

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

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on October 25, 2021. This meeting was held in person at the Agency's Main Office located at 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY 12401. There was also a call-in audio option available through Webex.

The proceedings were convened at 12:00pm.

The following Board members were present: Chair Katherine Beinkafner, Vice Chair JoAnne Myers, Treasurer Charles Landi, and Member Lisa Mitten. Member Thomas Kacandes was absent.

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director/Controller Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Compliance Charlie Whittaker, Director of Sustainability Angelina Brandt, Recycling Educator Melinda France (virtually), Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker (virtually) and Compliance Officer Larry Ricci.

From the public: Daily Freeman reporter Bill Kemble, Ulster County Comptroller's office staff Randy Boughton.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

- Katherine Beinkafner said at the last meeting she had stated that Paul Rubin was about to finish up the GIS study, but she later found out he was on vacation so it will take longer.
- Katherine Beinkafner addressed comments made at the last Town of Ulster Council Meeting by Clayton Van Kleeck and Rocco Secreto where they stated that they do not want a landfill in the Town of Ulster and also complained about the issue with the smell of compost. She stated that they must be deaf or hard of hearing because she, Tim DeGraff, and Larry Ricci attended the Town of Ulster's July Board meeting. The Agency investigated the smell and it does not come from the Agency's compost. She said the smell originated from a septic tank owned by the Town of Ulster, and also possibly from the Callanan quarry. She stated that the Agency should consider either reducing or eliminating the host community benefit that is paid to the Town of Ulster.
- JoAnne Myers recommended the Board look into the Dutch process for siting a landfill.
- Charlie Whittaker stated that there was an uptick in garbage that mainly went to the New Paltz Transfer Station due to the Poughkeepsie burn plant being down. He questioned where waste would go if the Agency was not here.
- Katherine Beinkafner said she is in favor of a waste-to-energy project over a landfill.
- JoAnne Myers stated that there would still be a need for a landfill when using a waste-to-energy facility. She reminded Katherine Beinkafner that this is a decision for the Board as a whole.
- Charlie Whittaker said that lawmakers need to deal with the recycling laws. He said that single stream ruined the recycling industry.

- Katherine Beinkafner said that the DEC has not been doing what it needs to do and must do a better job.
- Charles Landi talked about the urgency of Seneca Meadows shutting down in two to three years and the lawsuit that exists between Seneca Meadows and the town of Waterloo. He stated that Katherine Beinkafner is waiting for a miraculous waste solution to appear instead of working toward a landfill.
- Charlie Whittaker replied that he understands Charles Landi's point, but this a trash problem, not a landfill problem and this is an issue everywhere. Waste needs to be reduced and there needs to be enforcement. He said that the Agency can't do its job when there is no enforcement of waste reduction.
- Charles Landi said that no matter what there will still be a need for a landfill for the residual waste. He said somewhere in Ulster County there is a suitable parcel of land. He added that Tracey Bartels and Dave Donaldson have said repeatedly that Ulster County needs a landfill.
- Katherine Beinkafner interjected to say that they aren't experts.
- Charles Landi replied that Kelly Turturro, Director of Region 3 of the DEC is an expert and has asked the Agency to hire a consultant to find a location for a landfill.
- Charlie Whittaker said that the easiest step is to enforce the laws that are already on the books.
- JoAnne Myers stated that there needs to be a waste stream study.
- Ken Gilligan said that this conversation is off track from the original comments and the Board needs to move on.
- Charles Landi requested that Bill Kemble write in his next article that on October 4 the Agency held its Public Hearing regarding the 2022 budget and no one from the public attended.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Charles Landi motioned to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the October 4, 2021 Public Hearing. Seconded by JoAnne Myers. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Kacandes). The motion was approved.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held at the Agency's Main Office on November 22, 2021 at 12:00pm.

Lisa Mitten said she may not be able to make it to the meeting.

### **RECYCLING OUTREACH TEAM PROGRAM UPDATE**

Angelina Brandt presented the program update:

- For the month of October the Agency's messaging has been to promote the safe disposal of pharmaceutical waste.
- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is October 23.
- Residents can take their unused or expired medications to the Ulster County Sherriff's Department any time, as well as most local police stations.

- In October the Agency also promoted the safe disposal of sharps (home use medical needles). They can be safely disposed of at any hospital or nursing home.
- The Recycle Right New York campaign has focused on glass this month and the Agency had shared their resources.
- Several tours were conducted this month, and will be winding down as winter approaches.
- One fall class was scheduled to promote rethinking holiday waste, but it was canceled due to low enrollment.
- The last Household Hazardous Waste Event for the year was held on Sunday, October 24. There were 243 participants. The total number of participants for the entire year of events is 871. The program will resume in the spring.
- The Agency has updated its Dual Stream Recycling Guide (attached). They are being professionally printed in English and Spanish. They will be distributed to all of the Town Transfer Stations.

### Discussion

- Charlie Whittaker and Angelina Brandt talked about how the Sunday events work very well since the Transfer Station is closed that day, making the event more controlled and safer.
- Charles Landi asked the status of the Education Building.
- Charlie Whittaker replied that they have met with contractors about putting in the glass wall, and they are hoping to start bagging by the spring if not late winter. There is still work to be done in-house while staff also works on other projects.
- Charles Landi stated that the Agency spends \$8.5-\$9 million per year to send waste to Seneca Meadows. That money could go towards developing a new landfill and in 5 years when it's up and running that money could go to important projects.
- Katherine Beinkafner replied that she thinks Charles Landi is out of his gourd.
- Larry Ricci said that 5 years is an incredibly optimistic timeline. He said the Agency does not want to end up like Orange County, which spent \$53 million to build a landfill only to have politicians and environmental groups have it shut down before it accepted any trash. He recommended the Board contact the Orange County Executive and take a tour of that landfill.
- Lisa Mitten requested the Board go back to Angelina Brandt's report.

### Program Updated (Continued)

- Angelina Brandt stated that October marks the end of the Agency's grant writing cycle. The Agency will submit another application to continue to fund the recycling coordination and education program. The program costs are approximately \$247,386 and the Agency will be seeking 50% state assistance in 2022. She stressed that the Agency has been working on rebranding for the past couple of years and is really working on how it promotes the Agency. They are planning a video production series (possibly utilizing college students/interns), possibly local television instead of radio and newspaper, and trying to reach people in new ways such as podcasting. She said that a podcast would feature various industry professionals in order to get correct information to the public.

Discussion

- Tim DeGraff added that it is incredibly important for the Agency to connect with the public directly without a middle man in order for the people of Ulster County to realize what an asset the Agency is.
- JoAnne Myers asked about the purchasing of podcasting equipment and whether a sound room would need to be built.
- Tim DeGraff replied that there have been meetings so far with staff that will be involved. He said at the moment the plan is to record the podcasts when the Office is closed. He doesn't currently see a need to set up a sound room. He said that a good mixing board and microphones will be important to have.
- Lisa Mitten asked if the interns working on video production would be paid.
- Angelina Brandt replied that she and Tim DeGraff have discussed that in great length and think that would be a good opportunity. She said they could possibly hire a digital media intern to also redo the Agency's logo, among other things.

**GENERAL REPORTS****FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

For the month of September the Agency's MSW tons were 9,544 and C&D tons were 3,926. Revenue line items of note: HHW/MWRR/FSR Grants \$34,879 (P2I Grant \$12,088, MWRR Grant \$22,791). Total revenue for the month was \$1,665,852. Expense line items of note: MRF Operations \$(1,764) (reimbursement from MBI for guard rail damage). Total operating expenses for the month were \$1,344,245. Net operating revenue was \$321,607. Capital outlay \$17,395 (additional concrete work for DEC compliance). For the month of September, the fund balance was \$304,212. Year-to-date \$341,126.

Charles Landi motioned to approve the September 2021 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Lisa Mitten. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Kacandes). The motion was approved.

**MRF Cost Center Analysis**

For the month of September, the total sale of recyclables were \$44,436. Total transport/disposal costs for September were \$6,565. Net revenue of \$37,871. Total personnel expenses were \$29,991. Total operating expenses were \$(1,198) due to an accounting adjustment. Total personnel/operating costs were \$28,793. Net income for the month of \$9,078. Year-to-date net income of \$142,730.

Discussion

- Charlie Whittaker noted that even though the markets are almost triple, there is still a cost to single stream.
- JoAnne Myers asked if the Agency is being impacted by the glass jar shortage.

- Charlie Whittaker replied that he hasn't heard anything about that.
- Angelina Brandt added that the capture rate for glass in single stream recycling is extremely low.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Resolution #2550 RE: Approving 2022 Final Agency Budget**

- Tim DeGraff stated that there have been no changes in any of the resolutions from what was previously approved.
- Charles Landi said that the fact that no public attended the Public Hearing is a tribute to how well the Agency is doing. He lamented the fact that the newspaper would never publish something positive about the Agency.

JoAnne Myers motioned to approve Resolution #2550 RE: Approving 2022 Final Agency Budget. Seconded by Charles Landi. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Kacandes). The motion was approved.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye  
Myers: Aye  
Landi: Aye  
Mitten: Aye  
Kacandes: Absent  
The motion was approved.

**Resolution #2551 RE: Approving the 2022 Final Agency Capital Plan**

Lisa Mitten motioned to approve Resolution #2551 RE: Approving the 2022 Final Agency Capital Plan. Seconded by Charles Landi. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Kacandes). The motion was approved.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye  
  
Myers: Aye  
Landi: Aye  
Mitten: Aye  
Kacandes: Absent  
The motion was approved.

**Resolution #2552 RE: Approving the Fee Schedule for 2022 Tipping Fees and Other Charges**

Lisa Mitten motioned to approve Resolution #2552 RE: Approving the Fee Schedule for 2022 Tipping Fees and Other Charges. Seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Kacandes). The motion was approved.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye

Myers: Aye

Landi: Aye

Mitten: Aye

Kacandes: Absent

The motion was approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Katherine Beinkafner stated that she has been in contact with the plastic block company. She said the operation is still in the preliminary stages. She said that they had built a tiny home using the blocks, but then covered the blocks with other building materials so you can't see the blocks. She said she doesn't think they will be ready for a long time.
- Charles Landi talked about Fox Block which is used in the Kingston area. It is a building material made of concrete and Styrofoam.
- JoAnne Myers said there is a house being built near hers using Fox Block.
- Katherine Beinkafner asked how much plastic the Agency receives each month.
- Charlie Whittaker said most of the plastic goes to single stream so you can't go by that number.
- Angelina Brandt said that the Agency is undergoing a waste audit through Stony Brook University. The study will run for five years. The DEC has proposed some theoretical models that the rest of the state uses, so that information is out there. In Ulster County we use the annual recycling report which surveys all the haulers and asks for data about their tonnage. She said there are still many challenges in the way of getting an accurate number.
- Katherine Beinkafner said the Agency may be overlooking a company that could create something using plastics within Ulster County.
- Charles Landi said that if Paul Rubin can identify two 200 acre parcels for a landfill, then the next step would be to get the DEC involved.
- Larry Ricci noted that the DEC is extremely short staffed right now, and most of the employees that worked on landfills previously are no longer there. He told Charles Landi that it will be a very long process.
- Charles Landi stated that David Donaldson called for a local landfill in the State of the County Address, so when the Agency requests the money to fund a landfill from the Legislature there should be no excuses.
- Larry Ricci replied that unfortunately the County Chairman knows nothing about landfills. He said it's easy to make these statements without knowing all of the information.
- Katherine Beinkafner said that the next hurdle for finding a parcel will be environmental justice areas.
- Larry Ricci said Paul Rubin's report is not a feasibility study, but data collection and elimination. He said this is a long process and the Agency is already getting a lot of pushback from the Towns.
- Charles Landi suggested the Agency use eminent domain to acquire a parcel for the landfill as was done for the Thruway.
- Lisa Mitten told Charles Landi that the Board hears him. They will wait until they get the report and then figure out the next steps.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN**

Lisa Mitten motioned to adjourn the October 25, 2021, Regular Board Meeting at 1:14pm, seconded by Charles Landi. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Kacandes). The motion was approved.

November 22, 2021

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the October 25, 2021 Regular Board Meeting was made by Lisa Mitten, moved by JoAnne Myers. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Kacandes).

The minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant. Meetings are recorded and available at [www.ucrra.org/about-us/board-of-directors-meetings-minutes/](http://www.ucrra.org/about-us/board-of-directors-meetings-minutes/).

Signatures:

  
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Katherine Beinkamer, Chair

  
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Ken Gilligan, Secretary

  
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Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant

