

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
June 2, 2020**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on June 2, 2020 at the Agency's Main Office located at 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

The proceedings were convened at 1:00pm.

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

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director Tim Rose, Controller Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Safety Charlie Whittaker, Recycling Coordinator Angelina Peone, Recycling Educator Melinda France, and Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker.

From the public: City of Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, Bob and Paul Stolarski of Valley Scale, and an unnamed representative from Rice Lake Weighing Systems.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Katherine Beinkafner relayed Manna Jo Greene's public comment, which suggested that the Agency should have three Hazardous Waste Collection Events in September, October, and November. She added that the Board needs to work on their zero waste presentation.

Fred Wadnola stated that the Board should cancel the July event due to COVID-19 closures. He recommended having the event in October in Kingston as usual, and consider adding another one in a separate location.

Tim Rose responded that it isn't that simple to move dates/locations because there are many factors involved, including the fact that these events need to be planned a year in advance.

Fred Wadnola replied that he still wants to cancel the July event.

The Board agreed.

Tim Rose stated that he would get the formal notifications out.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Fred Wadnola thanked Agency staff for doing a good job during Covid-19. He added that the people down at the facilities have been working through the pandemic, but the Office staff has been at home.

Tim Rose replied that staff has been working in the Office at 50% staffing capacity on a rotating schedule per the Governor's direction, though all admin staff were working from home for the first few weeks.

## **MAYOR STEVE NOBLE ADDRESSES THE BOARD**

Mayor Noble stated that he came to talk about the Agency's recent resolution regarding the City of Kingston being charged for hard mix.

The main points of the discussion were as follows:

- Mayor Noble and the City of Kingston are opposed to this effort and encourage the Agency to reconsider.
- He stated that the City of Kingston was not consulted or notified, and he believes the Agency did not follow the guidelines of Local Law No. 4 which requires a public hearing.
- He stated that commercial cardboard is already separated, and the City brings 6 tons per week to the Agency and the City gets nothing in return for it.
- He believes that the Agency needs to invest in equipment to separate cardboard from newspaper, that it is not the City's responsibility to do that at the source. The cost for this should be added to the tipping fees for everyone.
- He criticized the Agency's reserves, which exist to keep the Agency operating if tipping fees increase significantly when contracts expire.
- Charlie Whittaker rebutted that the City is in fact mixing commercial cardboard with residential, which he has pictures of. He added the Agency has continually worked with the City and given extension after extension.
- Ken Gilligan stated that he has a problem with Mayor Noble stating that the Agency didn't contact him, when that isn't the case.
- Mayor Noble replied to Charlie Whittaker that there is no way the Agency is receiving any commercial cardboard mixed with residential. He said the City majorly overhauled its recycling collection after the Agency asked it to.
- Charlie Whittaker stated the City is absolutely bringing in 50 tons of cardboard per month, and that the Agency has bent over backwards to accommodate the City over the years, including not requiring them to separate glass which costs the Agency a lot of money.
- JoAnne Myers asked about realistic solutions such as the City bundling cardboard, or alternating schedules, or there being a spot on each block for cardboard.
- Charlie Whittaker read over a waste audit done by one of the Agency's buyers, which indicated that the City's hard mix is incredibly low value and undesirable.
- Charlie Whittaker and Steve Noble disagreed on the interpretation of local recycling laws.

There was a lot of back and forth discussion between Mayor Noble, Fred Wadnola, Charlie Whittaker, and JoAnne Myers along the lines of the points above.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Charles Landi stated that he took issue with JoAnne Myer's comments in the minutes where she stated that he wishes to site a landfill in a low income area, when it could be considered an environmental hazard. He said that state of the art landfills are not hazardous, and certain towns may be more willing due to the possible income.

JoAnne Myers replied that she is very familiar with the new technologies used in landfills, but she does not agree with his statement that made it seem like he was implying that the Board would not be looking for the best place to site a landfill, but one that needs the host community benefit the most. She added that the Board must be wary of NIMBYism.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by Charles Landi and Seconded by JoAnne Myers.

#### Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye  
 Beinkafner: Aye  
 Landi: Aye  
 Myers: Aye  
 Mitten: Absent

The motion passed 4-0.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fred Wadnola stated that the next Regular Board Meeting will be on June 29, 2020 at 12:00pm.

### **GENERAL REPORTS**

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

#### **MSW**

	April 2020		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	11,521 tons	10,133 tons	-1,388 tons
Sludge	250 tons	293 tons	43 tons

#### **Recycling Tonnage**

	April 2020	April 2019
Commingle	137.5 tons	95.01 tons
Glass	53.19 tons	34.31 tons
Mixed News	82.72 tons	194.9 tons
Kingston City Hard Mix	71.94 tons	N/A
Single Stream	N/A	10.07 tons
OCC	187.54 tons	193.60 tons
Food Waste	241.40 tons	390.59 tons

#### **Recycling Market Report**

Tim Rose stated that the Recycling Market Report shows the price the Agency was offered for each commodity. NR means no response.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the April 2020 Recycling Market Report. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Mitten).

### Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye  
 Beinkafner: Aye  
 Landi: Aye  
 Myers: Aye  
 Mitten: Absent

The motion passed 4-0.

### Leachate Collection

	<b>April 2020</b>	<b>April 2019</b>
Ulster	300,200 tons	252,000 tons
New Paltz	259,000 tons	119,000 tons

### RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Angelina Peone gave the program update for the months of May.

Important items from the update:

#### May

- Social media and print advertising promoted Compost Awareness Week – an international education initiative by the U.S. Composting Council Research and Education Foundation.
- Compost is sold out as of May 27. The Agency has sold 2,010 tons year-to-date, compared to 812 tons at the same point last year.
- Melinda France and Angelina Peone hosted 3 webinars celebrating Compost Awareness Week, and each one is recorded and available on the Agency's new YouTube channel.
- The Agency's new website has officially launched, including a brand new Recyclopedia, an events page, blogs, and many new resources.
- New print media in Spanish is in the process, and the Agency's new website has a one-click Spanish translation option.
- A new recycling guidebook for business is being developed as well as "recycling right" posters and retractable banners.
- Melinda and Angelina submitted a grant proposal NYS Pollution Prevention Institute's community grant program. They are requesting \$18,000 to a zero waste seminar project next year during July to celebrate Plastic Free July.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Tim DeGraff presented the May 2020 Treasurer's Report and MRF Cost Center Analysis.

### **Treasurer's Report**

For the month of April, the Agency's MSW tons were 7,512 and C&D tons were 2,621. Each category is down approximately 1,000 tons this year compared to April 2019 due to the pandemic and major construction in the area last year being completed, such as at the Hudson Valley Mall. Revenue line items of note: Under misc. revenues, \$29,412 relates to a dividend check received from the Agency's worker's compensation carrier for the 2018-2019 policy year. Total revenue for the month of \$1,251,006. Expense line items of note: Engineering costs for Barton & Loguidice at \$5,994, Sterling at \$5,382, Brinnier & Larios at \$4,149, and Cornerstone at \$1,748. Total expenses for the month of \$1,037,455. Net operating revenue was \$213,551. Capital outlay of \$477,893; fencing along the new trail at \$30,481, a new L110 loader at \$295,912, and a new roller at \$151,500. For the month of April, the fund balance was a negative \$264,342. Year to Date fund balance is a negative \$2,250,889.

Fred Wadnola asked if the Agency receives a dividend check from its health insurance carrier as well.

Tim DeGraff responded that it does not.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the April 2020 Treasurer's Report. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Mitten).

### **MRF Cost Center Analysis**

For the month of April, tipping fees were \$0. The total sale of recyclables was \$9,190. Total transport/disposal costs for April were \$4,528. Total personnel expenses were \$34,207. Total operating expenses were \$7,328. Total personnel/operating costs were \$41,535. Net loss for the month of \$36,873. Year-to-date net loss of \$134,904.

Tim DeGraff noted that the baler was down for some time in April and the tonnage sold amount should balance out across the month of May.

