

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 30, 2020**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on December 30, 2020. This meeting was held virtually via Webex.

The proceedings were convened at 12:03pm.

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, Acting Executive Director/Controller Tim DeGraff, Recycling Educator Melinda France, and Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker. Director of Operations and Safety Charlie Whittaker and Recycling Coordinator Angelina Peone were absent.

From the public: Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman, and Ulster County Legislator Manna Jo Greene.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Fred Wadnola wished the Board and staff happy holidays.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Katherine Beinkafner stated that she wanted to discuss the November minutes. She said that on page five, which is the section on the DEC conference call, she sees nothing about permitting which is governed by the DEC. She asked if there was any discussion at all about permitting in that call.

Tim DeGraff pointed out the area in the minutes where he discusses new technologies and permitting during that call. He said the only thing the DEC said about it was that it needed to be a proven technology and the Agency would have to work hand-in-hand with the DEC.

Katherine Beinkafner said that the rest of the discussion is about money and the bond issue. She asked if this was discussed in front of the DEC.

Tim DeGraff said no, the discussion on bonding was part of the board meeting discussion about the DEC call.

Katherine Beinkafner asked for that to be more clearly noted in the minutes.

Timothy DeGraff said that can be done.

Katherine Beinkafner said that Charles Landi and Lisa Mitten discussed Oneida-Herkimer's landfill during this section. She said that you have to remember that while their tipping fee may be much lower, they also incurred a lot of cost during the building process of the landfill. She said she is sure that it was bonded. She said that to compare Ulster County with Oneida-Herkimer is misleading.

Katherine Beinkafner also noted that on the bottom of page six, Charles Landi mentions a report put together by Steven Parisio. She said that he did not really put together a report, but rather built a geographic information system and showed them how to sort through regulations to eliminate properties such as valleys and wetlands. She said she does not think there was ever a report, though there may have been pieces of paper, graphs, etc. that people had from the meeting. She said that there was a report from the committee that was never finished.

Fred Wadnola said that he was the one that called it a report. He said that there was a bound copy from Steven Parisio that was about 30 years old in the library of the Legislative building. When he went to retrieve it, it had been removed. He said it was a bound issue that was very thick with a lot of information in it.

Charles Landi said it was not a report, he was actually quoting the minutes from the Solid Waste Management Improvement Committee. He said he is surprised that the Board missed this, since he sent copies of the recording of the DEC conference call to all of the Board members.

Katherine Beinkafner asked when Charles Landi sent the recording.

Charles Landi replied that he sent it three to four days after the meeting.

Katherine Beinkafner replied to Charles Landi that she thought he said he sent a copy of the minutes from the meeting.

Charles Landi responded that he took minutes, but what he sent out was a full recording of the meeting. He added that he spoke to Steven Parisio who was very helpful, and he told him that SUNY New Paltz's geology department may be interested in doing a study for the Agency.

Fred Wadnola said that he is sure Charles Landi would be happy to send out all of the information he has.

Charles Landi replied that if the Board would have listened to the recording of the meeting he sent, they would have all of the information that they needed.

Fred Wadnola said the minutes of the November 30, 2020 will be edited to add a separation of topics and they will be voted on at the January meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Wadnola stated that the Annual Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2020 at 12:00pm, immediately followed by a Regular Board Meeting. He said that hopefully by that point the meeting will be able to be held in person.

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Melinda France presented the Board with a summary for the month of December. She said that the Agency’s message for December was “Rethinking the Holidays”. The team created a window display and a video geared toward the message. She attached pictures of the window display since no one was able to come into the building to see it.

On December 7, the team held their biannual informational meeting for the towns. There were 18 participants which included representatives from the City of Kingston, Village of New Paltz, and the towns of New Paltz, Esopus, Gardiner, Lloyd, Rochester, Ulster, Hurley, Wawarsing, and Plattekill. She said that due to Covid the team was not able to visit the Transfer Stations in person, but they did send out a packet of information to each town’s supervisor and transfer station operator. These meetings give the opportunity for transfer station operators to network among their peers, share operational challenges and solutions, and learn about the services the Recycling Outreach Team can offer them.

Melinda France said that she and Angelina Peone are in the process of preparing the end of the year numbers for their programs. The team completed 47 hours of direct community engagement in 2020, which included 18 public speaking events, 17 facility tours here at UCRRA, and 4 site visits. The team reached 431 adult participants and 40 youth participants. Their newsletter has approximately 3,700 subscribers, with 551 new subscribers in 2020. They have 888 followers on Facebook, 620 followers on Instagram, and 14 subscribers on YouTube. The team has responded to over 500 phone calls and over 100 emails with recycling and composting questions throughout 2020. The final program review will be provided to the board at the beginning of 2021.

