



## **Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee Special Meeting December 10, 2009 Draft Minutes**

A special telephonic meeting of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee was held December 10, 2009, at the CRRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford. Those present were:

Committee members: Donald S. Stein  
Richard J. Barlow  
Melody A. Currey (present by telephone)  
Susan M. McMullen  
Thomas D. Kirk  
Peter W. Egan  
Alan J. Desmarais (present by telephone)  
David B. Damer

CRRA staff: Marianne Carcio  
Paul Nonnenmacher  
Michael R. Bzdyra  
Ronald Gingerich

Absent were:

Committee members: Steven N. Wawruck Jr.  
Timothy C. Griswold

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m.

By consensus of those present, agenda items were taken out of order to accommodate members who may need to leave early due to previous commitments.

### **6. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Those present discussed possible meeting dates and agreed that meetings would be scheduled to follow meetings of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), since four Committee members are members of CRCOG and CRCOG holds its monthly meetings in the Board Room at the Trash Museum.

Those present agreed that meetings will be scheduled for the Board Room at the Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 27, 2010  
Wednesday, February 24, 2010  
Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Wednesday, April 28, 2010  
Wednesday, May 26, 2010  
Wednesday, June 23, 2010  
Wednesday, July 28, 2010  
Wednesday, August 25, 2010  
Wednesday, September 22, 2010  
Wednesday, October 27, 2010

*According to Section 22a-268f of the Connecticut General Statutes, under which the Special Committee is formed, its work must be completed by November 15, 2010.*

#### **4. REVIEW OF CRRA PLANNING ACTIVITIES TO DATE**

Mr. Gingerich discussed the process through which CRRA is selecting one or more contractors to operate the Mid-Connecticut Project trash-to-energy facility after its current operating contracts expire in 2011.

Mr. Desmarais left the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Mr. Gingerich went on to describe two business models contemplated in the Request for Bids through which new contracts will be awarded:

- A management-fee option in which CRRA employees are the top managers at the facility and the contractor(s) and CRRA assumes the risk of running the facility.
- An executive agreement in which the contractor or contractors assume all the risk and retain all the revenue, with CRRA retaining ownership of the facility and has a fixed amount of capacity at the best price offered by the contractor(s).

Mr. Desmarais returned to the meeting by telephone at 12:44 p.m.

Mr. Egan informed the Committee that CRRA is preparing new Municipal Service Agreements (MSAs) which would be distributed to Mid-Connecticut Project cities and towns in 2010. Mr. Kirk pointed out that the new MSAs, unlike the current MSAs, will not require minimum commitments or the full faith and credit of the participating cities and towns.

Mr. Egan discussed two potential enhancements to the trash-to-energy operation CRRA is considering:

- Baling and shrink-wrapping of refuse-derived fuel (RDF), which would enable CRRA to store RDF when there may be more trash than the facility can handle and use the RDF when CRRA might need to discount its rates to attract trash when deliveries drop due to seasonal fluctuations. This would reduce export costs while insuring all trash is delivered at full price, thus producing a lower overall net cost of operation.
- Anaerobic digestion of process residue. Currently, material which cannot be burned to generate electricity is shipped to a landfill at a cost to CRRA, but anaerobic digestion could produce energy from process residue, generating additional revenue while lowering costs of transportation and disposal of process residue.

Mr. Egan outlined options for management of ash residue from the trash-to-energy facility. He explained that CRRA is preparing to solicit bids for long-term contracts to transport and dispose of the ash, and investigating the feasibility of amending the ash so it could be used in construction materials.

Mr. Egan said that CRRA will continue to renew contracts with private haulers.

Mr. Egan said FCR's contract to operate the Mid-Connecticut Project recycling facility runs until 2015, but CRRA may end the contract early should circumstances make such action necessary.

#### **3. INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Committee members discussed whether a report on new technologies for waste disposal should be the subject of a future Committee meeting. Mr. Desmarais requested that CRRA prepare a summary of a report on new technologies for distribution to the Committee.

Mr. Stein left the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Mr. Nonnenmacher said that CRRA has asked the staff of the General Assembly's Committee on Program Review and Investigations to attend a future Committee meeting and discuss its report on the solid waste system.

Mr. Stein returned to the room at 1:25 p.m.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Stein moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Nonnenmacher  
Director of Public Affairs