

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 26, 2021**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on July 26, 2021. This meeting was held in person. There was also a call-in audio option available through Webex.

The proceedings were convened at 12:14 pm.

The following Board members were present: Chair Katherine Beinkafner; Vice Chair JoAnne Myers (through WebEx); Treasurer Charles Landi; Board Member Thomas Kacandes. Board Member Lisa Mitten was absent.

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

From the public: Elizabeth Weredyk, Deputy Comptroller from the Ulster County Comptroller's Office and Jared Keplinger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Katherine Beinkafner, Chair stated that the GIS proposal for landfill siting was received from Paul Rubin. The GIS proposal was discussed under New Business of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Landi motioned to approve the minutes of the **June 28, 2021 Regular Board Meeting** seconded by Tom Kacandes. **VOTE: 4 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 1 Absent (MITTEN).** The motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 23, 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.

The Recycling Outreach Team continues to work on the Zero Waste Seminar Project. There are two more classes: "Small Plastics, Big Impact: How Plastics are Impacting our Local Waterways" which is scheduled for Monday, July 26th at 6:00pm and "Reuse It, Re-Gift it, Repair it!" scheduled for Wednesday, July 28th at 3:30pm. Sixty-one people have already logged in and participated in the seminars and sixty-

five participants signed up for the last two webinars. Angelina shared the survey results to the Board from some participants' responses. Some of the survey questions (pre and post surveys) and results were:

- What pollution prevention strategies or actions do you pledge to do?
 - **COMMENTS**
 - "Look for replacements for products that come in plastic containers and look for opportunities to use refillable containers."
 - "Send a communication each week to a company/organization/brand that I buy products from to suggest plastic alternatives."
 - "Consume fewer products that contain single use plastic."
 - "Try to buy less over-packaged stuff."
 - "No more clamshells."
 - "I will be even more careful about what I purchase, to ensure that items can be repaired for a long life, and then reused, or recycled."
 - "Use materials other than plastic whenever possible."
- Participants were ask to share any other comments with us!
 - **RESULTS**
 - "Great information!"
 - "Fantastic presentation!"
 - "We need to spread the word."
 - "The information very well presented."
 - "I would like to see this taught in schools."
 - "Thanks for having this program."
- Do you feel plastic pollution is an environmental problem? and Do you feel plastic pollution is a social problem?
 - **RESULTS**
 - The awareness increased from the pre and post surveys.

Panelist for the Plastic Free July webinars series included Alex Bolotow from Woodstock Bring your Own; Jen Benson from Riverkeeper; Andrea Varga and Roy Ludwig from SUNY New Paltz; Elizabeth Knight, Co-Author of "Repair Revolution"; Kevin Treutler from the Habitat for Humanity; Supervisor Neil Bettez of the Town of New Paltz Reuse Center; and Christine Hein of People's Place.

The Recycling Outreach Team are preparing for the household hazardous waste event which is scheduled for August 21, 2021.

GENERAL REPORTS

MSW and Recycling Tonnage Reports were provided in the Board packet. Tim DeGraff stated that the MSW tonnage is over budget and sludge is under budget. The sludge has decreased this year due to all the grit and rags being pulled out of the sludge that is being sent to Rockland County. It wasn't known about the pulling out of rags and grit until after the budget was done. Tim stated "Things are good".

Recycling tonnage report Tim DeGraff pointed out that food waste was 356 tons and has increased due to Organix bringing in more loads.

The Board and staff discussed the food waste law and how an Administrative Law Judge would be beneficial with helping administer fees to violators of the laws. Charlie Whittaker stated the Agency is

prepared to handle the extra food waste when the law goes in full effect. Larry Ricci, Compliance Officer, added that he has done 30 odor inspections and there has been no odors detected. He did state that after the meeting with the Town of Ulster the NYSDEC did receive an anonymous generic complaint which had no findings. The Board and staff discussed the Whittier Sewer Plant and its odors.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Treasurer's Report

For the month of June the Agency's MSW tons were 9,906 and C&D tons were 3,504. No Revenue or Expense line items of note. Total revenue for the month was \$1,619,505. Total operating expenses for the month were \$1,328,420. Net operating revenue was \$291,085. For the month of June, the fund balance was \$291,085. Year-to-date deficit of \$504,142.

Charles Landi motioned to approve the June 2021 Treasurer's Report seconded by Tom Kacandes.
VOTE: 4 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 1 Absent (MITTEN).

MRF Cost Center Analysis

For the month of June, the total sale of recyclables were \$39,441. Fiber was the only recyclable sold for the month. Total transport/disposal costs for June were \$5,537. Net revenue of \$33,904. Total personnel expenses were \$34,787. Total operating expenses were \$3,378. Total personnel/operating costs were \$38,165. Net loss for the month of \$4,261. Year-to-date net income of \$27,221.

