

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Zero Waste Committee Meeting on February 29, 2024.

The proceedings were convened at 5:00 PM. The Zero Waste Committee Meeting was held at the Agency's Main Office located 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

Committee Members present: Chair Donna Egan, Committee Members Regis Obijiski, James Gordon (arrived at 5:03 PM), Andrew Ghiorse, and David Gilmour.

Staff present: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan (arrived at 5:49 PM); Director of Finance and Administration Tim DeGraff, Director of Sustainability Angelina Brandt and Office Manager Melinda France. Interim Executive Director Anna Roppolo was absent.

From the public: Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator; Laura Petit, Chair of the Recycling Oversight Committee, and member of the Ulster County Reform Committee; Rokosz Most, reporter from Hudson Valley One; William Kemble, reporter from the Daily Freeman; Marc Rider and Peter Humphries.

PUBLIC COMMENT-No public comment was made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Gilmour questioned a few items in the Minutes due to the fact that he was not part of the Board at that time. He asked for some input from staff regarding ByFusion. Tim DeGraff, Director of Administration and Finance explained ByFusion was doing something out west and it was a kick-starter campaign. David Gilmour added that ByFusion made compressed blocks from recycled/recovered plastics for building materials. He and Tim both stated that they couldn't find much information on ByFusion. David suggested that the Agency consider ByFusion in the future.

David Gilmour asked about the UCRRA Municipal Food Scraps Micro-Hauling Pilot Project & Grant. Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability replied that the Agency never applied for the grant due to not enough support.

David Gilmour made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 16, 2022, as written, and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (EGAN).

(The present Committee Members were not members of this committee when the last ZWCM was held on June 16, 2022)

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Zero Waste Committee Meetings will be held prior to each Regular Board Meeting.

The next ZWCM will be held on March 28, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

Donna Egan read the **Mission and parts of Vision Statement** of the Agency:

“Mission Statement

The mission of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is to protect public health and the environment and to promote sustainable materials management practices in Ulster County by efficiently managing solid waste materials with a focus on resource conservation.”

Donna read and pointed out the following points from the **Vision Statement**:

“Agency Board of Directors and employees are committed to:

- Preventing or minimizing damage to the environment
- Promoting employee, customer and contractor safety via appropriate emergency and operational policies, procedures, and training programs
- Meeting and, where appropriate, exceeding requirements of applicable local, state and federal regulations
- Fostering open communication with employees and the public
- Maintaining the financial viability
- Reducing the amount of waste generated and promoting the use of reused and recycled materials through education and outreach programs
- Developing, designing and operating facilities that are environmentally compliant and energy, resource and economically efficient
- Promoting continuous improvement in materials management by establishing environmental objectives and targets that can be measured and evaluated.”

Donna asked the Committee to come up with their top priorities for the year. She provided the committee with a list of bullet points (handout). The list Donna discussed included the following bullets:

- Consider and prioritize initiatives that 1) reduce waste 2) manage recovered materials 3) conserve resources, and 4) consider greenhouse gas impact, in a way that is sustainable, feasible, economical and have the greatest overall impact to the amount of Ulster County garbage that is landfilled or otherwise recovered. Initiatives may include:
 - Reuse initiatives such as the reuse innovation center and materials exchanges.
 - Flow Control and other legislative changes
 - MRF and materials management technology advances
 - Improved organics management programs and practices (commercial and residential)
 - Board and Staff discussed organics, including County Executive’s goal, if it was countywide goal and who was participating (County Office Bldg and DSS).

