** asked what types of MSAs towns have signed. **Mr. Egan** said all have been Tier 1 long-term MSAs.

**Ms. Baummer** asked about the deadline for signing new MSAs. **Mr. Egan** said CRRA cannot compel a town to sign by a certain date, but on October 1 CRRA will begin offering MSAs to non-CRRA towns.

## 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Mr. Egan** said he had a brief president's report in place of Mr. Kirk. He said there has been some leakage of trash, leading to lower tonnage figures, and that the trash-to-energy plant is running extremely well due to the upgrades CRRA has made in the past few years.

## 7. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS (continued)

**Mr. Barlow** asked whether the reduction in down-time of the plant was due to replacement of water-wall tubes. **Mr. Egan** said it was and added the plant is also generating less carbon monoxide because fuel is being combusted more completely.

**Mr. Adams** asked who decides whether CRRA will submit Freedom of Information requests to CRRA towns. **Mr. Egan** said it would depend on the circumstances, but in the case of requests related to the Nutmeg Road Recycling permit modification the requests came from CRRA lawyers.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Chairman Bingham** offered members of the public the opportunity to comment. None spoke.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Adams moved to adjourn. Mr. Bridges seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Nonnenmacher  
Director of Public Affairs  
CRRA Liaison