

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 23, 2023**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on March 23, 2023.

The proceedings were convened at 5:30 PM.

**Board members present:** Chair Andrew Ghiorse, Vice Chair Margot Becker, Treasurer Tom Kacandes (arrived at 5:35 PM), Member James Gordon and Member Donna Egan.

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

**From the public:** Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman, Ulster County Legislature Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature Kevin Roberts, and approximately 26 Town of Plattekill residents. (Attached to the Minutes is the sign-in log).

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Recording 1:49-53:20)**

Ulster County Legislatures Roberts and Greene, 17 Town of Plattekill residents and Bill Kemble spoke.

The main concerns, points and comments were:

- Plattekill residents are all against the landfill in Plattekill
- Pollution
- Safety
- Traffic
- Smells the landfill would bring
- Concerns of the wetlands
- How many people this landfill would effect
- Should be better ideas to deal with trash
  - Removing and recycling more materials
- HydroQuest report was only a preliminary study
- Questions regarding a new study
  - Greg Ollivier responded that HydroQuest report is posted to website
  - Responses received from the RFP are being reviewed
  - Statement of Interest requests will close on Monday, April 3rd
- Costs for a new report
  - Greg Ollivier explained that the Agency is not taxpayer funded
  - Agency is funded through tipping fees
  - Tom Kacandes added the Agency is a State entity and the Board is appointed through the Ulster County Legislative
- Lack of transparency to the residents
  - Jim Gordon responded that the Board will be transparent

A written statement from Louis J. Braun and Joanne M. Braun was presented to the board.

*Plattekill Landfill*

The following statement is given in response to the potential application of HydroQuest to use as a site for the disposal of Ulster County municipal waste approximately 95 acres of land, 102.2-2-1292, bounding Plattekill Ardonia Road and Sunset Camp Road in Plattekill, New York and including Lake Sunset (the Proposed Municipal Waste Site).

Our property, 101.2-2-1291 (the Braun Property) of approximately 129.3 acres bounds the subject area in consideration owning 50% of Lake Sunset and shares a boundary line on Plattekill Ardonia Road and lies directly across Sunset Camp Road from Rabbit Run Road to the middle of Lake Sunset.

The following should be noted:

- (1) The Braun Property is used exclusively for managing the play of paintball games. It was purchased in 1982, and operated ever since for that exclusive purpose and has been used as such to this day;
- (2) There are 10 paintball fields on the Braun Property used in such play ranging from children birthday parties, bachelor and bachelorette parties, corporate outings, and world class paintball tournaments, to name a few.
- (3) The institution of utilizing the Proposed Municipal Waste Site would, in essence, in large measure destroy our customer base. The odors alone would drive potential customers away. The contaminated water flowing North out of Lake Sunset, is adjacent to three of our paintball fields and the fields on our property across Sunset Camp Road would, to say the least, by the odors emanated from the contaminated waste product, discourage the use of our property for a day of fun, festivities and major worldwide competitions.
- (4) One question would be who would compensate us for the significant loss of income we would incur under such circumstances, or worse yet, our inability to sustain our paintball business on our Plattekill land purchased in 1982.
- (5) Another question would be who would compensate us for the defiling of our land by the stream flowing North on our land from the contaminated water flowing on our property from Lake Sunset.

We await answers.

*Louis J. Braun*  
Louis J. Braun

*Joanne M. Braun*  
Joanne M. Braun

Dated: March 21, 2023

Tom Kacandes explained the purpose of the HydroQuest report and discussed landfill studies. (Recording 33:25-37:35 & 50:28-52:36)

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS-none**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

James Gordon motioned to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (KACANDES).

**COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Recording 54:32-57:10)**

Margot Becker asked Chair Andrew Ghiorse if the next meeting date could be changed. Donna Egan made a motion to discuss changing the date of the April 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting;

seconded by Margot Becker. After discussion, the Board decided to keep the meeting date as previously scheduled.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

**GENERAL REPORTS PRESENTED BY TIM DEGRAFF, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**MSW Tonnage Report (Recording 57:44-58:20)**

February 2023			
	Actual Tonnage	Target Tonnage	Difference
MSW	9,007 tons	8,731 tons	276 tons more than targeted tons
Sludge	202 tons	230 tons	28 tons less than target ton

**Recycling Tonnage Report (Recording 58:21-58:36)**

Tim DeGraff stated recycling is down due to February being a short month and working days.

**Treasurer’s Report (Recording 58:38-1:01:53)**

➤ **FEBRUARY**

MSW for the month of February was 6,961 tons and C&D was 2,046 tons. Revenue line items of note: **HHW/MWRR/FSR Grants** line in the amount of \$30,295 was for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2022 MWRR grant. Total revenues were \$1,242,920. Expense line items to note: **Administration Expense** in the amount of \$50,141 which \$15,000 of that was for the external auditors; **Recycling Education** in the amount of \$8,148 for digital/online advertising campaigns (\$7,000); and **MRF Operations** in the amount of \$17,018 for S850 bobcat repairs in the amount \$9,117. Total operating expenses \$1,193,678. Net operating revenues was \$49,242. Capital Outlay payment of \$48,605 for loader tires L110/L90 in the amount \$47,144 and \$1,461 for material/supplies for recycling ed/compost bagging building. Annual debt service payment was paid. There are only 2 debt service payments left. 2025 will be the last payment. Fund balance is negative \$1,789,363. Year to date negative \$1,523,683.