Charlie Whittaker discussed the markets and the prices for the month for recyclables.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

OLD BUSINESS

Timothy DeGraff and Angelina Peone provided the Board an update of the Stony Brook University study that is being conducted. The study is being conducted one week over the summer for the next five years. Stony Brook University team and Dr. David Tonjes, Project Director was on site this month (July 13th-17th) conducting the Waste Data and Analysis research project which is sponsored by the NYSDEC through the Environmental Protection Fund. The Waste Data and Analysis Center is led by faculty researchers in the Department of Technology and Society within the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the center also supports multiple graduate and undergraduate student researchers. The goals of the research project is to better understand the generations, composition and management of solid wastes in NYS. UCRRA is participating in the research study, alongside Town of Brookhaven, Town of Islip, Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, Delaware County and more. The team examined several samples of municipal solid wastes delivered by various public and private waste collection programs, as well as some dual stream recycling samples. The team sorted and characterized the samples into over 40+ categories. The team was at Ulster Transfer Station for four days and one day at New Paltz Transfer Station. There are not results at this time. Angelina Peone added that the Stony Brook Team were very professional. This study will give the Agency the opportunity and the information will be useful for future solid waste planning purposes. The study will help evaluate trends in disposal, the efficacy of recycling programs and other goals. The waste will only be sampled during the summer.

Tim DeGraff stated that the Agency was invited to the Town of Ulster Board Meeting on July 15, 2021 to provide a presentation regarding the compost operations. The Agency answered any questions that the Town Board, Town Council or constituents had. Tim stated the meeting went well. The Town of Ulster Board and constituents asked the Agency to provide a formal complaint response and if any development on the adjoining property happens to include the Town of Ulster in the planning. In response to the request for complaint response, Tim stated Angelina is preparing an educational EDDM (Every Door Direct Mailing) to the community regarding the compost program, benefits of composting, food waste and who to contact with questions/concerns.

Charles Landi brought up an article that Tom Kacandes shared regarding EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility). The Board and staff discussed what EPR is, how it works, and the Maine Law that just passed. The Board and staff agreed that is something that the Agency should stay informed about.

Charles Landi advised the Board that the Authority Budget's Office has scheduled three webinars for the month of August with respect to board member training.

NEW BUSINESS

Katherine Beinkafner, Chair provided the Board and staff with the proposed GIS study and map prepared by Paul Rubin of HydroQuest. The Board and staff discussed the proposal. The Board would like to revise the 100 acres to 200 acres which would provide more possible sites. JoAnne Myers wanted to make sure environmental justice areas are integrated in the proposal and is clearly stated throughout the proposal. Katherine Beinkafner and JoAnne Myers will meet with Paul Rubin to revise the proposed GIS study.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Charles Landi motioned to **ENTER** into Executive Session and seconded by Tom Kacandes at 1:05pm. **VOTE:** 4 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 1 Absent (MITTEN). The motion passed 4-0-1 Absent (MITTEN).

Motion to **EXIT** Executive Session by **Tom Kacandes**. Seconded by **Charles Landi**. **VOTE:** 4 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 1 Absent (MITTEN). The motion passed 4-0-1 Absent (MITTEN).

Katherine Beinkafner proposed that the Board vote on the approval of the Stipulation of Voluntary Dismissal Pursuant to FRCP 41(A)1(A)(ii), case number 1:21-cv-161. **JoAnne Myers** motioned to vote on the approval of the Stipulation of Voluntary Dismissal Pursuant to FRCP 41(A)1(A)(ii), case number 1:21-cv-161 and it was seconded by **Tom Kacandes**.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye

Myers: Aye

Landi: Aye

Mitten: Absent

Kacandes: Aye

The motion passed 4-0-1 absent (MITTEN).

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution #2539 Re: Approving Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and Local 445, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Katherine Beinkafner presented the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 445 Teamsters and the Agency. The agreement is from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025.

Tom Kacandes motioned to approve **Resolution #2539 Re: Approving Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and Local 445, International Brotherhood of Teamsters** and seconded by JoAnne Myers.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye

Myers: Aye

Landi: Aye

Mitten: Absent

Kacandes: Aye

The motion passed 4-0-1 absent (MITTEN)

ADJOURN

Charles Landi motioned to ADJOURN the July 26, 2021, Regular Board Meeting at 1:29pm and it was seconded by **Tom Kacandes**.

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


August 23, 2021

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the July 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting was made by Katherine Beinkafner, moved by Charles Landi, Seconded by JoAnne Myers. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Mitten), 1 absent (Kacandes).

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

