



**Connecticut Product Stewardship Council  
Minutes  
April 11, 2017**

**ATTENDEES:** Dan McGowan (Branford), Cheryl Reedy (HRRRA), Jen Heaton-Jones (HRRRA), Tom Metzner (DEEP), Alicea Charamut (CT River Watershed Council), Tom Scelfo (North Branford), Brian Bartram (Northwest Hills), Peg Hall (Consultant), and Tess Zinnes (PSI).

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman D. McGowan at 1:03pm.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

- A. Charaut announced that the Connecticut River Watershed Council changed its name to the Connecticut River Conservancy.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Motion by:** C. Reedy, second by T. Metzner, to approve the agenda as presented. **Vote:** All members in favor. All passed.

**PRIOR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

**Motion by:** C. Reedy, second by B. Bartram, to approve the March minutes.  
**Vote:** All members in favor.

**FUNDRAISING**

- Fundraising Update
  - T. Zinnes provided the following fundraising updates:
    - The group has raised \$6,000 of its \$7,000 goal. No new funds have been received since the March call. PSI is also still waiting to receive payment for several previously submitted invoices.
    - PSI sent D. McGowan an updated version of the Chair Fundraising Appeal Letter, which appeals to Connecticut local governments to reserve funds in their next budget to financially support CT PSC.
      - D. McGowan recommended tweaking the letter to request funds that haven't been assigned yet during the current fiscal year since it is too late to add items to FY18 budgets.
      - C. Reedy suggested that members request that surplus funds from local hauler registration be used towards CTPSC membership.
      - P. Hall recommended making calls instead of sending out a letter.
  - D. McGowan announced that Mark Bobman (Bristol Facility Policy Board) is willing to provide membership funding.
- **Next Steps:**
  - **D. McGowan** will send T. Zinnes contact information for the Town of Woodbridge.
  - **D. McGowan** will contact John DiCarlo (Naugatuck COG) for membership funding.

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- **D. McGowan** will revise the Chair Fundraising Appeal Letter and send the letter to the group for comments.
- **PSI** will follow up with D. McGowan to ensure that the Bristol Facility Policy Board becomes a CTPSC member.
- **PSI** will assess whether special pricing can be made available for new members that join CTPSC in the midst of their fiscal year, in particular, offering a 13-14 month membership for those who can pay the standard, population-based PSI membership dues now to take effect from receipt of payment through 6/30/18. This approach may be more effective due to the timing of government agency budgets.

#### **CTPSC LETTERHEAD**

- M. Mador is cleaning up the CTPSC contacts list to identify the group's current list of members. The member list will be incorporated into the letterhead.

#### **Next Steps:**

- **J. Heaton-Jones, D. McGowan, and M. Mador** will finalize the letterhead.

#### **PRIORITY AREAS**

- Pharmaceuticals:
  - C. Reedy provided updates on GL 5077, which is *not* a product stewardship bill since it allows the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to accept unused prescription drugs. However, this bill would allow for retail pharmacy collection, which is a first step to attaining EPR. The bill is still on the House calendar, but a date has yet to be selected for a hearing.

- Relevant links include:

- [Amended pharmaceuticals bill](#)
- [Fiscal note for amended bill](#)
- [Report from the General Law Committee](#)

#### **Next Steps:**

- If the bill moves, **C. Reedy** will send out a link to CTPSC Members urging them to contact their representatives and senators in support of the bill.
- Framework legislation:
  - T. Metzner provided an update on the framework legislation:
    - The framework bill language was amended and is evolving into a packaging EPR bill. The Packaging Task Force will not support EPR. Clear messaging is the challenge since it isn't clear if the bill is a framework or packaging bill. It is unlikely that a framework bill can move forward, but there is more potential with a packaging bill.
    - The Packaging Task Force was established by legislation in 2016 to increase strategies for package recycling. April 20<sup>th</sup> is currently scheduled for a meeting that will allow municipalities to present their perspective to the Task Force. Municipalities will be asked to state how much they pay for recycling and any suggestions they have to minimize the quantity of packaging entering the waste stream. T. Metzner reached out to several towns for recycling cost data. A packaging EPR bill would save millions of dollars per year for municipalities. Municipalities are encouraged to attend the meeting, which may be rescheduled for a later date.

#### **Next Steps:**

- **T. Metzner** will send D. McGowan and PSI the Task Force meeting information with the hopes of encouraging more municipalities to attend the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Tires:
  - T. Metzner provided several updates on the tire bill. The bill started as tire EPR bill and had a good hearing. However, the bill became a study bill/licensing bill. The bill is now out of committee and has re-emerged, after a vote on the floor, with its original EPR language. This amendment is thanks to Rep. Ritter. The session ends the second week of June and the bill will likely encounter pushback from lobbyists. Unlike most lobbyists, Carol Hughes (a lobbyist for a rubber manufacturer) is in favor of the bill.
  - A. Charamut shared updates from a meeting she attended with the League of Conservation Voters and other environmental groups. She asked those meeting attendees to call those representatives and senators that have previously supported tire EPR to remind them to actively support the tire bill.

#### Next Steps:

- If a CTPSC member's representatives and senators previously supported tire EPR, CTPSC members are encouraged to call them to support the bill. (To determine whether your representative and senator supports tire EPR, please refer to the **attached** spreadsheet)
- Bottle Bill:
  - [S.B. 996](#) and [H.B. 5618](#) are two bills that are at odds with one another. One adds a redemption fee and the other replaces the deposit with a fee with funds that go to DEEP for recycling.
  - J. Heaton-Jones met with Lou Burch and Julie Cammarata who will be educating Senator Minor about these two bills. The bill has a fiscal note and will be sent to the Finance Revenue Bond Committee. A coalition is meeting with legislators to align a set of asks, which include increasing the fee to 10 cents. The state could lose \$34 million dollars a year if this opportunity isn't taken. Kennedy supports Handling Fee, but has not come out in support of the Bottle Bill.
  - D. McGowan met with Senator Markley. Senator Markley will reach out to Senator Minor for more information about S.B. 996.

#### Next Steps:

- **Members** should reach out to representatives and senators to urge that they support HB 5618 and oppose SB996
- **J. Heaton-Jones** will send T. Zinnes the Bottle Bill report to share with the group **attached**.
- Paint:
  - T. Metzner and T. Zinnes provided the following updates:
    - PaintCare will fund a dialogue meeting to assuage Senator Minor. The dialogue will identify solutions as to why no retail stores in Connecticut are carrying recycled content paint and why no recycled paint manufacturers have sited their business in the state. Post dialogue next steps include a potential demonstration to show the feasibility of using and selling recycled paint.
    - [S.B. 505](#) (sponsored by Senator Miner, Co-Chair of the Environment Committee) aims to channel some of PaintCare's surplus funds into a study about how to make recycled paint available at retail. Senator Minor has accepted PaintCare's offer to fund a dialogue meeting, organized by PSI, where stakeholders will identify the barriers to creating demand for recycled paint. It is also highly likely that a second phase of the project will include a pilot demonstration. The dialogue meeting will either be held in June or September.
- Smoke detectors:
  - Item skipped.

#### NEXT CALL/ADJOURNMENT

- Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-2pm. The meeting was adjourned by D. McGowan at 2:01 pm.