

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 24, 2021**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on May 24, 2021. This meeting was held in person. There was also a call-in audio option available through Webex.

The proceedings were convened at 12:15 pm.

The following Board members were present: Chair Katherine Beinkafner; Vice Chair JoAnne Myers (viewed meeting through WebEx and left meeting at 12:55pm); Treasurer Charles Landi; Board Members Lisa Mitten and Thomas Kacandes.

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director/Controller Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Compliance Charlie Whittaker, Director of Sustainability Angelina Peone, and Recycling Educator Melinda France.

From the public: Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman; representatives from the Ulster County Comptroller's office which included Alisha DeMarco, Deputy Comptroller; Elizabeth Weredyk, Senior Auditor; and Randy Boughton, Senior Auditor. Through WebEx Jesse Ram and Steven Birndorf representatives of USource.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

No Comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Landi motioned to approve the minutes of the **April 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting** seconded by Tom Kacandes.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye

Myers: Aye

Landi: Aye

Mitten: Aye

Kacandes: Aye

The motion passed 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

This meeting will be held in person at the Agency's Administrative Office.

RECYCLING OUTREACH TEAM PROGRAM UPDATE

Angelina Peone presented the program update.

For the month of May the Recycling Outreach Team had focused the messaging on International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) which is an initiative by the Compost Research & Education Foundation. ICAW is celebrated during the first full week of May and the goal of the educational campaign is to raise public awareness about the benefits of using compost.

ICAW includes a poster contest. This year's theme is *Grow, Eat...COMPOST...Repeat*, recognizing the importance of composting in closed-loop sustainable systems that use compost to grow healthier food, support healthier soils and, ultimately, recycle nutrients back into the soil.

Governor Cuomo declared the week of May 6th-12th, New York State Compost Awareness Week in a proclamation in May 2018. Staff participated in the NYSAR3 Organics Council and the steering committee for NY ICAW efforts.

Angelina discussed the benefits of using compost.

- Compost is high in organic matter which has the unique ability to bind nutrients in soil – reducing the need to use chemical fertilizers.
- Compost supplies beneficial soil microbes, which enhances soil biodiversity and helps to suppress plant disease pathogens and reduce the need to use harsh chemical fertilizers
- Compost improve soil water holding capacity, increasing soil water infiltration and permeability of heavy soils, which reduces runoff and erosion.
- Compost has the unique ability to buffer or stabilize soil pH, which improves nutrient availability for a range of plant species.
- Compost improves soil structure, porosity, and density, allowing room for water and air to enter micro pore spaces in soil, creating a healthier plant root environment.
- Compost makes any soil easier to work and cultivate

In addition to the above horticultural benefits, composting plays an essential role in meeting zero waste goals. Composting reduces the dependence on landfills, lowering harmful greenhouse gas emissions and is an effective and beneficial way of managing the organic materials that make up 30% of the waste stream.

Since 2012, to date, the UCRRA Organics Recovery Facility has managed more than 19,000 tons (19,430) of source separated organics that, if landfilled, would have traveled a cumulative 266,481 miles for disposal. These long haul trips avoided by composting this material are the equivalent of driving 10.6 trips around the Earth. To date,

2012-May 2021, the total CO2 emissions avoided from both transportation and landfill disposal of these organics is calculated to be more than about 32,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide. (32,111.71 tons of CO2)

The total CO2 emissions avoided is equivalent to the CO2 emissions from:

- burning 35,492,543 pounds of coal or consuming 74,345 barrels of oil
- or 5,833 homes' electricity use for one year
- or the GHG emissions avoided by 6.7 Wind turbines running for a year
- or the carbon sequestered by 39,343 acres of U.S. forests in one year

Composting is a climate smart solution, and UCRRA's composting program is a community asset that fosters stewardship of Ulster County's environment and natural resources. Celebrating ICAW, the Recycling Outreach Team:

- Kicked off May with the Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale;
- Spring Classes about composting;
- Social media promotions all month long in English and Spanish;
- Four ads in the Daily Freeman promoting our partners in composting program (attached to board update);
- Prepared a Blog post;
- Mailed information letter to County Executive and the Secretary of the Legislature on May 5th – about ICAW and UCRRA educational resources;
- Is scheduled for two public speaking engagements in June to promote the Partners in Composting program; and
- Is scheduled to record a new PSA encouraging businesses to participate in composting and the PSA will air on Radio Kingston.

GENERAL REPORTS

MSW and Recycling Tonnage Reports were provided in the Board packet. There was no discussion with respect to the MSW and Recycling Tonnage Reports

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Tim DeGraff presented the April 2021 Treasurer's Reports and MRF Cost Center Analysis.

Treasurer's Report

For the month of April the Agency's MSW tons were 8,723 and C&D tons were 4,120. No Revenue line items of note. Total revenue for the month was \$1,586,302. Expense line items of note: Personnel Expense line in the amount of \$329,517 due to three payrolls, Composting Operations in the amount of \$15,974 related to grinder repairs. Total operating expenses for the month were \$1,407,542. Net operating revenue was \$178,760. Capital outlay of \$56,410 related to the compost expansion. For the month of April, the fund balance was \$122,350. Year-to-date deficit of \$1,092,098.

Lisa Mitten motioned to approve the April 2021 Treasurer's Report seconded by Charles Landi.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye

Myers: Aye

Landi: Aye

Mitten: Aye

Kacandes: Aye

The motion passed 5-0.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

Tim noted that the plastic markets are high at this time. For the month of April, the total sale of recyclables were \$62,743. Total transport/disposal costs for April were \$5,829. Net revenue of \$56,914. Total personnel expenses were \$54,240. Total operating expenses were \$8,172. Total personnel/operating costs were \$62,412. Net loss for the month of \$5,498. Year-to-date net loss of \$28,954.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution #2537 Re: Authorizing and Approving the Contract for Community Solar Subscription with Nexamp, Inc.

The Board had a discussion (full audio can be found on the Agency's website with the minutes) regarding this resolution including the difference between a one year contract versus a three year contract. Nexamp, Inc. representatives were present to answer any questions.

Tom Kacandes moved to sign a **one year** contract with Nexamp, Inc. and it was seconded by JoAnne Myers.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Nay

Myers: Aye

Landi: Nay

Mitten: Nay

Kacandes: Aye

The motion failed 3 Nays-2 Ayes(MYERS/KACANDES)

Lisa Mitten motioned to sign a **three year** contract with Nexamp, Inc. and it was seconded by Katherine Beinkafner.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye

Myers: Aye

Landi: Aye

Mitten: Aye
Kacandes: Abstained
The motion passed 4-1 (KACANDES)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Governance Committee meeting is set for June 14, 2021 at 12pm, in person at the Main Office. The committee will discuss a social media use policy, remote working policy, on boarding of new board members policy/process and the compost program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Charles Landi motioned to **ENTER** into Executive Session and seconded by **Lisa Mitten**.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye
Myers: Absent
Landi: Aye
Mitten: Aye
Kacandes: Aye

VOTE: Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Absent: 1 (MYERS)

Lisa Mitten motioned to **EXIT** Executive Session and seconded by **Tom Kacandes**.

VOTE: Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Absent: 1 (MYERS)

ADJOURN

Lisa Mitten motioned to **ADJOURN** the May 24, 2021, Regular Board Meeting at 1:52 PM and seconded by **Katherine Beinkafner**.

VOTE: Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Absent: 1 (MYERS)

June 28, 2021

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the May 24, 2021 Regular Board Meeting was made by _____, moved by _____ . in favor, opposed, absent, abstention.

The minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Melinda France, Recycling Educator. Meetings are recorded and available at www.ucrra.org/about-us/board-of-directors-meetings-minutes/ .

Signatures:

Katherine Beinkafner, Chair

Ken Gilligan, Secretary

Melinda France, Recycling Educator

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