



**Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee
Regular Meeting
September 22, 2010, 2 p.m.
CRRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford
Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Review minutes of June 23, 2010, meeting (see attached draft minutes)
4. Discussion of draft report to CRRA Board of Directors as required by Sec. 22a-268f of the Connecticut General Statutes on “options for disposing of solid waste from (Mid-Connecticut Project) municipalities after the expiration of (the Mid-Connecticut Project) contract.”
 - a. Possible adoption of report and submittal to the CRRA Board of Directors (see attached resolution)
5. Discussion of future activities of Special Committee and announcement of next meeting date
6. Other business
7. Adjournment

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2 p.m., CRRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford



Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee June 23, 2010 DRAFT Minutes

A meeting of the Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee was held June 23, 2010, at the CRRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. In attendance:

Committee members: Melody A. Currey
Richard J. Barlow
Thomas D. Kirk
Peter W. Egan
David B. Damer
Donald S. Stein

CRRA staff: Marianne Carcio
Paul Nonnenmacher
Ronald Gingerich

Public: Karen Weeks, Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee
John Pizzimenti, USA Hauling & Recycling
James Sandler, The Metropolitan District

Absent were Committee members Susan M. McMullen, Steven N. Wawruck Jr., Timothy C. Griswold and Alan J. Desmarais.

After attendance was recorded, those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2010, MEETING

No Committee member requested any changes to the minutes.

Mr. Barlow then announced that he had been selected interim chairman of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority and asked anyone concerned this could cause a conflict of interest with his duties on the Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee to bring it to his attention. Mr. Nonnenmacher offered to pose the question to Laurie Hunt, CRRA Director of Legal Affairs.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT REPORT TO CRRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS REQUIRED BY SEC. 22A-268F OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES ON "OPTIONS FOR DISPOSING OF SOLID WASTE FROM (MID-CONNECTICUT PROJECT) MUNICIPALITIES AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF (THE MID-CONNECTICUT PROJECT) CONTRACT."

Mr. Nonnenmacher introduced the draft report, describing the statute that requires the report and how the report meets those requirements. (Note: Because the report is a preliminary draft, it is not yet ready for distribution as a public document. The final version will be posted on CRRA's website and made available to anyone requesting it.)

Mr. Kirk then led a page-by-page description of the report, pointing out the work the Committee did in each of the areas discussed in the report.

Mr. Barlow discussed whether the Committee should make any conclusions in the report. He said that until someone puts out a request for proposals, the Committee cannot draw any definite conclusions about which option may be preferable to others, and that perhaps the Committee can recommend that none of the new technologies the Committee studied is ready to pursue.

Mr. Stein suggested an executive summary be added to the report. He agreed with Mr. Barlow's statement about new technologies, pointing out that Mid-Connecticut Project towns aren't ready to do any science projects.

Ms. Currey suggested a re-wording of the phrase "keep these facilities at maximum efficiency" on Page 5 of the draft report and questioned a reference to arbitration panels on Page 7. Mr. Kirk said CRRA would check with legal counsel on that reference.

Mr. Egan noted there may have been a question about whether the report has taken a broad enough look at private-sector options and said he believes the Legislative Program Review & Investigations (PR&I) Committee report, sections of which are incorporated into the Special Committee draft report, adequately analyzed those options. Mr. Nonnenmacher said he would seek information on the legislative record of Sec. 22a-268f to determine the legislature's intent.

DISCUSSION OF TOWNS' FEEDBACK ON DRAFT RENEWAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENT

Mr. Kirk reported CRRA received many well-thought out comments from towns. He noted that many towns' comments referenced the Mid-Atlantic Solid Waste Consultants (MSWC) review of the MSA.

Mr. Barlow asked how long the contracts for operating the trash-to-energy plant will run. Mr. Gingerich said the contracts will run for 10 years. Mr. Kirk said CRRA should be able to have disposal-fee projections for 10 years as a result.

Mr. Kirk said CRRA would find a way to provide bulky-waste disposal if enough cities and towns want it, but noted that CRRA's prices for some services may not be competitive.

Ms. Currey said towns pretty much across the board have agreed to respectfully request that CRRA push back its deadlines for signing MSAs. Mr. Kirk said CRRA is looking into whether that can be done, adding CRRA may be able to move the deadline for signing a Tier 2 MSA but might not have that flexibility with the Tier 1 MSA.

Mr. Damer asked whether CRRA has a model flow-control ordinance to provide to the towns. Mr. Kirk said legal counsel is preparing a model ordinance. In response to questions about the enforcement provisions of the MSA, Mr. Kirk described CRRA's enforcement efforts would mean the towns' role would be reduced.

Mr. Barlow asked whether CRRA would help towns decide on a minimum-commitment figure. Mr. Gingerich said CRRA would rely on historical delivery trends and would make allowances for towns that increase their recycling. There ensued a substantial discussion about minimum-commitment figures.

Continuing to other points raised by towns, Mr. Gingerich noted CRRA's budget process has been adjusted so that CRRA will finalize its disposal fees earlier so towns can have that information as soon as they act on their budgets. Mr. Damer suggested a meeting of the Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee to discuss towns' ideas on the budget process.

Ms. Currey asked whether CRRA would ask any follow-up questions of towns that submitted feedback. Mr. Nonnenmacher responded that CRRA would do that where it makes sense.

Mr. Barlow asked about pricing for delivery to Mid-Connecticut Project transfer stations. Mr. Kirk said CRRA has a pro-forma which includes a \$3-per ton surcharge for towns that deliver to Project transfer stations and noted that a postage-stamp system would raise the disposal fee by \$1 per ton for all users.

The Committee agreed to revisit the MSWC report at a subsequent meeting.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT TIER 2 MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENT

Mr. Kirk began discussing the draft Tier 2 MSA and making comparisons with the Tier 1 MSA.

He said CRRA can be more flexible with the term of a Tier 2 MSA.

Mr. Barlow left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

On the matter of surpluses, Mr. Kirk warned CRRA may need to accrue reserves for capital expenditures and other items and that in the first few years after the Mid-Connecticut Project expires the system will be very cash-poor. He said reserves accrued earlier would defray expenses, thus mitigating disposal fees, later.

Mr. Damer asked whether management had considered bonding to raise reserve funds. Mr. Kirk said CRRA cannot sell bonds without the towns' pledging their full faith and credit, something he believed would not happen. Ms. Currey asked whether CRRA will retain the right to sell bonds. Mr. Kirk said CRRA will be able to bond, but any bonding would need approval of the state Treasurer.

Mr. Gingerich said management expects to have a revised draft of the Tier 1 MSA and a draft Tier 2 MSA ready for distribution on July 1. The Committee then discussed the scheduling and location of informational workshops to answer more questions about the MSAs.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The Special Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28. Management agreed to provide Committee members with a revision of the draft report in advance of that meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Currey asked whether CRRA had clarified the question of whether the Mid-Connecticut Project system could be sold to another entity. Mr. Kirk said state statutes require CRRA to retain management of the system. He said there is concern the legislature could change the law and sell the system, raising cash to help the state's budget problems, CRRA's position is public ownership of the system is the best way for the system to benefit the public, so the system is not for sale. Ms. Currey said CRRA should make its position clearer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Nonnenmacher
Director of Public Affairs

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE REPORT OF THE MID-CONNECTICUT
PROJECT SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO THE CONNECTICUT RESOURCES
RECOVERY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, Section 22a-268f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires the Connecticut Resources Recovery Board of Directors to establish a special committee to study options for disposing of solid waste from Mid-Connecticut Project municipalities after the expiration of the Mid-Connecticut Project contracts and

WHEREAS, the CRRA Board of Directors created this Special Committee by resolution on October 29, 2009, and

WHEREAS, since the Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee held its first meeting on December 10, 2009, it has studied future waste disposal options and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee has prepared a report on future waste disposal options, and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee is required by statute to deliver its report to the CRRA Board by November 15, 2010, now

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee adopts the Report of the Mid-Connecticut Project Special Committee to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Board of Directors and transmits said Report to the CRRA Board of Directors for its adoption.