- Marc Rider and Regis Obijiski have a meeting with County Executive on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Peter Humphries, resident of the Town of Hurley and the liaison of the Town of Hurley Transfer Station; discussed his plan and process with Town of Hurley's food waste program. Mr. Humphries wanted to know if UCRRA will be responsible for all the composting in the county and the Town of Hurley should be worried. Donna responded that organics will be one of the priorities of the Agency and the Town of Hurley should continue with their program. James Gordon added there is no consideration of taking it away. Mr. Humphries stated this would a savings on removing food waste from the trash.
 - Extended producer responsibility
 - C&D and scrap metal diversion programs and processes
 - Mattress, electronics, tires and textile initiatives
 - Single use plastic and film initiatives
 - Commercial and industrial 3R programs and enforcement
 - Zero waste program incentives and enforcement
 - County level market development programs

The Board discussed the priorities/goals of the Zero Waste Committee, zero waste in general and Zero Waste Implementation Plan (ZWIP).

Donna Egan passed out copies of the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. Donna asked if anyone in the Public could provide an update to the ZWIP.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator, stated the following regarding the ZWIP:

- It was worked on for two years and hired consultant to finish but didn't finish due to funding
- It was drafted but not finished
- Consultant provided recommendations on how to complete and what needed to be completed on ZWIP
- There was no timeline, funding or decision on completing the ZWIP
- When the local Solid Waste Management Plan was approved there was a lot of language regarding the waste diversion but not implementation plan and this is why the ZWIP was done
- Recommendation from the Agency will be valuable to the Reform Committee
- The report of the Reform Committee will be due in June

Donna Egan asked Manna Jo Greene what the remaining tasks would cost. Manna Jo Greene stated that there is about \$5000. She stated the Legislature paid \$10,000.

Donna Egan asked if the ZWIP was directly in line with the Local Solid Waste Management Plan.

Laura Petit, Chair of the Recycling Oversight Committee and member of the Reform Committee responded that it was a continuation of the Solid Waste Management Plan. Laura also added that Donna had a lot of input on the ZWIP as well. Andrew Ghiorse added that he believed Comptroller Gallagher was looking into the agreement that the consultant provided to make sure everything they were supposed to do in the contract was provided.

The Board discussed the remaining \$5,000 to complete the ZWIP.

The Board continued to discuss the priorities including C&D and plastic.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Peter Humphries added to the conversation regarding C&D. He provided his input regarding C&D. He stated that concrete is the main weight of the C&D. He discussed how to reuse/recycle C&D.

Donna Egan discussed all the committees and their initiatives. She feels the committees are overlapping with their initiatives and discussions. She believes the execution falls on the Agency. She hopes the ZWC can move forward with making improvements and changes. The ZWC should provide direction to the new Executive Director, authorize the funding and set the priorities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marc Rider added the Agency are already doing a lot and he believed some of the other outside committees don't know what the Agency is already doing.

The Board continued to discuss the priorities, enforcement, Flow Control on recycling, recycling, contamination, glass recycling, asking the County for a net service fee or bond and reuse (decentralize/centralize).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Peter Humphries added that the transfer stations are important to the Towns, especially the senior citizens.

The Board decided to start with to improve organics management.

David Gilmour asked Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability to weigh in on the conversation. Donna Egan asked that it wait until the next meeting due to time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator commented about the Reuse Innovation Center (RIC). Her comments made:

- Critically important to address the RIC
- Spent \$75,000 on a Feasibility Study
- Greatest weakness is it didn't integrate what could be done at a centralize location and what could be done or already done at the transfer stations
- The team who put the study together didn't work in communities that had transfer stations like Ulster County

- Doesn't want to waste \$75,000
- Hoping the Agency will look at the study and take on the project
- With convenience, she believes the Agency could ask the County for a net service fee for the project that County wants the Agency to do
- RIC doesn't have a place to live, and she believes it should be at the Agency

ADJOURN

James Gordon motioned to adjourn the February 29, 2024, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 5:56 PM and it was seconded by David Gilmour. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

March 28, 2024

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the February 29, 2024, Zero Waste Committee Meeting was made by _____ and seconded by _____. ___ in favor, ___ opposed, ___ absent.

The minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Melinda France, Office Manager.

Signatures:

Donna Egan, Chair

Ken Gilligan, Secretary