



**Connecticut Product Stewardship Council
Minutes
February 14, 2017**

ATTENDEES: Brian Bartram (Northwest COG), Dan McGowan (Branford), Marty Mador (Rivers Alliance & Sierra Club), Peg Hall (Consultant), Cheryl Reedy (HRRRA), Jen Heaton-Jones (HRRRA), Janice Ehlemeyer (Lower CT River Valley COG), Tom Metzner (DEEP), Alicea Charamut (CT River Watershed Council), Tom Scelfo (North Branford), Scott Cassel (PSI), and Tess Zinnes (PSI).

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman B. Bartram at 1:04pm.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by: D. McGowan, second by B. Bartram, 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 January minutes with the below amendment. **Vote:** All members in favor.

- Correct the spelling of Jeff Leichtman.

CHAIR APPOINTMENT

- B. Bartram announced his official resignation as Chair, but he will stay on as an active CTPSC member.
- D. McGowan offered to step in as a temporary Chair if offered support by other members. He reminded the group that he recently became Chair of the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition and does not have as much time to dedicate to CTPSC as he would like.
- C. Reedy declined the suggestion to step in as CTPSC Co-Chair, but she will offer support when possible.
- The group voted on making D. McGowan CTPSC Chair from now until June 30th. **Motion by:** J. Heaton-Jones, second by C. Reedy. **Vote:** All members in favor.

CT PSC MEMBERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING

- Recycle CT Innovation proposal
 - T. Zinnes shared the following updates:
 - PSI submitted a proposal for \$10K. Grants will be awarded in April.
 - The proposal focused on building CTPSC's capacity, supporting a state framework policy, and helping to provide more convenient drug take-back locations.
 - The following members were thanked for submitting support letters: Alicea Charamut (CT River Watershed Council), Cheryl Reedy (HRRRA), Marty Mador (Rivers Alliance & Sierra Club), and Lynn Sadosky (North Haven).
 - Several members expressed thanks to P. Hall for placing the proposal opportunity on the group's radar.
- Fundraising update – (attached) *Fundraising overview chart*

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- T. Zinnes updated the group that CTPSC has raised \$4,900 to date. Once SCRRRA submits its \$2,500 pledge, CTPSC will have surpassed its \$7,000 goal for the year, although the group should continue active fundraising to enable PSI to provide more assistance to the group, and especially since PSI's contract ends in June. In June, PSC members should finalize next year's scope of services with PSI, set a new funding target, and assist in fundraising for that amount.
- D. McGowan shared that he conducted fundraising outreach to the Bristol Facility Policy Board's Executive Director. The Board is interested in contributing to the group. There was, however, hesitation about paying more than the \$1,200 membership fee to extend PSI benefits to the Board's member towns since they see an issue of double-payments since these multi-town organizations may have members who are individually paying for CTPSC membership or paying through another multi-town organization. The group offered the following suggestion:
 - P. Hall and D. McGowan recommended that PSI provide basic membership for the group at large, but that local governments could then opt in to a discounted rate through a multi-town organization, if available. Individualizing each town may be easiest. More discussion is needed to outline how such a system would work to make this a viable option.
- B. Bartram shared two fundraising updates:
 - He will be reaching out to Fairfield in the near future.
 - The Northwest Hills Recycling Advisor Committee voted in favor of spending \$1,200 towards CTPSC membership. The COG's Board will meet on February 16th to vote on the final decision.
- S. Cassel mentioned to Alicea that the CT River Watershed Council is not eligible for PSI government membership, but is considered a non-corporate partner from PSI's perspective, and those rates are based on the organization's annual revenue.
- M. Mador encouraged adding an Affiliate Membership to better include NGO into the group.
- PSI Membership Benefits clarification
 - S. Cassel reminded the group that PSI's government memberships are based on population served. Based on this membership dues structure, the Board and staff of a COG would receive PSI Full Membership Benefits for this standard dues rate. To extend the benefits to staff of the individual towns that a COG serves, a multi-town organization would need to contribute more than the suggested dues rate. PSI understands each state is unique and welcomes any suggestions related to the above mentioned challenge of double-payments.

