

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2021**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on January 25, 2021. This meeting was held virtually via Webex.

The proceedings were convened at 12:22pm.

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

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Acting Executive Director/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, and Ulster County Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator Laura Petit, and Clark Richters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clark Richters stated that he is attending this meeting to advocate for Ulster County's local public access stations, which he thinks the Agency should use to reach out to the public to promote recycling.

Fred Wadnola thanked Clark Richters for his comments.

Manna Jo Greene requested that the Agency include funds for a feasibility study for a landfill in its budget, which she says she has requested previously as well. She said that the LSWMP is on the Legislature's agenda to move forward, but it would be really helpful if the Board would consider a budget amendment to ensure that there is funding for a landfill feasibility study.

Charles Landi responded that a feasibility study would not be a budget issue, but a bonding issue. He said that he and Fred Wadnola are about to set up a meeting to discuss budget availability for items like that.

Manna Jo Greene said that she would like that to be included in the report that Tim DeGraff is making for the Energy & Environment Committee so that they can understand the process.

Fred Wadnola reminded Manna Jo Greene of the Legislature reducing the Agency's bonding authority. He said he has already requested a meeting with David Donaldson, and that hopefully it will be within the next month.

Manna Jo Greene recommended that the Board stick to what is in the plan and stay within the bonding limit.

Fred Wadnola said that the bonding limit is so low that would not be possible.

Charles Landi said that the information would be forwarded to the Energy & Environment Committee as soon as the meeting happens.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Fred Wadnola said that 2021 is going to be a busy year. He added that he hopes the Legislature will approve the LSWMP so that the Agency can get to work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2020 Regular Board Meeting and the December 30, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. 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.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Wadnola stated that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 22, 2020 at 12:00pm. He said that they will determine whether it is a virtual or in person meeting closer to that date, depending on Covid restrictions.

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Angelina Peone stated that for this month she is highlighting the Ulster County Annual Waste & Recycling Report. According to the state regulations on local solid waste management planning, UCRRA must submit an annual update on its 10 year plan that includes information about waste characterizations, recycling rates, and other waste diversions in the planning unit. The goal of the report is to get a snapshot of the entire waste stream of Ulster County, including waste that does not pass through the Agency's system. The report is sent out to over 400 large waste generators in Ulster County, including commercial haulers, MRDC's, scrap metal recycling facilities, school districts, hospitals, hotels, and other miscellaneous businesses. The report takes several months to complete, each of the reports must be analyzed with care and scrutiny so that all of the wastes are being counted consistently. The report also helps evaluate compliance with recycling to ensure that large waste generators have a recycling plan on file with the Agency and that they are collecting all of the regulated recyclables. She said she looks forward to a new Compliance Officer who will add value and time to this process in the future. Those who complete the report can also request more information from the Recycling Team on recycling, composting, and zero waste. This year the team is mailing out its new Business Waste Reduction &

Recycling Guide, and they are also available by request at any time. After the reporting period ends, they produce an executive summary of findings which is available on the Agency’s website under the Resources tab. From these reporting efforts, they can infer that 52% of construction & demolition debris generated within the county comes to UCRRA, and that only 23% of regulated recyclables generated within the county are processed at UCRRA. According to 2019 data, Ulster County has a 34% diversion rate, and a 24% recycling rate which is higher than the state average but lower than the national average.

GENERAL REPORTS

Tim DeGraff presented the MSW and Recycling Tonnage reports:

MSW

	December 2020		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	9,887 tons	11,221 tons	1,334 tons
Sludge	253 tons	286 tons	33 tons

For 2020, MSW actual tonnage was 138,748 which was over the budgeted 129,500 tons by 9,248 tons (7.1%). The City of Kingston and the towns that deliver MSW to us were up between 9-11%, specifically the MRDC’s which increased from the prior year by 11%. Construction & demolition debris is up. Business Self Haulers were up 9.7% from the prior year. Commercial Haulers were down about 2-3%, possibly due to the pandemic and the commercial collection side being down due to businesses not being open. This correlates to the MRDC’s being up because people were generating waste from home.

Recycling Tonnage

	December 2020	December 2019
Commingle	135.76 tons	117.32 tons
Glass	71.78 tons	37.97 tons
Mixed News	112.53 tons	111.74 tons
Kingston City Hard Mix	121.40 tons	103.30 tons
OCC	237.94 tons	184.20 tons
Food Waste	304.35 tons	569.56 tons

The changes were mainly related to the pandemic. If garbage is up at the MRDC’s then it will be the same with recycling. There was also the effect of the City of Kingston switching away from single stream to dual stream. Food waste has changed significantly, possibly route related due to the pandemic.

Fred Wadnola said the Agency would be submitting for new permits to expand the Agency’s compost operation to 10,000 tons.

Charlie Whittaker said that is a much later process, when the new property is added to the 360 permit, and after the Agency receives the permit for the facility and the modification for the Educational Building. At that point they will do a modification for 10,000 tons of food waste and add the property.

When the Agency receives the food waste modification, it will be the only permitted food waste composting site around.

Fred Wadnola commended Charlie Whittaker and his staff for the hard work they have put into the new compost facility.

Recycling Market Update

Charlie Whittaker reminded the Board that this information is for the current month, unlike the MRF cost analysis that applies to the previous month. He stated that metal has gone up a bit. Plastics (mixed plastic and #3-7) have stayed pretty much the same. Natural is still unusually high. Fiber is also doing well but will settle down once the pandemic is under control – the demand for fiber has been up due to people using more paper products and having items delivered in boxes. He said that even though the price is up, it is not nearly as high as he's seen in the past. He noted that single stream is made up mainly of fiber, and though the price of fiber has gone up, the cost to get rid of single stream has remained relatively the same. The Agency is still spending money to subsidize the MRF, because the Agency does not bring in enough recyclables and the markets do not always complement the recyclables the Agency is bringing in.

Charles Landi asked Charlie Whittaker to talk about e-waste.

Charlie Whittaker responded that back in November the Agency had four tractor trailers of e-waste and it was difficult to move them. He said that ERI has been very difficult, not just with the Agency but with everyone, but he is comfortable with them due to their security. He and Angelina Peone have been speaking with other companies that are willing to be flexible with the Agency but may not supply the gaylords and plastic wrap that is needed for packing which can be expensive. He repeated that he does feel comfortable with the high level of data security from ERI. Right now, the program is closed until springtime due to it being dangerous to run outdoors in the winter. He said that the program not only serves Ulster County, but surrounding counties as well.

Tim DeGraff said that he understands residents have e-waste that they want to get rid of, especially after the holidays, but in order to keep this free program going the Agency needs to be able to move what it already has.

Fred Wadnola asked if the program will continue to run on Saturdays once it opens.

Charlie Whittaker said yes, that is the plan. He said that Saturday drop-off has been much more efficient and having an employee there to watch everything has cut down on prohibited items. He said that it has also been a help to the office staff who had to handle e-waste check-ins previously.

Katherine Beinkafner stated that she read in Hudson Valley One that a Rotary club will be doing a free e-waste event on the last Saturday of March at the Plattekill Town Hall.

Melinda France responded to Charlie Whittaker's earlier statement about residents from other counties bringing e-waste to the Agency. She noted that last year there were about 300 residents from outside of Ulster County that utilized the Agency's e-waste program.

Charles Landi asked Charlie Whittaker for an update on the bagging/education building.

Charlie Whittaker responded that if it were up to him, the building would have been up last November. The company that is putting the building up is ready whenever he calls to let them know, and they will have it up in one day. Right now he is waiting on the permits so that he can do the necessary modification.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Treasurer's Report

Tim DeGraff began by asking the Board not to vote on the Treasurer's Report until next month, because he wants the report to match up to the year-end financial statements.

For the month of December the Agency's MSW tons were 8,656 and C&D tons were 2,565. Revenue line item of note: Sales of recyclables was \$91,699 which includes the sale of plastic (\$44,700), and inventory was cleared out at year-end. Grants were \$184,558 for the close out of the County compost grant – equipment (\$178,117) and program supplies (\$6,441). Total revenue for the month was \$1,570,991. Expense line items of note: Personnel expenses were up at \$347,410 due to year end accruals with one extra payroll and compensated absences. Total expenses for the month of \$1,255,809. Net operating revenue was \$315,182. Capital Outlay of \$58,494 for the compost expansion. For the month of December, the fund balance was \$256,688. Year to Date fund balance is a deficit of \$1,309,113.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

For the month of December, tipping fees were \$0. The total sale of recyclables was \$71,726. Total transport/disposal costs for December were \$2,194. Net revenue of \$69,532. Total personnel expenses were \$31,139. Total operating expenses were \$11,805. Total personnel/operating costs were \$42,944. Net income for the month of \$26,588. Year-to-date net loss of \$248,995.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution No. 2530 RE: Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) Adoption, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Compliance, Authorizing and Approving Negative Declaration Regarding Updated LSWMP for Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA)

Tim DeGraff explained that this resolution is for the Solid Waste Management Plan and goes back to the previous resolution from August or September that the Board ended up rescinding. The Agency went through the SEQRA process again and received no push-back regarding being the Lead Agency. The Agency came up with a negative declaration. This is the order that the Legislature requested the Agency do things. Hopefully once this resolution is approved, the Legislature will approve the plan.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2530 RE: Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) Adoption, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Compliance, Authorizing and

Approving Negative Declaration Regarding Updated LSWMP for Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA). Seconded by Charles Landi.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Charles Landi asked Fred Wadnola if he wanted to talk about the idea of a repair shop, which was brought up during Fred Wadnola's discussion with David Donaldson.

Fred Wadnola responded that the idea was brought up by David Donaldson, and he will discuss that with him the next time they speak.

Katherine Beinkafner stated that at the next in-person Board Meeting there should be an Executive Session to go over salaries.

Charles Landi said that they should also discuss the Compliance Officer position.

Bill Kemble asked Ken Gilligan to explain the need for the Legislature to approve the LSWMP.

Ken Gilligan was having difficulties with his audio, and Bill Kemble asked if he could call him after the meeting so that they could discuss his question since he could not hear him.

Katherine Beinkafner responded that the Energy & Environment Committee suddenly got the idea that the Agency should have to do the SEQRA process. Most SEQRA processes are for something you are actually going to do, like digging a hole or building a building. The LSWMP is for studying what the Agency is going to do with waste, which doesn't require a SEQRA. But because the Energy & Environment decided that the Agency needed to do this, the Board had to undo its previous resolution and go through the SEQRA process, coming up with a negative declaration.

ADJOURN

Fred Wadnola motioned to adjourn the January 25, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. The motion passed 4-0 (Mitten absent).

February 22, 2021

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the January 25, 2021 Regular Board Meeting was made by Fred Wadnola, moved by Lisa Mitten. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. Absent: N/A

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