

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 26, 2023**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on January 26, 2023.

The proceedings were convened at 6:15 PM. **(The recording of this meeting started at 35:25).**

**Board members present:** Chair Andrew Ghiorse, Vice Chair Margot Becker, Treasurer Tom Kacandes, Member James Gordon and Member Donna Egan.

**Staff present:** Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director Greg Ollivier, Director of Finance and Administration Tim DeGraff, and Office Manager Melinda France.

**From the public:** Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman, and Ulster County Legislator Laura Petit.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Laura Petit, Ulster County Legislator thanked the Board and stated she looked forward to what the Board and Agency will put together in 2023.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Andrew Ghiorse thanked the Board for electing him as Chair. He stated things have changed in the last 15-17 years when he previously served on the board. He stated he attended the December's Board Meeting and stated it still seemed the same.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Margot Becker motioned to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting and seconded by James Gordon. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (GHORSE & EGAN).

**COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2023, at 5:30PM.

**GENERAL REPORTS PRESENTED BY TIM DEGRAFF, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (Recording 36:50-55:27)**

**MSW Tonnage Report (This report is for the whole year of 2022)**

(Recording 39:50-45:29)

MSW and C&D tonnage for 2022 was 152,605 tons which was 15,106 tons more than the targeted tons of 137,499.

Sludge tonnage for 2022 was 3,001 tons which was 198 tons less than the targeted tons of 3,199.

Approximately, 8% of the waste from 2022 was from Dutchess County.

**Recycling Tonnage Report (This report is for the whole year of 2022)**

(Recording 45:30-47:54)

Tim DeGraff noted that commingled, glass and mixed news was down for the year due to Greene County not bringing the volume of recyclables in; Town Transfer Stations/City of Kingston having less recycling which correlates with less MSW.

OCC volume down, which is directly due to less volume being received from Royal Carting and Welsh Sanitation.

Brush increased for the year due to the ice storm.

There was a brief discussion on food waste.

**Treasurer's Report (November)**

(Recording 47:55-51:15)

MSW for the month of November was 9,217 tons and C&D was 3,096 tons. Revenue line items of note: **HHW/MWRR/FSR Grant** line in the amount of \$22,074 was for first quarter 2022 MWRR grant (November). Total revenues were \$1,644,707. Expense line items to note: **HHW Cleanup Day** in the amount of \$38,361 related to October 2022 HHW event; **Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance** in the amount of \$61,520 related to rebuilt sub frames for trailer 19 and 23 (\$52,266); and **CLF Monitoring & Maintenance** in the amount of \$20,452 related to DEC post closure monitoring (\$11,400). Total operating expenses \$1,514,773. Net operating revenues were \$129,934. **Capital Outlay** in the amount of \$487,000 which related to a new loader in the amount of \$399,000 and new skid steer in the amount of \$88,000. Negative Fund Balance for the month in the amount of \$357,066. Year-to-date is a negative \$337,781.

James Gordon made a motion to approve the **November Treasurer's Report** and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**MRF Cost Center Analysis(November)**

(Recording 51:18-55:27)

For the month of November, the total sale of recyclables was \$62,437. Total transport/disposal costs for November were \$6,928. Net revenue of \$55,509. Total personnel expenses were \$43,089. Total operating expenses were \$9,476. Total personnel/operating costs were \$52,565. Net income for the month of November was \$2,944. Year-to-date net loss of \$146,058.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE & RECYCLING OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**UPDATE (Recording 55:35-1:47:30)**

Greg Ollivier's update included the following discussion points (Recording 55:35-1:28:11):

- Due to the holidays, meetings with public officials slowed down.

- Attended the Environmental and Energy Committee Meeting with Angelina. Angelina provided an update to the committee.
- Met with the Director of the Department of Environment and his staff to discuss overlapping issues (Reuse center project, County's concern with zero waste efforts, the Solid Waste Management Plan and the study regarding siting a landfill).
- Met with Kerry Russell, Director of Dutchess County regarding regional challenges.
- Been in discussion with Bill Rabbia, Executive Director of Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA). Will be visiting OHSWA with Angelina next Wednesday (February 1<sup>st</sup>).
- This month reviewing hauler permits. Permits are usually renewed at the end of December. Held two meetings with haulers to introduce himself, provided the copy of the laws to the haulers and discussed what the plan is for the future.
- On March 1<sup>st</sup> will be attending with Charlie Whittaker a SWANA technical session regarding recycling.

There was a discussion regarding what is required in the hauler permits, the Flow Control Law, recycling and other facilities in the area.

**Recycling Outreach Program Update was presented by Greg Ollivier, Executive Director**  
**(Recording 1:28:30-1:42:42)**

**Update:**

- January's Theme was "Fixing Bad Habits" (recycling)
- Social Media Campaigns were Repairing Recycling Habits; how to recycle holiday trees and January Repair Cafes
- Radio Campaign was done by Tanesia White and the topic was "Reuse and Repair"
- Preparing year end reports/grants and reviewing hauler permits
- Presentation/Events:
  - 1/10 Community Composting for Town of Shawangunk Environmental Management Council
  - 1/19 NYSAR3 Women for Recycling Committee meeting
  - 1/21 Outreach Booth "Repairing Recycling Habits" at the New Paltz Repair Café
  - 1/25 Hudson Valley Regional Materials Management Working Group quarterly meeting-attended by Greg, Angelina, and Tanesia

There was a discussion regarding the proposed Food Waste Collection Grant.