Next Steps:

- PSI will send a copy of the final Recycle CT Innovation proposal that was submitted **(attached)**
- PSI will draft a short fundraising appeal letter requesting that local governments include funds for CTPSC in their budgets. The letter will officially come from Chairman D. McGowan.
- M. Mador will audit the CTPSC Google Groups list, but will leave any deletions to the Chair.
- PSI will send M. Mador its CTPSC email list for comparison.
- PSI will meet to discuss the challenge of double-payments to offer potential solutions on the next call. The group is welcome to email T. Zinnes with ideas.

CTPSC LETTERHEAD

- J. Heaton-Jones sent out a draft revised CTPSC letterhead for the group to consider.
- C. Reedy explained that the letterhead will help legislators understand who CTPSC represents.
- The group discussed the format of the letterhead and whether it should list all members (including individual members).

- D. McGowan recommended including everyone on the letterhead for now.

Next Steps:

- PSI will send a draft of letterhead for the group to comment on (attached).
- J. Heaton-Jones will add “Partners” and “Individuals” to the letterhead.
- J Heaton-Jones, D. McGowan, and M. Mador will decide offline on letterhead next steps.

PRIORITY AREAS

- Pharmaceuticals:
 - PSI drafted testimony on behalf of CTPSC that supported the inclusion of product stewardship elements into the bill. This testimony was previously sent to the group.
 - C. Reedy clarified that most of those who testified against the bill, of which there were 3, objected to the obligatory nature of the bill. There will be a public hearing since two proponents are on the General Law Committee. However, this bill is likely not going to move in 2017.
- Framework legislation:
 - C. Reedy provided the following updates:
 - The Framework Legislation bill does not have a bill number and is not in the Environment Committee yet. Lee Sawyer is unsure if the bill will go into committee this year. Lee Sawyer will let C. Reedy know if a bill number is issued.
 - Battery industry groups and other groups are organizing to oppose the bill.
 - Chairs of committee are reportedly supportive of idea (Senator D’Amico and Senator Minor)
 - T. Metzner pointed out that, if it is introduced, the bill will be a Department bill, not a Governor bill. February 15th is the deadline for bills to be raised in the Environment Committee. M. Mador reminded the group that, if the bill doesn’t appear on the committee’s agenda, then the bill is “dead” unless it is inserted into another bill.
- Tires:
 - S. Cassel thanked B. Bartram for drafting testimony in support of the tires EPR bill on behalf of CTPSC. C. Reedy announced that HRRR also submitted separate testimony. B. Bartram mentioned having technical difficulties in submitting the testimony, but that he received an email confirming receipt.
 - A. Charamut reminded the group that she sent a spreadsheet through the Google Group that lists those who submitted testimony for 2016 and 2017. The second tab on the spreadsheet lists comments from legislators (including those on the Environmental Committee) that answered questions about Tire EPR in the CT League of Conservation Voters pre-election Survey (attached).
 - The group discussed that the spreadsheet shows that many Republicans are willing to support tire EPR. Some legislators, however, said that they need more info. The group agreed that CTPSC should coordinate with others who are in support of the bill. The bill must first get out of Committee before the group makes calls to legislators seeking their support. M. Mador recommended sending more support letters to the Environment Committee.
 - T. Metzner congratulated A. Charamut for a well executed oral testimony. T. Metzner also highlighted compelling testimonies from:
 - New Haven Department of Public Waste official who pointed to 70 cases of illegal dumping in their area.
 - Flexi®-Pave stated that they would site a facility in Connecticut if this bill passed, bringing 100 new recycling jobs.

- Paint:
 - T. Metzner indicated that [SB 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. PaintCare is trying to create a project that satisfies Miner's request. S. Cassel labeled the situation as an opportunity to create the demand for the increased supply of recovered paint, which has the potential to lower paint management costs in the long run. The group agreed that, if the bill gets out of the Environment Committee, CTPSC should contact Rep. James Albis.

- Smoke detectors: (Agenda item was skipped due to time.)

OTHER ITEMS

- No items were raised.

NEXT CALL/ADJOURNMENT

- Tuesday, March 14th from 1-2pm
- The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.