Charlie Whittaker stated that he just ordered a new cylinder for the baler, but that soon it will need to be replaced.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Resolution No. 2404 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Bid for Scale Replacement and Drainage Improvements**

Charlie Whittaker introduced Bob and Paul Stolarski from Valley Scale and a representative from Rice Lake Weighing Systems. He stated that the Agency installed a Rice Lake Scale in New Paltz in 2012 and it has worked very well over the years. He said the service from Rice Lake is also very good. He added that he and Tim DeGraff have been talking about replacing the scales for the past 5 years, and it can't wait any longer.

Bob Stolarski stated that parts of the scale are starting to rot, creating a safety hazard.

Charles Landi noted the large difference between the bid amounts that were submitted.

Bob Stolarski replied that he gave the same scale prices to each company, so he's not sure how they came up with their pricing.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2404 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Bid for Scale Replacement and Drainage Improvements. Seconded by Charles Landi.

Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye  
Beinkafner: Aye  
Landi: Aye  
Myers: Aye  
Mitten: Absent

The motion passed 4-0.

**Resolution No. 2505 RE: Resolution Urging New York State Legislature to Increase Recycling and Reduce Municipal Waste Management Costs by Expanding the NYS Returnable Container Act**

Fred Wadnola stated that this is a memorializing resolution.

JoAnne Myers said that this should have been done back in the 1980's.

Tim Rose asked if the Board wants to send the resolution to all representatives in Ulster County.

JoAnne Myers said yes, as well as Governor Cuomo and Mayor Noble.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2505 RE: Resolution Urging New York State Legislature to Increase Recycling and Reduce Municipal Waste Management Costs by Expanding the NYS Returnable Container Act. Moved by JoAnne Myers and seconded by Fred Wadnola.

Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye  
Beinkafner: Aye  
Landi: Aye  
Myers: Aye  
Mitten: Absent

The motion passed 4-0.

**Resolution No. 2506 RE: Approving the Final Local Solid Waste Management Plan**

JoAnne Myers asked if the DEC has signed off on this version.

Fred Wadnola replied that it has and pointed to the approval letter in the plan.

The Board discussed who Tim Rose will send the copies of the plan to and who will write the letter.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2506 RE: Approving the Final Local Solid Waste Management Plan. Seconded by Charles Landi.

Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye  
Beinkafner: Aye  
Landi: Aye  
Myers: Aye  
Mitten: Absent

The motion passed 4-0.

**Resolution No. 2507 RE: Authorizing Transfer from Operating Reserve to Revenue Account for Equipment Purchases**

Fred Wadnola said that these funds were for the new Trommel screen and stacker.

JoAnne Myers asked if this means it's paid off.

Tim DeGraff explained that the Agency is required to have a resolution any time it transfers money from its operating reserve. He stated the number came from the possibility of not receiving grant funds. He said that these purchases are being used by the Agency to support recycling efforts.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2507 RE: Authorizing Transfer from Operating Reserve to Revenue Account for Equipment Purchases. Seconded by Katherine Beinkafner.

Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye  
Beinkafner: Aye  
Landi: Aye  
Myers: Aye  
Mitten: Absent

The motion passed 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Fred Wadnola directed Tim Rose to contact Clean Harbors, DEC, and the Sheriff's Department to notify them that the Agency is canceling the July Household Hazardous Waste Event due to Covid-19.

Tim Rose stated that Phase 2 will be starting Tuesday, and in line with that the Agency will start opening the Main Office. He will be completing the State’s safety plan.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Fred Wadnola stated that Tim Rose requested that the Board enter executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered executive session regarding employment history of a certain employee.

Fred Wadnola motioned to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Mitten).

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the June 2, 2020 Regular Board Meeting was made by Charles Landi, seconded by Fred Wadnola. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Mitten).

June 29, 2020

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the June 2, 2020 Regular Board Meeting was made by \_\_\_\_\_, moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_ in favor, \_\_ opposed, \_\_ absent.  
Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

The minutes were approved by the Board.

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

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Wadnola, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Gilligan, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant