

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

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on January 27, 2020 at 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

The proceedings were convened at 12:30pm.

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, Ulster County Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Shabazz Jackson and Josephine Papagni of Greenway Environmental, Geddy Sveikauskas of Ulster Publishing, and Tom Silipo of Mack.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

No pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josephine Papagni, Shabazz Jackson, and Manna Joe Greene outlined their concerns about the Local Solid Waste Management Plan.

Shabazz Jackson asked what the status of the plan is.

Tim Rose stated that the public comments on the plan were assembled by the engineering firm, and they have a draft response that needs to go to the Board for approval. Then the response will go to the public as well as the DEC.

Josephine Papagni asked if there is a place where the public can see the status of the plan in real time.

Tim Rose responded that this information is open to the public, and anyone can contact him at any time for an update.

Charlie Whittaker said that updates can be found in the Agency's Board Meeting minutes.

Josephine Papagni rebutted that the minutes have a lag because they need to be voted on after the fact before they are posted to the website, which is too long to wait for current information.

Tim Rose noted that this is an ongoing processes and lot of the work on the plan was done verbally/through email, so the best way to get that information would be to speak to him directly. He continued to clarify the next steps of the plan.

Manna Joe Greene stated that she is concerned about the way the Agency is working with Cornerstone. She stated that the Board should be giving them direction based on the public comments, rather than have them create a response for the Board to approve. She added that she hoped there would be more discussion about the public comments by the Board at the Board Meetings.

Fred Wadnola responded that the Agency hired Cornerstone specifically because they have expertise in this field and have the know how to facilitate this plan. He requested that Manna Joe Greene give him some specific comments she believes were left out of the plan.

Manna Joe Greene detailed her issue with some of specific technologies being taken out of the plan, and she believes those are decisions that should be made by the Board, not Cornerstone.

Fred Wadnola responded that the Board has been very proactive in looking for different types of processing, including sending a former Board member to research Entsorga's facilities in Italy and the UK, and looking at properties for potential landfills.

She expressed her disappointment that the process is not what she expected.

Shabazz Jackson stated that the recommendations don't appear in the last draft that he read, for example, he recommended the Agency put out an RFP for a comprehensive recycling proposal which would come at a cost. He said that at the Public Hearing, it was said that the technologies that were chosen were because of cost. He stated that he feels that the numbers in the plan were inflated, and decisions should not be made by those numbers alone. He continued about his concerns about the composting operation in the plan.

The Board and staff collectively tried to clarify with Shabazz Jackson if he meant MSW composting or food waste composting, because the composting operation that was removed from the plan due to exorbitant cost was for MSW composting (which is a completely different process), however Shabazz Jackson confirmed that he means food waste composting. The Board and staff attempted to explain that he is mixing up the two separate methods.

JoAnne Myers stated that for her, cost is not the "be-all and end-all" when it comes to making decisions.

Josephine Papagni repeated Shabazz Jackson's concerns that food waste composting needs to be studied, and stated that he is upset that it was taken out of the plan.

Tim Rose reiterated his earlier statements that everything is still in a draft form, and will not go ahead until the Board approves of Cornerstone's response to the comments. He added that most likely there will be requests for revisions from the Board that are needed before they feel comfortable moving forward.

Shabazz Jackson stated that he had applied to be on the Board for 2019 and his application was denied. He continued that he then received a notice asking him to resubmit his application for 2020, which he did, and has not heard anything back since. He said that at this point he would like to withdraw his application from consideration because he doesn't want to leave the Oversight Committee.

Fred Wadnola responded that the Board has nothing to do with the process of appointing Board Members, it is all done through the legislature.

Tim Rose said that he should contact Fawn Tantillo to speak about his application.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS

Fred Wadnola told the Board that the engineers surveyed the area where the new compost operation will be, and there were tests done to measure the amount of clay.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2019. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tim Rose stated that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 12:00pm.

Tim Rose commended Tim DeGraff and Charlie Whittaker on running the Agency so well during his leave of absence.

GENERAL REPORTS

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

MSW

	December 2019		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	9,731 tons	10,070 tons	339 tons
Sludge	277 tons	254 tons	-23 tons

Recycling Tonnage

	December 2019	December 2018
Commingle	117.32 tons	54.39 tons
Glass	37.97 tons	43.53 tons
Mixed News	111.74 tons	107.27 tons
Kingston City Hard Mix	103.3 tons	N/A
Single Stream	N/A	367.13 tons
OCC	184.20 tons	183.31 tons
Food Waste	569.56 tons	275.87 tons

JoAnne Myers asked Tim Rose if he had spoken to Mayor Noble Recently.

Tim Rose responded that Mayor Noble called him on his first day back to set up a meeting and it is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday.

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.

Tim DeGraff added that next month he will have graphs to accompany this report.

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

Leachate Collection

	December 2019	December 2018
Ulster	241,250 tons	189,000 tons
New Paltz	266,000 tons	147,000 tons

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Angelina Peone explained that she and Melinda France have been tracking their programs throughout the year and have made a summary of 2019. She said that in 2019, she and Melinda France completed 194 hours of direct community engagement, with 2,412 adult program participants and about 600 youth program participants. She also summarized indirect community engagement, including email blasts, radio advertising, etc. She continued that for the Agency’s Household Hazardous Waste Events, there were over 1,000 participants in 2019, with over 27,000 pounds of hazardous waste and almost 7,000 gallons of liquid hazardous waste.

Angelina Peone gave the program update:

Media Announcements

- Social Media: Know Your Program/Wishful Recycling
- Print: Know Your Program/Waste Reduction
- Radio: “Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency - Reminding listeners that small changes like replacing plastic shopping bags, drinking straws, and bottles can make a big difference. U-C-R-R-A dot org for more information.” (WAMC Northeast Public Radio)
- Other: UCRRA featured in local magazine The Kingston Matter Digest

Outreach Education

- Public Presentations:
 - 1/30/20 School Composting Presentation for Rondout Valley Middle School

- Facility Tours:
 - 1/24/20 Tour of Recycling & Composting Facilities for Town of Rochester
- Community Events:
 - None this month
- Other:
 - 1/15/20 Meeting at Saugerties Public Library for planning a Library Eco-Club

Electronics Recycling

- Month of December 2019
 - Residents: 259
 - Businesses: 6
 - Government Entities: 4
 - Non-Profit Organizations: 0
- End of Year Report will be available next month

Compost

- Developing new media:
 - Partners in composting guide and posters for businesses
 - Backyard composting guide for residents
- Developing new outreach strategies to market bulk and bagged compost

Site Visits

- None this month

Reports

- 2019 Ulster County Annual Recycling Report (350+ requests active, due 2/28/20)
- 4th Quarter (2019) MWRR Report (due 1/31/20)
- 2019 Reports: HHW, Organics, Electronics (due 3/01/20)

Professional Development

- 1/16/20 USCC Young Professionals Quarterly Call
- 1/21/20 Webinar: Best Mgmt. Practices for Community Composting Team Building by North East Recycling Council
- 1/28/20 NYSAR3 Organics Council Call

Miscellaneous

- Coordinating 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Programs
- HHW Grant Assistance Program (due 02/28/20)
- Attached: Ulster County Recycles 2019 Program Review

Preview

- Public events for next month
 - 02/18/20 Hudson Valley Zero Waste Event at SUNY New Paltz

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Treasurer's Report

For the month of December, the Agency's MSW tons were 7,979 and C&D tons were 2,091. No revenue line items of note. Total revenue for the month of \$1,180,591. Expense line items of note: Personnel Expenses were \$351,802 which includes \$72,607 for year-end accruals for comp. absences and payroll of \$51,593; Administration Expenses were \$35,959 which includes \$1,505 for engineering services related to the LSWMP, and \$10,039 for engineering services related to the EcoPark; VMF Expenses were \$21,429 which includes \$11,038 for the purchase of a lift/elevator for the VMF filing room area; Compost Operations were \$9,127, which includes \$3,475 for compost bags and \$3,089 for a 2k hour service on the L60H loader. Total expense for the month of \$1,084,645. Net operating revenue was \$95,946. Capital Outlay of \$52,834 was for the purchase of a lowboy trailer. For the month of December the fund balance was a positive \$43,112. Year to date fund balance is \$902,192.

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

MRF Cost Center Analysis

For the month of December, tipping fees were \$0. The total sale of recyclables was \$13,405. Total personnel expenses were \$30,076. Total operating expenses were \$5,830. Total expenses were \$35,906. Net loss for the month of \$23,862. Year-to-date net loss of \$296,136.

The Board and staff discussed the Agency's cost to recycle vs. trash revenue as well as operation costs.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**Resolution No. 2494 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a Granite GR 64 FT Tractor**

Charlie Whittaker explained the absolute necessity of a new tractor, which integral to keeping the operations running. He then introduced Tom Silipo of Mack.

Fred Wadnola agreed with Charlie Whittaker, saying that the Agency has trucks on the road every single day and could not operate if the current tractor went down.

JoAnne Myers asked when the tractor will be delivered.

Tom Silipo responded that the build date will most likely be April or May, much less of a wait then last year.

Charlie Whittaker outlined some changes that could arise that could necessitate the Agency purchasing yet another tractor.

Tim Rose told Tom Silipo that he and Fred Wadnola still want to take a tour of the Mack facility in Pennsylvania.

Tom Silipo said he's been unable to do tours for the past couple years due to a back injury, but can possibly do it in the future.

Katherine Beinkafner asked why the tractor needs to be 64 feet long.

Charlie Whittaker asked where it mentions 64 feet.

Lisa Mitten pointed out the title of the resolution: "Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a Granite GR 64 Foot Tractor"

Tim Rose clarified that the model number is 64 FT, which Ken Gilligan confused with 64 feet when he wrote the resolution.

Tom Silipo said that the FT model indicates a forward axel.

Ken Gilligan stated that the title of the resolution is now amended to be: "Resolution No. 2494 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a Granite GR 64 FT Tractor"

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2494 RE: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a Granite GR 64 FT Tractor. Seconded by Lisa Mitten. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

(1:27:36)

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Rose informed the Board that he will be redoing the Agency's organizational chart after the new Board members are appointed. He added that the staff will also be updating the Agency's current contract list. He continued that the sludge contract is up this year, as well as the union contract and the town contracts, the latter of which he will start working on within the next month or so.

NEW BUSINESS

Charles Landi asked why the Agency spent \$1,165.50 on 30 hoodies.

Charles Whittaker responded that they are high visibility hoodies for the employees out on the grounds.

Tim Rose added that they are required by OSHA.

Charles Landi asked why the Agency spent \$975.00 on "Falling Snow & Ice" signs.

Charlie Whittaker responded that every one of the buildings required one of these signs because the Agency's metal roofs cause heavy snow and ice to fall very quickly off of the buildings. He said that it won't stop the ice and snow from falling, but it's important to warn people.

Charles Landi questioned the name change of Seneca Meadows to IESI Seneca Meadows.

Tim DeGraff responded that it has always been IESI Seneca Meadows, which is their full name.

Katherine Beinkafner asked how the Board wants to go about responding to Cornerstone about the changes on the solid waste management plan.

Tim Rose said it is up to the Board members to coordinate that, but he does need the Board's final comments to send to Cornerstone.

Ken Gilligan and JoAnne Myers suggested communicating through an email chain.

Fred Wadnola asked what the deadline should be for the response to be finished.

The Board decided on Friday, February 10.

Ken Gilligan informed the Board that he only just received the lease from the Town of New Paltz with the solar array company. He will review it shortly.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

February 24, 2020

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the January 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting was made by Fred Wadnola, moved by JoAnne Myers and seconded by Charles Landi. 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