

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
August 26, 2019**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on August 26, 2019 at 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

The proceedings were convened at 8:30am.

The following Board members were present: Chair Fred Wadnola, Vice Chair Katherine Beinkafner, Treasurer Charles Landi, Member JoAnne Myers, and Member Lisa Mitten.

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director Tim Rose, Controller Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Safety Charlie Whittaker (arrived at 9:43am), Recycling Coordinator Angelina Peone, Recycling Educator Melinda France, Compliance Officer Tom Briggs, and Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker.

From the public: Daily Freeman Reporter Bill Kemble, Ulster County Legislator Manna Jo Greene, and Mark Swyka and John Giuliano of Cornerstone Environmental Group.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim Rose told the Board that at 9:00am, Judith Enck will be calling into the meeting to discuss her organization, Beyond Plastics. She is also a visiting professor at Bennington College, as well as a former EPA Region 2 administrator, appointed under the Obama administration.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Fred Wadnola stated that he has been in contact with Fawn Tantillo of the Ulster County Legislature to get access to past studies done on landfills in Ulster County.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tim Rose stated that the Agency's next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 8:30am.

Tim Rose added that the Board will be voting on the Agency's draft 2020 budget at the September meeting, and if approved he will hand deliver it to the County Executive's office as well as the Ulster County Legislature for their input. He said that historically there is not much input due to the Agency not asking for money in the form of a net service fee. At the September meeting the Board will also set a

date for a Public Hearing regarding the budget (usually halfway between the September and October meetings). Then at the October meeting, the Board will vote on the final budget.

Charles Landi asked Tim Rose if he has met the new County Executive.

Tim Rose responded that he has not.

Fred Wadnola stated that he and Tim Rose have a meeting with the County Executive tomorrow.

JoAnne Myers asked when the Public Hearing will be.

Tim Rose answered that historically it has been the halfway point between the September and October meetings – which would be Monday, October 7. He added that the Board can schedule it whenever they want.

JoAnne Myers voiced her concern about the time of the meeting, because she wants the public to be able to get involved.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

Tim Rose presented the MSW, Recycling Tonnage, Recycling Market, and Leachate Collection reports:

**MSW**

July 2019			
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	12,051 tons	12,829 tons	778 tons
Sludge	386 tons	317 tons	-69 tons

**Recycling Tonnage**

	July 2019	July 2018
Comingle	118.76 tons	48.47 tons
Glass	46.22 tons	67.24 tons
Mixed News	109.44 tons	69.57 tons
Kingston City Mix	106.6 tons	N/A
Single Stream	0 tons	628.62 tons
OCC	178.48 tons	138.44 tons
Food Waste	430.18 tons	526.02 tons

**Recycling Market Report**

The Recycling Market Report shows the price the Agency was offered for each commodity. NR means no response.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the July 2019 Recycling Market Report. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**Leachate Collection**

	July 2018	July 2019
Ulster	38,500 tons	10,500 tons
New Paltz	24,500 tons	0 tons

**RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE**

Angelina Peone gave the following August Recycling Program Update:

**Outreach/Education**

- RecycleRightNY’s message this month is How to Recycle Batteries
- Print advertising: 7R’s/Ulster County Recycles Program
- Radio advertising: Wishcycling/Electronics
- Site visits: Ulster County Transfer Stations (Operators), Town Halls (Clerks), Public Libraries (Program Director), Central School Districts (Superintendent)
  - Posters (Recycle at Work/School)
  - October 19 HHW flyer
  - Assorted flyers (includes educational content about electronics, SHARPS/medication drop-off locations, how to dispose of latex paint, how to recycle film plastics/textiles)
  - A-Z Recyclopedia (Town Clerks, Transfer Stations)
  - BYOBag Act info
  - Ulster County Recycles – Youth Program Guide (libraries, school districts)
- Community engagement events:
  - Farm Hub Training Program (2 days)
  - 7/31 and 8/02 Ulster County Fair: Dept. of Environment Bring Your Own Bag
- July 2019 electronics recycling program:
  - 416 residents
  - 9 non-profits
  - 8 businesses
  - 3 government entities

