

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 23, 2024**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Zero Waste Committee Meeting on May 23, 2024.

The proceedings were convened at 5:03 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 5:12 PM), Andrew Ghiorse, and David Gilmour (absent).

Staff present: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan (arrived at 5:46PM); Executive Director Marc Rider, Director of Finance and Administration Tim DeGraff, and Office Manager Melinda France. Director of Sustainability Angelina Brandt was absent.

From the public: Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regis Obijiski made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2024, Zero Waste Committee Meeting, as written, and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON/GILMOUR).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator requested that the Agency connect with the different stakeholders. She asked that the Agency start to take ownership and/or make progress on completing the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. She said maybe staff and board members could work on the plan. She also asked the Agency to think about the Reuse Innovation Center (RIC). She stated maybe the iPark 87 would be a good location for the RIC. She felt the new Supervisor, Clayton VanKleek, Town of Ulster, might be more amendable to the idea. The Reform Committee did not want to take on the responsibility to complete the ZWIP and thought it should go to the Recycling Oversight Committee. The plan is 80% done. It would cost approximately \$5,000 to complete the plan. The plan was intended to be an addendum to the Local Solid Waste Management Plan. She stated the ZWIP will be referenced in the UCRRA Reform Committee's report, which is due in June.

The Committee and staff discussed the ZWIP and the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Committee members and staff shared their thoughts regarding the ZWIP and SWMP.

OLD BUSINESS

Donna Egan Chair recapped the last Zero Waste Committee Meeting and asked each Committee Member their thoughts regarding the presentations and organics. The following discussion points/comments were made by Committee Members and staff:

- Thought it would be good to work with the Towns regarding organics

- Possibly provide the hauling of collected organics from the towns to the Agency
- Should start small
- Permitted limit
 - Agency has exceeded the collected amount from last year
 - Spoke to DEC with respect to increasing the permitted tonnage
- How the Agency could help
- Would need commitment
- Hub and spoke system
- Promote home composting
- Standardize signage with Towns
- The towns possibly composting on-site and provide the finish product to their residents
- On-site composting
 - Saves on carbon
 - Saves on fuel
 - Saves on expenses
- What the Towns would need to do in order to collect organics
 - Permits/registrations
- Would need maximum participation and have an option for everyone
- Flow Control haulers offer all their customers bins and the Agency would show the cost savings
- Mandatory food source separation
- Grant money that could be offered to the Towns for this program

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator added to the conversation that:

- When the analysis was done regarding the organics law, calculations expected 10,000 tons per year
- Not all organics were expected to come to the Agency
- Must be clear with the municipalities on their options

Marc Rider discussed mattresses. He stated, at the Federation Conference, he connected with several providers who provided mattress recycling. One company was Casella and the other company takes the mattress material and creates sustainable sand bags out of the mattresses. Marc stated that Charlie Whittaker attended the session at the conference regarding mattresses and agreed that the Agency should do something about mattresses. The Agency received 17,000 mattresses last year at \$5/mattress. He discussed the modification with the NYSDEC. DEC advised him to answer the questions in the modification to modify the permit. Marc will work on a program with the Operations and Fiscal Teams. Marc added that Manna Jo Greene has said in the past if the Agency had a plan for something in division, the Legislature and the County would be open to a net service fee. Some of the solutions for the mattresses would cost \$40/mattress and might need to be transported. He felt that the Agency should not absorb all of the cost and shouldn't raise the tipping fee to \$40. He thought the Agency might pay half of the fee; the County's net service fee could offset the remaining cost. He stated he did not want the staff handling the mattresses. He discussed his vision on how he believed it would work. He stated he would want to send out a Request for Proposal.

ADJOURN

James Gordon motioned to adjourn the May 23, 2024, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM and it was seconded by Regis Obijiski. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GILMOUR).

June 27, 2024

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the May 23, 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

DRAFT