

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on November 17, 2022. This meeting was held in person with a call-in option.

The proceedings were convened at 4:04 PM.

Board members present: Chair Katherine Beinkafner, Vice Chair Tom Kacandes (arrived at 4:13PM), Treasurer Charles Landi, Member James Gordon and Member Margot Becker.

Staff present: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director Greg Ollivier, Director of Finance and Administration Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Compliance Charlie Whittaker, Director of Sustainability Angelina Brandt, Compliance Officer Larry Ricci and Office Manager Melinda France.

Public present: Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Landi motioned to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2022, Regular Board Meeting and seconded by James Gordon. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (KACANDES).

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2022, at 4PM

RECYCLING OUTREACH TEAM PROGRAM UPDATE

Angelina Brandt provided the Recycling Outreach Team update.

Program updates:

- Campaign for the month was focused on America Recycles Day (ARD); which is celebrated November 15th nationally and statewide. The outreach campaign included radio, social media, print and digital news ads. A sample of advertising was provided in the board packet.
- A blog article was published on the website. The blog article was copied in a press release that was circulated to towns, environmental groups, and schools (approx. 200 contacts). The blog post was provided in the board packet.
- The messages for ARD:
 - Recycling is important to our environment and our economy. Some facts/tips provided included:
 - In 2021 Ulster County collected over 41 million pounds (20,000+ tons) of recyclables.

- With more widespread community engagement and participation, greater milestones for recycling can be achieved.
- Key tips provided:
 - How to prepare recyclables correctly to capture more recyclables in group settings
 - Directed people to recycling education services.
- New Program is being developed-**Recycling Ranger Program**. This program is targeted towards schools and youths. This program will develop youth leaders who “know and show” the proper recycling techniques, engaging their school community to recycle more of the correct items. Specific actions will need to be completed to achieve points and earn rewards.
- Staff attended the 33rd Annual NYSAR conference. Session highlights focused on:
 - Outreach and Education Strategies for Recycling Leaders
 - Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging “DEIB” into Outreach Programs
 - Developing the Reuse Economy
 - Materials Management Climate Impacts
- The NYS Pollution Prevention Institute invited Angelina to be a panelist in a plenary session called **Leveraging Funding to Implement Pollution Prevention Efforts in NYS**. Angelina spoke about the Agency’s Zero Waste Seminar Project from 2020.

Katherine Beinkafner asked about black plastic and paper products for recycling. Angelina explained:

- Paper products like paper plates, cups, and tissues cannot be recycled due to:
 - The items being coated with an adhesive that cannot be separated during the recycling process.
 - Tissues fibers are too small to pulp down.
 - Uncoated plates should not be recycled or composted
- Black plastic items cannot be recycled due to:
 - Value is extremely low
 - Sorting black plastic is hard due to:
 - Optical sorters cannot not read the resin code
 - Black plastic absorbs all the light
 - Made with a mixture of different resins including electronic waste
 - Never can get the black pigment back to clear

(To hear the discussion in full-recording is 4:45 to 10:27)

GENERAL REPORTS

Tim DeGraff presented the October general reports.

MSW REPORT

Tim DeGraff stated the MSW tons were 73 tons less than targeted tons.

RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT

Tim DeGraff pointed out that food waste surpassed total tons from last year. 2021 total tons were 3,388.62 and as of October of 2022 total tons were 3,596.72.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS-none

OLD BUSINESS

- **Food Waste Trailer Grant (*Recording 14:12-40:13*)**
 - Grant will be submitted by end of year
 - Greg and Angelina are working together on outreach
 - Greg is meeting personally with each Town
 - Some Towns are interested
 - Received several commitment letters
 - Towns are worried about:
 - Collecting enough material to make worth while
 - Transporting the material
 - Cost
 - Contamination
 - Towns would need to transport food waste to Agency
 - Towns would save on disposal costs
 - Grant would allow the Agency to provide Towns with the trailers
 - Grant funding would go to programs that support Environmental Justice areas (50% of the project would need to meet that criteria)
 - There was a discussion regarding contamination in the food waste
- **Discussion of the Local Solid Waste Management Plan (*Recording 40:20-1:36:12*)**
 - Angelina is constantly working on the updates for the LSWMP
 - Last update was submitted in May 2022 and approved in June 2022 (first update prepared)
 - First update included the years 2020-2021-first 2 years
 - Next update will include the years of 2022-2023 and must be submitted by May 1, 2024
 - There is an Implementation Plan with key things that must be met. If the key tasks are not done, you must respond why. COVID was a key factor on why some of the items were not completed in the update.
 - Board and staff discussed various options including transporting MSW by rail, working with other counties, challenges, studies, timeframe, and updates with the Plan.
 - The Plan was written by Cornerstone, PLLC
 - The Board asked Greg Ollivier to prepare a list of ideas and goals. Greg briefly discussed his ideas and goals.
 - The Plan and Biennial updates are located at www.ucrra.org/local-solid-waste-management-plan/
- **Review of the Ulster County Recycling Law (*Recording 1:36:12-2:40:00*)**

This discussion was a result of observing recyclable materials mixed with garbage and trash on the tipping floor brought in by haulers. Fines for haulers are being considered.

- Board and staff reviewed the law, discussed contamination, fines, single-stream recycling and what the Agency is allowed to do under the law
- Staff and Board will prepare a sample letter for violators of the UC Recycling Law
- Staff will prepare a plan to summarize the UC Recycling Law

NEW BUSINESS

- Potential fines for recycling in waste loads
- Refrigerants
- Mattress Recycling
- Discussion on meeting with elected officials

The Board agreed to postpone discussing all the above items under New Business. *Potential fines for recycling in waste loads* and *discussion on meeting with elected officials* were touched upon under “**Old Business**”.

ADJOURN

James Gordon motioned to adjourn the November 17, 2022, Regular Board Meeting at 6:56PM, seconded by Margot Becker. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

December 14, 2022

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the November 17, 2022, Regular Board Meeting was made by Charles Landi and seconded by James Gordon. 4 favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (BEINKAFNER).

The minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Melinda France, Office Manager. 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, Office Manager