**Administration**

- Application submitted for 2019 North East Recycling Council Environmental Sustainability Leadership Award – UCRRRA Organics Recovery Facility
- NYSDEC MWRR Grant application opened; January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020
- Received order of 100 food waste tote bins and placed order 16,000 1cf bags per the Ulster County Municipal Compost Expansion CSC grant in partnership w/ the Ulster County Dept. of the Environment

**Miscellaneous Meetings**

- 8/7 – Webinar: NYSP2I Community Grants
- 8/15 – Tour: NYC Compost Project, Queensborough Bridge Site (Tim Rose, Charlie Whittaker, Angelina Peone, Melinda France)
- 8/20 – Tour: NYS DEC visited UCRRA Organics Recovery Facility
- 8/27 – Conference Call: NYS Organics Council
- 8/29 – Glass Recycling Stakeholder Meeting at NYS DEC Central Office

**September Preview**

- 9/9 – Back to School Night at Chambers Elementary School
- 9/11 – Hudson Valley Regional Council – Materials Management Meeting at UCRRA
- 9/12 – Town of Ulster Senior Center – Recycling Education Program
- 9/19 – Town of Rochester Town Hall – Recycling Education Program
- 9/25 – UCRRA Compost Tour: Bread Alone Bakeries

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Tim DeGraff presented the July 2019 Treasurer's Report and MRF Cost Center Analysis.

**Treasurer's Report**

For the month of July, the Agency's MSW tons were 9,643 and C&D tons were 3,186. Revenue line item of note: the Agency received insurance proceeds of \$60,425 from the R-9 truck fire. Total revenue for the month of \$1,555,987. Expense line items of note: administration expenses are up due to engineering costs related to the solid waste management plan of \$30,024; HHW costs for the event in New Paltz were \$37,447. Total expense for the month of \$1,131,440. Net operating revenue was \$424,547. Capital Outlay of \$24,453 was for the final progressive billing for the fuel depot project. For the month of July the fund balance was a positive \$400,094. Year to date fund balance is a deficit of \$364,509.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the July 2019 Treasurer's Report. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (CONT.)**

Judith Enck called into the meeting. She introduced herself and went over her professional background.

Important points of her presentation:

- 8.3 billion tons of plastic has been produced since 1950, half of which was made in the last 13 years. 8.8 million metric tons of plastic enters the ocean every year, with 80% of that coming from land.
- Plastics are affecting climate change as well as human health.
- Recycling is not the answer to the plastic problem. Overall, 91% of plastic is not recycled. There currently are no markets for plastics except for #1, #2, and #5. Even though companies may accept other types of plastics, those materials are pulled out and thrown away at some point in the process. These materials end up being burned, buried, or just dumped into the environment around the

world, mainly in Asia. It is incredibly important to find out precisely where the products UCRRA sells are winding up.

- Single Stream Recycling has created a false narrative that plastics are recyclable.
- Companies will continue to flood the market with plastic packaging, leaving the financial burden of recycling/disposing of these items to local governments, municipalities, and taxpayers. An important step in the right direction would be to create legislation to shift that responsibility to the plastic packaging manufacturers. However, because of the massive political strength of the manufacturers, this is unlikely to happen any time soon.
- UCRRA should consider ceasing collection of any plastics other than #1, #2, and #5, and inform its users that the best way to help the environment is not to recycle, but to stop purchasing these products in the first place. Reduction is really the only way at the moment to help with the massive plastic problem.

Judith Enck opened up the floor for questions and discussion.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS (CONT.)**

### **MRF Cost Center Analysis**

For the month of July, the total sale of recyclables was \$10,060. Total personnel expenses were \$31,393. Total operating expenses were \$5,623. Total expenses were \$37,016. Net loss for the month of \$29,198. Year-to-date net loss of \$193,834.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Resolution No. 2479 RE: Authorization of Draft 2020 Agency Budget**

Tim Rose explained to the Board that the Agency's tipping fee has been \$103/ton for roughly six years. Agency staff is looking to increase that to \$105/ton, about a 2% increase. This increase is due to the new contracts for transportation and disposal (which will be approved at September's meeting). Agency staff has been diligent with purchases over past few years in order to add to the Agency's reserves with these new contracts in mind. This has allowed the Agency to keep the increase so low. All other rates will stay the same for 2020.

JoAnne Myers mentioned that tonnages in the budget have increased.

Tim DeGraff stated that this is a three-year average, with flow control and the economy having an effect.

JoAnne Myers asked what would happen should the economy go into a recession.

Tim DeGraff responded that it shouldn't have too much of an effect because of flow control, but it may cause a drop off due to less C&D from fewer construction projects. He added that we have around 22% in reserves that are meant for situations like that.

Manna Jo Greene commented that the \$105/ton represents an \$11/ton loss to the Agency, which will come from reserves.

Tim DeGraff responded that this is not the case. He started to explain where that number came from.

Manna Jo Greene interrupted to state that in five years there could be a business threatening increase, and she is worried that the Agency will have depleted its reserves by then. She said the consequences of this would be disastrous.

JoAnne Myers asked Tim DeGraff if the Agency's tipping fees are in line with facilities in the surrounding area.

Tim DeGraff responded that the Agency's tipping fees are in line with surrounding counties, even lower than some. He went on to state that he is unsure of where Manna Jo Greene's information came from, but that the Agency is not adding any reserves into the tipping fee. He said that the \$11/ton has to do with an increase in transportation and disposal costs. The tipping fee was only raised \$2/ton because the capital outlay budget was decreased substantially, which was done strategically.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2479 RE: Authorization of Draft 2020 Agency Budget. Moved by Lisa Mitten and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**Resolution No. 2480 RE: Approving the 2020 Draft Agency Capital Plan**

Tim Rose explained the Capital Plan, which is required by the New York State Comptroller's Office.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2480 RE: Approving the 2020 Draft Agency Capital Plan. Moved by Lisa Mitten and seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**Resolution No. 2481 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Draft for 2020 Tipping Fees and Other Charges**

Tim Rose explained the 2020 Tipping Fee Schedule. The only fee changing is the tipping fee from \$103/ton to \$105/ton, all incidental and miscellaneous fees will remain the same.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2481 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Draft for 2020 Tipping Fees and Other Charges. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Charles Landi asked the status of GUS.

Manna Joe Greene stated that believes that the Chair of the legislature has been reaching out regarding GUS. She added that some of the legislators are strongly in favor of regionalization, but there are some reservations.

Mark Swyka discussed the draft Solid Waste Management Plan and waste disposal options Cornerstone has evaluated, including transporting to a landfill by truck or rail, a local landfill, waste-to-energy, MSW composting, and ethanol production, and BioMass. He discussed the pros and cons of each of these methods, and the Board and staff engaged in discussion regarding each option. Cornerstone will go on to engage in feasibility studies for some of these disposal methods.

Manna Jo Greene and Tim Rose discussed the steps the Solid Waste Management Plan will have to go through for approval before the deadline of October.

Tim Rose told the Board the DEC has been cooperating with the Agency to extend that deadline, because they are aware that the Agency is working hard to get it finished.

Fred Wadnola stated that the plan will need to be voted on at the Agency's September Board meeting, so that it can be presented to the Legislature at their October meeting for a vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Katherine Beinkafner requested that Angeline Peone and Melinda France educate the Board on plastic recycling in the near future.

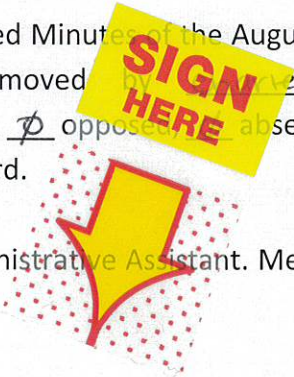
Angelina Peone agreed. She also told the Board that the resin numbers and recycling logo on plastics generally means nothing to the consumer, and does not mean something is recyclable.

**CLOSING**

Fred Wadnola motioned to adjourn the August 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

September 23, 2019

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the August 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting was made by Fred Wadnola, moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. Absent: 0  
The Minutes were approved by the Board.



Transcribed by: Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant. Meetings are recorded and available upon request.

Signatures: Fred Wadnola

Fred Wadnola, Chair Kuz

Ken Gilligan, Secretary B Whitaker

Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant