

Draft

MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 16, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Members and Guests

Peter Souza, Chair
Barbara Gilbert
Bill Taylor
Steven Wawruck
Robert Skinner
Joyce Stille
Bonnie Therrien
Blythe Robinson
Geoff McAlmond
Peter Graczykowski
Jeff Hallin
Michael LaPorte
Arthur Rothschild
David Holmes
Mark Dancy
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Maureen Barton
Jennifer March-Wackers
Jocelyn Mathiasen
Lyle Wray

Town

Windsor
Rocky Hill
East Hartford
Windsor Locks
Canton
Bolton
Wethersfield
Avon
Enfield
Vernon
Hartford
WasteZero
WasteZero
WasteZero
WasteZero
CRCOG
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CRCOG

Chairperson Peter Souza called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Barbara Gilbert made and Bonnie Therrien seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of the April 21, 2009 meetings. The motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

2. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: PAY-AS-YOU-THROW

Mark Dancy from WasteZero gave an overview of his company's Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program. There are a number of ways PAYT can be implemented, but the basic program is that WasteZero manufactures and distributes garbage bags in various sizes, printed with the participating municipalities logo and instructions. The effectiveness of PAYT depends on metering, implementation, and ways to price and share benefits. The most successful PAYT programs reinforce good behavior from residents, include high quality materials and support, are implemented quickly at minimal or no cost, straightforward to manage, have immediate and measurable results, are financially viable for the long-term, and support the communities environmental and economic objectives. The average reduction in waste for

participating communities according to WasteZero is 43%. Towns can garner revenue from the sale of the bags, and WasteZero collects .20 cents per bag.

Several questions were asked about ways to implement the program in communities with no curbside pickup. Mr. Dancy said that unless the town licenses the private haulers, it's hard to implement under those circumstances. He stated that getting residents to adopt the price per bag concept requires public relations. Some towns do not use the program to generate revenue, instead they rebate the cost of the bags back to residents. There was a discussion about the difficulty of selling this kind of program in New England, where people think of garbage as being free.

3. PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

The Service Sharing Steering Committee met earlier in the day, and Jennifer March-Wackers stated she would e-mail updates on all the Regional Performance Incentive Grant programs. On June 3, 2009, the RFI for Solid Waste was released, and will open on July 8, after which Ms. March-Wackers hopes to establish an RFP. The committee working on the project are looking to evaluate what options are available as well as governing mechanisms. Ms. March-Wackers, CRCOG Executive Director Lyle Wray and several of the CRCOG Solid Waste Work Group members met with Program Review and Investigations Committee staff, which has expanded the scope of their Municipal Solid Waste ownership study to all aspects of Municipal Solid Waste Management. There will be a briefing of the study results in the fall and a final version in September.

The Service Sharing Steering Committee talked about allocation funds. Due to interest money and funds from some projects that may not be used, there are some unallocated funds available. OPM asked CRCOG to propose how we allocate those funds. Jocelyn Mathiasen stated that the committee will be sticking to the principles that were established when applying for the grant money. The first priority is to make sure all projects succeed.

Ms. March-Wackers also reported that there are energy efficiency community block grants available for entitlement communities. There is a \$9.5 million pot of money, and there will be per capita allocations. There is a bonus pool of money for regional programs. If your municipality is receiving Federal money, you can participate in the bonus pool applications. One viable project that was already raised was for fleet and alternative fuel vehicles, including a studying fuel stations and ideal locations for fuel stations. CRCOG will put together a short paragraph for any suggestions, and will help write the proposal, but CRCOG cannot submit.

4. MUNICIPAL INFORMATION SHARING AND OTHER BUSINESS

Lyle Wray shared that he viewed a demo of some Performance Management Software in Orlando. It was Excel based, flexible, and including goal tracking. Some committee members expressed interest in getting together over the summer to view a demo of this software. More information will be forthcoming.

Jennifer March-Wackers and the rest of committee also offered thanks and

congratulations to Bonnie Therrien, who will be retiring from her position as Town Manager for the Town of Wethersfield on July 31, 2009.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peter Souza adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.