Tom Kacandes made a motion to approve the February **Treasurer’s Reports** and it was seconded by James Gordon. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**MRF Cost Center Analysis (Recording 1:01:57-1:03:31)**

➤ **FEBRUARY**

Tim DeGraff stated a load of UBCs were sold for \$17,371. Total sale of recyclables were \$33,547. Transportation and disposal costs were \$4,530. Transportation and disposal costs were

at a net revenue of \$29,017. Personnel Expenses were \$34,555 and Operating Expenses were \$17,585. Total personnel/operating expenses are at a net loss of \$23,123. Year to date is a net loss of \$65,136.

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

**Greg Ollivier's update included the following discussion points/updates (Recording 1:03:33-1:56:50):**

- Working on the website's landing page which will include quick links and a larger search bar
- Met with NYSDEC to insure permits and guidelines are correct and compliant
  - Main concern was with loaded trailers being stored outside and being in violation
  - Everything was in "good shape"
- Attended various meetings:
  - EES
  - Met with Plattekill Supervisor
  - Town Supervisors/Mayors Meeting
    - Towns would like as much advance notice to any rate increases for budgeting purposes
- Will be attending the Plattekill Rotary Club E-Waste Collection on Saturday, March 25th

A discussion ensued with the Board and Greg Ollivier. The discussion included:

- Board requested Greg to prepare a menu of services that the Agency could offer the Town Transfer Stations
- What could possibly be provided to the Towns including signs, compactors, storage sheds and other services.
- Board requested Greg to provide a vision on how to improve solid waste. Greg explained that the RFP and RSOI process we are undertaking will provide the desired vision and answers to these questions.
- The cost of compactors
- Money in the budget and reserves
- Waste diversion and costs
- Options and plans for the future
- Statement of Interest
- Tipping fees

**There was no Recycling Outreach Program update provided.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS****Resolution No. 2589 - Re: Authorizing and Approving Agency HRA and FSA Health Insurance Related Plans (Recording 1:56:55-1:58:38)**

Donna Egan made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2589-Re: Authorizing and Approving Agency HRA & FSA Health Insurance Related Plan** and it was seconded by Margot Becker. 5 approved, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**Resolution No. 2590 – Re: Authorizing and Approving a Request for Proposals for Banking Services (Recording 1:58:39-2:00:12)**

Donna Egan made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2590-Re: Authorizing and Approving a Request for Proposals for Banking Services** and seconded by Margot Becker. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

Greg Ollivier continued with his update (Recording 2:00:20-2:19:20)

- Working on solidifying a hauler out of the New Paltz Transfer Station
  - MBI will be the hauler and there are no additional costs
  - Contracts expires in 2025
- Will be visiting Sullivan County on March 28<sup>th</sup> regarding regionalization and possible future plans
- Met with DEC regarding mattresses
  - DEC advised him what paperwork is required and discussed the timeframe
- Met with Christine Kiourtis of Renewable Recycling
  - Discussed doing a pilot program for mattress recycling
  - Renewable Recycling interested in expanding to Ulster County
  - It would cost approximately \$10-\$12 per mattress
  - Discussed storage for mattresses
  - Only negative for participating in this pilot project would be the need to increase rates and they would be sent to NYC
  - Will collect data including number of mattresses and tonnage if participate

**OLD BUSINESS**

(Recording 2:23:00-2:47:14)

Tom Kacandes provided a presentation and a handout regarding refrigerants. Discussion points made:

- Refrigerants fall into a class of materials called “short-lived climate pollutants”

- Refrigerants are considered forcing agents which effect the climate
- State Law directs that metrics called carbon dioxide equivalent be applied to activities
- CLCPA directs the entire economy towards trying to reduce carbon dioxide equivalents
- Somethings have less climate effect than CO2
- Compared GHG (Greenhouse Gas), GWP (Global Warming Potential) and atmospheric lifetime
- How refrigerants care can be handled here at Agency
- Charges for all refrigerant recovery
- Issues with refrigerants in bulk trash pickups

A discussion ensued regarding more outreach regarding refrigerants, reviewing of the fees and the refrigerant process at the Agency. The Board and Greg Ollivier also discussed the Recycling Compliance Officer position and waste diversion.

Tom Kacandes stated Angie did a great job on the digital Youtube video.

Greg Ollivier mentioned the staff is working on a media survey. Data will be provided at the next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS (Recording 2:55:50-3:20:48)**

- HydroQuest report was tabled for discussion
- Response to RFP for Engineering Services regarding a landfill feasibility study-Greg Ollivier advised the Board and staff that he had two responses with respect to the RFP. He is reviewing and scoring them. He will provide a copy of the responses to the Board.
  - Once everyone reviews the RFPs the Board and Greg will discuss as a group
  - Greg reviewed what he requested and discussed the difference between the RFP landfill feasibility study and the Statement of Interest
  - There was a discussion regarding renewable energy

### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn the March 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting at 9:00 PM was made by Tom Kacandes and seconded by Donna Egan. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

April 27, 2023

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the March 23, 2023 Regular Board Meeting was made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. in favor, opposed, absent.

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

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