



**Connecticut Product Stewardship Council
Minutes
January 10, 2017**

ATTENDEES: Winston Averill (SCRRRA), Brian Bartram (Northwest COG), Dan McGowan (Branford), Peg Hall (Consultant), Cheryl Reedy (HRRRA), Jen Heaton-Jones (HRRRA), Janice Ehlemeyer (Lower CT River Valley COG), Tom Metzner (DEEP), CJ May (Waterbury), 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 1:05pm.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by: W. Averill, second by B. Bartram, to approve the December minutes with the below amendments.

Vote: All members in favor. **Abstain:** J. Heaton-Jones

- Change "\$2,400" HRRRA payment to "\$2,200" HRRRA payment
- Delete "C. Reedy and L. Vitagliano will contact Ross Bunnell (CT DEEP) regarding pharmaceuticals disposal. They will ask if he can be available for our next call."

CT PSC MEMBERSHIPS + FUNDRAISING

- S. Cassel provided an overview of PSI's fundraising efforts which included several highlights:
 - To date, the PSC has raised \$4,200 out of the \$7,000 goal thanks to membership fees received from HRRRA, Town of Branford, Town of Lebanon, and HazWaste Central. In addition, HRRRA has provided a generous \$1,000 sponsorship on top of its membership fee.
 - PSI has spent a significant amount of time fundraising for the PSC, and would like help from PSC members to keep down costs. However, these calls/outreach have been getting traction.
- W. Averill announced that he is requesting \$2,500 from SCRRRA to cover SCRRRA's membership fee as well as a discounted fee for towns in the region.
- D. McGowan reminded the group that the Bristol Facility Policy Board represents several towns (likely 12-14 towns). B. Bartram raised concern about double-charging some of his towns that fall under the Bristol Facility Policy Board.
- S. Cassel asked the group if they would be interested in having PSI apply on behalf of the CTPSC to the [RecycleCT Innovation Grant](#) (deadline Jan 20th) and proposed several project ideas:
 - Supporting the improvement of CT's mercury thermostats collection law (the state is currently last in New England in terms of collection rate.)
 - Advancing pharmaceutical stewardship.
 - Supporting capacity building through forums for information exchange and the provision of technical assistance (i.e., the general work of the CTPSC).
- T. Metzner did not see the time horizon of the proposal submission in alignment with CT DEEP's upcoming thermostat report recommendations and, therefore, does not see this area as a feasible project.

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- C. Reedy supported the idea of PSI serving as CTPSC’s fiscal sponsor for the grant.
- C. Reedy and P. Hall expressed an interest in PSI helping the CTPSC build capacity for product stewardship, as it is now doing.
- S. Cassel affirmed that PSI would not require extra funding beyond the original \$7,000 membership goal, and PSI could serve as the fiscal sponsor for the grant.

Motion by: C. Reedy, second by W. Averill for PSI to act as CTPSC’s fiscal sponsor and apply to the RecycleCT Innovation Grant to help build capacity for the CT PSC. **Vote:** All members in favor.

Next Steps:

- B. Bartram will propose that his towns provide membership funding at two meetings – on January 31st and February 9th.
- B. Bartram will reach out to the Town of Fairfield and the CT River Estuary COG for membership funding.
- D. McGowan will reach out to the Bristol Facility Policy Board for membership funding.
- W. Averill will look into how to table at the upcoming CRC Annual Meeting to promote CTPSC membership.
- PSI will circulate a draft narrative of the RecycleCT Innovation Grant to B. Bartram and P. Hall for feedback.

STRUCTURE + GOVERNANCE

- S. Cassel asked the group to provide an overview of the PSC’s current structure. Several members outlined the following guidelines: Membership is for those representing a region or a specific municipality. All Members can vote. Partners are non-government entities that cannot vote. Members and Partners are required to sign a CTPSC Letter of Agreement.
- S. Cassel suggested changing the PSC structure to mirror those of NYPSC and VTPSC, which require a payment from Members who want voting rights and a payment from non-government entities seeking to participate on monthly PSC calls.
- P. Hall recommended that the group expand membership first before changing the structure of the PSC. C. Reedy agreed with P. Hall’s suggestion. Several group members agreed that the topic of “Structure and Governance” should be placed on a future agenda once the PSC develops.
- P. Hall asked what the status was on the CTPSC Letter of Agreement to see if the definitions of “EPR” and “product stewardship” have been updated.

Next Steps:

- A. Charamut will inquire whether the CT River Watershed Council is already a PSI partner.
- W. Averill will look into whether there is a newer version of the Letter of Agreement.
- C. Reedy will send PSI a copy of the Letter of Agreement, which PSI will share with the group. (See attachment)

PRIORITY AREAS

- Tires: T. Metzner provided an overview of the tire disposal challenges facing the state:
 - The scrap tire market has stabilized, but scrap tires are stockpiling, particularly in urban areas.
 - Jeff Leichtman, from FlexiPave, told Tom that the company may open a facility in Hartford if the state passes a tire EPR law. This support has gotten Senator Ritter’s attention.
 - DEEP is not championing tire legislation unless a bill is introduced, but views tires as a strong EPR candidate.
 - A. Charamut offered that the CT River Watershed Council could submit legislation as a placeholder. She also mentioned that the League of Conservation Voters placed EPR on its pre-election survey.

- Framework legislation
 - T. Metzner stated that DEEP is supportive of proposing framework legislation through the Governor's Office. B. Bartram shared that he spoke with L. Sawyer (DEEP legislative liaison) who revealed that the bill will be sponsored by the Governor and will go through the Environmental Committee.
- Pharmaceuticals
 - C. Reedy requested that the group discuss the Governor's recent support of at-home drug disposal. The item will be added to the next call agenda to allow for more time to discuss.
- Smoke detectors
 - (Agenda item skipped on this call)

Next Steps:

- B. Bartram will share the framework bill with the group, once received.
- PSI will send the PSC its Maine Framework Legislation and PSI's Rhode Island Framework Legislation Reports. [\(See attachment\)](#)
- C. Reedy will share an article highlighting the Governor's recent support of at-home drug disposal ([article available here](#)).

OTHER ITEMS

- No items were raised.

NEXT CALL

- February 14th from 1-2pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by B. Bartram at 2:03 pm.