Greg Ollivier read an email he received from Marc Ferris on January 6, 2023. The email read:

“Hi Greg,

Late last year, I wrote an article about composting in the Hudson River Valley for the Albany Times Union and visited UCRRA for a tour.

I have dealt with PR people and corporate spokesmen and women for decades (and played to role myself for ten years). The very first email I received from Angelina impressed me with its thoroughness and thoughtfulness. I know she does this for members of the public, as well.

I took home a bundle of publications and notices that she helped conceive and execute them as a high level. The material can be mind numbing with so very many rules to remember, but these booklets and brochures broke it down in an easy to digest manner. She also bailed me out when I needed eleventh hour photos. And, she gives a mean tour and answered all questions from other attendees and myself with authority.

I can tell that all of your staff takes pride in their work. Yours in the cleanest garbage dump. I have ever seen what and what gnawed at me the entire time I reported the story is “why can’t all municipal facilities be like UCRRA?” It’s simple: officials in Ulster cared enough to implement and maintain this facility according to true best practices (an easy phrase to toss around) and the people who work there (from the yard to the administration) adhere to high standards. Were that our entire society upheld the same values, even for refuse centers.

I hope to revisit UCRRA in future articles. Keep up the good work.

Best, Marc”

Greg’s email response read as follows:

“Thank you, Marc. Incredible feedback that I am happy to receive. With your permission I will share this with my staff and others. While I cannot take credit for what you experienced, I am proud to work with such a professional and exceptional team. I can only hope to live up to the standard they have set. Your words of affirmation will certainly encourage them.

Thank you again and visit anytime.

Greg”

Recording of the above letter and response is at 1:42:47-1:47:30

### **DEPARTMENTAL GOALS DISCUSSION (Recording 1:47:34-1:54:18)**

Donna Egan had a few recommendations for staff which included:

- Department Heads provide a list of at least 3 achievable goals that they expect to achieve in 2023.
- Donna provided to the Board a list of goals with some ideas she had.
- The Board discussed a few ideas for potential goals:
  - Continuously improving programs

- Electronics being collected all year
- Feasibility of mattress recycling
- Engaging with so many classrooms
- Continuity with programs especially with schools
- More engaging with Towns, County Legislators and County Executive

Margot Becker would like to see a timeframe on the goals the staff presents.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **Resolution No. 2583 - Re: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of Hard Tire for Volvo Loaders (Recording 1:58:00-2:01:03)**

Thomas Kacandes made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 2583-Re: Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of Hard Tire for Volvo and seconded by James Gordon. 5 approved, 0 opposed.

#### **Resolution No. 2584 – Re: Authorization for Revision of Recycling Compliance Officer Job Description (Recording 2:01:05-2:05:30)**

James Gordon made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 2584-Re: Authorization for Revision of Recycling Compliance Office Job Description and seconded by Donna Egan. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

#### **Resolution No. 2585 – Re: Authorizing and Approving a Request for Proposals for Engineering Services (Recording 2:07:45-2:14:40)**

James Gordon made the motion to approve the Resolution No. 2585-Re: Authorizing and Approving a Request for Proposals for Engineering Services seconded by Tom Kacandes.

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of this RFP and the process.

After discussion on the wording of this resolution, the Board changed the sixth paragraph to read “Further resolved, that the Executive Director and the Agency Staff are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to complete the **proposal process** for a Landfill Feasibility Study, and be it”

Donna Egan made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2585 to change “all steps necessary...” to read “all steps necessary to complete the **proposal process....**” seconded by James Gordon.

After further discussion, they decided to amend Resolution No. 2585 again.

Donna Egan made a motion to amend the Resolution No. 2585 to change “all steps necessary....” to read “all steps necessary to complete the **proposal process for a....**”, seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

James Gordon made a motion to approve the amended Resolution No. 2585 and Andrew Ghiorse seconded. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Presentation by Tom Kacandes regarding refrigerants was postponed until the next meeting in February.

### **NEW BUSINESS-none**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Employee Matters

Motion to **enter** into Executive Session was made by Tom Kacandes at 7:50 PM and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Vote: Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Motion to **exit** Executive Session was made by James Gordon at 8:15 PM and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Vote: Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn the January 26, 2023, Regular Board Meeting at 8:15 PM was made by Tom Kacandes and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

February 23, 2023

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the January 26, 2023, Regular Board Meeting was made by James Gordon, and seconded by Donna Egan. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (KACANDES).

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/](http://www.ucrra.org/about-us/board-of-directors-meetings-minutes/).

Signatures:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Ghiorse, Chair

Ken Gilligan, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_