GENERAL REPORTS

Tim DeGraff presented the MSW and Recycling Tonnage reports:

MSW

	November 2020		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	10,763 tons	11,782 tons	1,019 tons
Sludge	314 tons	271 tons	-43 tons

Tim DeGraff stated that year to date, the Agency is over budget by 7,914 tons of MSW (6.6%) and under budget by 112 tons of sludge which appears to be related to Royal Carting who occasionally brings sludge to the Agency.

Recycling Tonnage

	November 2020	November 2019
Commingle	128.03 tons	97.27 tons
Glass	47.77 tons	32.25 tons
Mixed News	124.83 tons	96.08 tons
Kingston City Hard Mix	92.06 tons	78.70 tons
OCC	222.73 tons	168.24 tons
Food Waste	274.93 tons	402.29 tons

Tim DeGraff noted the month to month fluctuations in mixed news, which is due to Greene County bringing mixed news to the Agency starting in September of 2020. Food waste dropped significantly from the prior year, which is mainly attributed to Organix who makes up about 60% of the Agency's food waste volume. He said this may be route related. He also stated that the Agency was able to get rid of 4 to 5 loads of e-waste, which amounted to 47.72 tons of e-waste.

Recycling Market Update

Tim DeGraff stated that in Charlie Whittaker's absence, the Recycling Market Update will be postponed. He said overall the markets have held consistent over the last couple of months and there is nothing major to speak of.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Treasurer's Report

For the month of November the Agency's MSW tons were 8,272 and C&D tons were 3,510. Revenue line item of note: Sales of recyclables was \$51,101 which includes the sale of UBC's (\$14,304) as well as color and #3-7 plastics (\$11,479). Total revenue for the month was \$1,403,705. Expense line items of note: Recycling education was \$10,650 which includes \$6,550 for new recycling guides. Composting operations was negative \$1,740 which is the net effect of the reclass of compost expansion costs from an October invoice to capital outlay. Recycling disposal costs were \$725 which was a transportation charge on the UBC load. CLF monitoring & maintenance was \$14,546 which includes \$11,200 for post closure monitoring at Ulster and New Paltz closed landfills. Total expenses for the month of \$1,136,232. Net operating revenue was \$267,473. Capital Outlay of \$79,061 (\$69,733 for compost expansion and \$9,328 for the bagging/recycling education building). For the month of November, the fund balance was a \$188,412. Year to Date fund balance is a deficit of \$1,565,603 (exclusive of operating reserve transfer in, a deficit of \$1,889,078).

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the November 2020 Treasurer's Report. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 4-0.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

For the month of November, tipping fees were \$0. The total sale of recyclables was \$43,859. Total transport/disposal costs for November were \$1,717. Net revenue of \$42,142. Total personnel expenses were \$41,975. Total operating expenses were \$6,130. Total personnel/operating costs were \$48,105. Net loss for the month of \$5,963. Year-to-date net loss of \$275,583.

OLD BUSINESS

JoAnne Myers stated that she has been working with a zero waste group with Laura Petit, Tracey Bartels, Manna Jo Greene, and some other people from Ulster County. This is to come up with a zero waste plan that will span 10 years with long-term and short-term goals. She said to let her know if there is anything the Board or staff would like her to bring to that group. She also asked if the Agency has a Compliance Officer yet.

Fred Wadnola said that staff is waiting to see what happens with the pandemic before they start interviews and get the compliance program up and running.

NEW BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution No. 2528 RE: Approving the Solid Waste Management Agreements between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and Towns

Tim DeGraff stated that this is the third month in a row approving these agreements. This resolution is for the remaining 10 towns, including the Town of Rochester who only got a one year agreement with an option for a three year extension.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2528 RE: Approving the Solid Waste Management Agreements between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and Towns. Moved by Katherine Beinkafner and seconded by JoAnne Myers.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye
Landi: Aye
Myers: Aye

Mitten: Absent

Wadnola: Aye

The motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURN

Fred Wadnola motioned to adjourn the December 30, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by JoAnne Myers and seconded by Charles Landi. The motion passed 4-0 (Mitten absent).

January 25, 2021

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the December 30, 2020 Regular Board Meeting was made by Fred Wadnola, moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 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