

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
April 27, 2020**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on April 27, 2020. Due to the current health crisis and the related New York State ban on gatherings, this meeting was held virtually through the platform WEBEX.

The proceedings were convened at 12:09pm.

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, Recycling Coordinator Angelina Peone, Recycling Educator Melinda France, and Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker.

From the public: Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman, Shabazz Jackson and Josephine Papagni of Greenway Environmental, and Corey Soprano of Emerald Equipment.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim Rose read aloud the public comment submitted by Shabazz Jackson and Josephine Papagni which included the following questions:

- Why aren't the public comments documented in the meeting minutes?
- When can we receive a copy of the Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) that was submitted to DEC, as well as a copy of what was returned to the Agency by DEC?
- When can Shabazz be added to the agenda to discuss his comments on the LSWMP as previously requested?

Fred Wadnola answered that the plan was submitted to DEC and approved. The Board will receive an approvable letter shortly. He stated that when the plan is finalized, Shabazz Jackson may have a copy.

Shabazz Jackson replied that he wants the copy that was submitted to the DEC to view his comments.

Tim Rose stated that all comments that were submitted to the Agency were submitted to Cornerstone, who then submitted them to DEC with the final draft of the plan.

Shabazz Jackson said that wants to know exactly how his comments were incorporated into the plan.

Tim Rose replied that all comments are addressed in an appendix within the final plan.

Shabazz Jackson said he doesn't want the final plan, he wants to know what was submitted to the DEC.

Tim Rose explained that the final plan, which includes the comments and their responses, is in fact what was submitted to the DEC. What is being returned by DEC is exactly the same thing, with a letter that says it's approved by them.

Shabazz Jackson repeated that he wants to see the entire plan with all of the documents that were submitted to the DEC.

Josephine Papagni said it should not be so difficult to get this information, and that she will do a FOIL request if that's what it takes.

Ken Gilligan said he will send Shabazz Jackson the documents by the end of the week.

Katherine Beinkafner addressed Shabazz Jackson's question about the minutes. She stated that she's read through the final minutes and all of the public comments are included.

### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Fred Wadnola commended the Agency staff for doing a great job during the pandemic.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Charles Landi pointed out the MRF's net loss for January 2020 of \$57,476 from the February minutes.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 Annual Organizational Meeting and the February 24, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by Charles Landi and Seconded by Katherine Beinkafner.

### **Roll Call Vote**

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

The motion passed 5-0.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fred Wadnola stated that the details of the May Board Meeting are to be determined, based on whether or not restrictions on gatherings have been eased.

JoAnne Myers commented that even if people are allowed to gather, there may not be enough room at the Agency for the attendees to social distance.

Fred Wadnola suggested moving the meeting to the Town of Ulster Senior Center which is larger.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

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

**MSW**

	February 2020		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	8,010 tons	8,944 tons	934 tons
Sludge	248 tons	276 tons	28 tons

	March 2020		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	9,858 tons	10,577 tons	719 tons
Sludge	273 tons	262 tons	-11 tons

**Recycling Tonnage**

	February 2020	February 2019
Commingle	96.45 tons	56.12 tons
Glass	25.82 tons	48.33 tons
Mixed News	79.81 tons	71.17 tons
Kingston City Hard Mix	66.69 tons	N/A
Single Stream	N/A	141.65 tons
OCC	168.72 tons	162.39 tons
Food Waste	542.05 tons	245.31 tons

	March 2020	March 2019
Commingle	122.44 tons	60.41 tons
Glass	61.33 tons	32.00 tons
Mixed News	102.90 tons	91.81 tons
Kingston City Hard Mix	65.44 tons	N/A
Single Stream	N/A	137.94 tons
OCC	201.35 tons	168.36 tons
Food Waste	382.56 tons	296.06 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 February and March 2020 Recycling Market Report. The motion was not moved or seconded. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 5-0.

Leachate Collection

	February 2020	February 2019
Ulster	263,085 tons	241,500 tons
New Paltz	252,000 tons	98,000 tons

	March 2020	March 2019
Ulster	120,828 tons	229,704 tons
New Paltz	231,000 tons	140,000 tons

JoAnne Myers commented that when she walks her dog near her home in the City of Kingston, she sees the Agency’s trucks transporting leachate. She stated that there are two people in the truck with no masks.

Charlie Whittaker responded that only one person transports leachate, and it wouldn’t be possible for there to be two people due to staffing. He added that his employees know that masks are available to them and are reminded on the schedule.

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Angelina Peone gave the program update for the months of March and April.

Important items from the update:

March

- Promoting “tips for eco-friendly spring cleaning.”
- Dr. Katherine Beinkafner was a presenter at Climate Action Through Zero Waste presentation at SUNY New Paltz on March 3.
- Melinda France and Angelina Peone had meetings with school administrators about recycling.
- The Agency’s electronics recycling program is suspended until further notice due to Covid-19.
- The latest compost tests came back good and are posted on the Agency’s website.

- New print resources have been developed to promote the Agency's composting program and encourage backyard composting including a new flyer, new guidebook for businesses, and a new guidebook for residents.

### April

- Informing the public of service changes at the Agency due to Covid-19.
- Promoting waste management and recycling as an essential public service.
- Marketing finished compost for sale at the beginning of the gardening season and for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.
- The Agency is sponsoring Radio Woodstock's "Earth Month."
- Angelina Peone conducted a webinar for Warren and Washington counties interested in how the Agency started its composting program.
- Angelina Peone submitted an application for the Environmental Excellence Award for recognition of the Agency's composting program.
- Spring classes will now be held virtually.
- Angelina Peone and Melinda France continue to be active in recycling and composting committees and participate in professional development opportunities through webinars and conference calls.

Charles Landi asked Angelina Peone if the bagger has been used yet.

Angelina Peone directed the question to Charlie Whittaker.

Charlie Whittaker responded that the Agency has not been able to use the bagger due to the City of Kingston's hard mix taking up the space needed. He added that he's working with the DEC to get approval to install sheds for the bagging operation – which the Agency would have to pay for.

Lisa Mitten asked Angelina Peone to speak about the Agency's new website.

Angelina Peone responded that Agency staff has been working on a total rebranding of the Agency's website for the past few months. She added that it will include many new pages and features.

Tim DeGraff stated that it has been a long process, but that the staff has put in a lot of time to make sure everything is correct.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

#### **Treasurer's Report**

For the month of March, the Agency's MSW tons were 7,664 and C&D tons were 2,913. No revenue line items of note. Total revenue for the month of \$1,274,029. Expense line items of note: Administrative Expenses were \$50,900 - \$5,500 related to the Agency's audit; engineering costs were \$21,694 for Barton & Loguidice, \$913.00 for Sterling Environmental, and \$3,600 for Brinnier & Larios. MRF operations were

\$14,162 – \$8,214 for repairs to the Marathon baler. Total expenses for the month of \$1,152,330. Net operating revenue was \$121,699. Capital outlay of \$356,193 for two dump trailers at \$172,792, dozer at \$153,000, utility vehicle at \$22,753, and vehicle lift for the VMF at \$7,648. For the month of March, the fund balance was a negative \$234,494. Year to Date fund balance is a negative \$1,986,547.

Charles Landi asked when the audit committee will be able to schedule a meeting with the Agency's auditors.

Tim DeGraff stated that he will reach out to the Auditors to inquire about a virtual meeting through WEBEX.

Katherine Beinkafner requested to be included in the meeting with the audit committee and auditors because it pertains to the audit for the time that she was on the audit committee.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the March 2020 Treasurer's Report. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner.

#### Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 5-0.

#### MRF Cost Center Analysis

For the month of March, tipping fees were \$0. The total sale of recyclables was \$19,115. Total transport/disposal costs for March were \$3,120. Total personnel expenses were \$38,083. Total operating expenses were \$13,699. Total personnel/operating costs were \$51,782. Net loss for the month of \$35,787. Year-to-date net loss of \$98,031.

### ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

#### Resolution No. 2499 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a New Trommel Screen Machine

Fred Wadnola explained that this new machine will cost \$271,000, however the Agency will receive \$156,000 from the Ulster County's compost grant, as well as a \$125,000 reimbursement from the DEC. In the end, the Agency will pay \$58,000 for the machine. He added that the new machine will screen 150 tons per hour, whereas the old machine screens 10 tons per hour, eliminating screening time and lessening odors.

Charlie Whittaker noted that since the virus started, the Agency's incoming food waste has been down about 40%.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2499 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a New Trommel Screen Machine. Seconded by Charles Landi.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution No. 2500 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a New Portable Radial Stacker with Hydraulic Package**

Fred Wadnola stated that this machine will be used with the new screener. The Agency received a \$35,000 discount on the machine due to it being a demo model. There will also be an \$110,000 reimbursement from the DEC, making the total cost to the Agency \$110,000.

JoAnne Myers questioned why the resolution states a financial impact of \$219,000.

Fred Wadnola replied that there is a long lag in receiving the grant money.

JoAnne Myers asked what the chances of the Agency receiving the money are.

Angelia Peone responded that the money is there for anyone who applies for the grant, but that the wait time for the disbursement can be up to five years.

Lisa Mitten asked what the purpose of the machine is.

Fred Wadnola responded that it allows staff to move the compost piles with a hydraulic arm.

Charlie Whittaker added it will also help with odors.

Angelina Peone stated that this machine will play a large role in the bagging operation.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2500 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a New Portable Radial Stacker with Hydraulic Package. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution No. 2501 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency charges for Hard Mix**

Tim Rose said that this resolution is a couple of months old at this point.

There was discussion about the wording of the resolution. The resolution refers to single stream recycling instead of hard mix.

Charles Landi asked how the \$15/ton was decided. He stated that he's worried that if the cost goes up, the Agency will have to pay the difference.

Charlie Whittaker responded that it came from the cost of fuel to load and transport as well as labor.

Katherine Beinkafner clarified that there is a fee calculated each month, and the \$15/ton is added on to that for loading.

Lisa Mitten motioned to amend Resolution No. 2501 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency charges for Hard Mix to replace the phrase "single stream" with "hard mix". Seconded by Charles Landi. 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Beinkafner), 0 absent.

**Roll Call Vote**

Wadnola: Aye  
Beinkafner: Nay  
Landi: Aye  
Myers: Aye  
Mitten: Aye

The motion passed 4-1.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2501 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency charges for Hard Mix as amended. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers.

**Roll Call Vote**

Wadnola: Aye  
Beinkafner: Abstain  
Landi: Aye  
Myers: Aye  
Mitten: Aye

The motion passed 4-0.

**Resolution No. 2502 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency charges for Incidental Medical Waste**



Tim Rose explained that the Agency is not permitted to take in medical waste, but the DEC recognizes that at times some may be received incidentally, and when it does it must be handles properly including contracting out a company to properly handle it. Because it costs the Agency to handle this incidental waste, there will now be a charge to cover it. He added that it doesn't happen very often.

Charlie Whittaker stated that he does and will continue to notify the DEC when the Agency receives medical waste.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2502 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency charges for Incidental Medical Waste. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution No. 2503 RE: Authorizing and Approving Addendum to Procurement Policy**

Fred Wadnola explained that this resolution changes the procurement policy to allow the Agency to make an exception for NYS Certified Woman and Minority Owned Businesses.

Tim DeGraff stated that this means that if the Agency decides to use one of these businesses as a vendor, the Agency will not need to solicit three quotes.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2503 RE: Authorizing and Approving Addendum to Procurement Policy as amended. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Fred Wadnola stated that the Board is still searching for landfill sites, however things are on hold due to the virus.

Charles Landi said that the Solid Waste Management Plan states that Ulster County needs a landfill, and a Legislator David Donaldson stated it in an address to the County Executive as well. He said that the Agency cannot bond without the Legislature's approval, and should put the EcoPark on hold.

Fred Wadnola added that the Board will also look at alternative technology.

Katherine Beinkafner emphasized that the Board needs to look at other options. She directed Tim Rose to do this research.

Charles Landi said that the Legislature wants a landfill, and because they issue the Agency's bonds, this is what the Board should move forward with.

Lisa Mitten recommended speaking with the community about the issue.

Charles Landi responded that he has spoken to town supervisors from towns where the majority of people live below the poverty line and explained to them the opportunity for host community benefit. He added that those towns could use the money, instead of the Agency making the town of Waterloo rich.

JoAnne Myers said that the Board needs to be mindful of environmental racism (environmental hazards disproportionately located in communities of color). She stated that risks should be shared across socioeconomic lines.

Fred Wadnola and Katherine Beinkafner both said that Charles Landi didn't mean for his statement to come across that way.

Lisa Mitten asked what is going to be done between now and the next meeting to move this forward.

Charles Landi responded that Shannon Harris asked that they have a discussion after the lockdown is over.

Lisa Mitten asked Angelina Peone if the staff is planning to redo the Agency's logo like she had asked for previously. She also asked the Board to look into different designs from other agencies.

Tim DeGraff said that the Agency is in the process already.

Charles Landi asked Angelina Peone about her purchase from Peg Leg Films.

Angelina Peone responded that the purchase was for the educational license which gives the Agency rights to show the film Wasted Food as part of its program. She added that the purchase was 50% grant reimbursable.

Tim Rose stated that the town contracts are up this year. He said that the contracts shouldn't be changing too much, and he doesn't want the towns to feel pressured into signing on again and the Agency is not holding them to the July deadline.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN**

Fred Wadnola motioned to adjourn the April 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17pm.

June 2, 2020

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the April 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting was made by Fred Wadnola, moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent. Absent: Mitten

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