

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 27, 2024**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Zero Waste Committee Meeting on June 27, 2024.

The proceedings were convened at 5:15 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 (absent), Andrew Ghiorse and David Gilmour (arrived at 5:30 PM).

Staff present: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan (arrived at 5:52 PM); Executive Director Marc Rider, Director of Finance and Administration Tim DeGraff, Coordinator of Organizational Performance and Development Tim Weidemann, Director of Sustainability Angelina Brandt and Office Manager Melinda France.

From the public: Laura Petit, Chair of the Recycling Oversight Committee and member of the Ulster County Reform Committee; Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator; Kevin Roberts, Ulster County Legislator; Town of Plattekill Councilmen James Fazio, Wilfrido Castillo, Jr. and Stephen O'Flaherty and resident Joann Mead.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT-none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regis Obijiski made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 23, 2024, Zero Waste Committee Meeting, as written, and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON/GILMOUR).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve the Agenda as written and it was seconded by Regis Obijiski. 3 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 absent (GORDON/GILMOUR)

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Zero Waste Committee Meeting will be held on July 25, 2024, at 5:00 PM

DISCUSSION:

- *Organics*-Donna Egan presented five questions to the Committee Members and staff. She stated that the answers to these questions will form the framework on moving forward. She asked for the consensus of the committee and that would be passed onto the Agency staff to work on a plan regarding organics and the town transfer stations.
- The following questions were presented.

1. What are the goals for participation in the 2024-2025?
 - Discussed the definition of organics and what is included in organics. Marc asked that the definition of organics be consistent with the definition that the County Executive used and what is used in the Agency's Solid Waste Management Plan.
2. The goal on how many municipalities would like to see participate?
 - Committee agreed that they would like to see all Towns participate
 - There are 19 towns. The Agency has a contract with 17 towns.
3. What options the Committee would like to make available to the Towns?
 - Provide collection materials in a shed and bring back the food scraps to the Agency
 - Fund the materials for collection in a shed and to bring to the Agency
 - Provide funds for on-site composting
 - Pre-made kits
 - Hiring out-ex. Hurley
 - Other options that a town might be interested in
4. How would this program be funded?
 - Agency funded
 - Grant funded
 - What if the grant opportunity is not funded
 - County
 - How much would the Agency offer
5. What support services would the Agency provide?
 - Staff support services with regular visits-monthly or bi-monthly

Marc Rider added that the County Executive's Office and the County would like to partner on a Climate Smart Community Initiative Grant which is only available to municipalities. The County would be the lead agency for this grant. The maximum amount of the grant award is \$2 million. This grant would help the County implement their goal of diverting 100% organics by 2030. The County would budget to employ an Organics Enforcement Officer and an Organics Diversion Educator for five years. The Agency would hire these positions. The grant is a match grant. The match would be the cost of operating the compost facility. The deadline to submit the grant is July 31st. The scope of the grant is in the process of being prepared. The decision should be in December.

Staff and Board discussed the grant, possible ideas with regards to working with the MRDC's, possibly new positions, in-vessel units, budget and permit modification. The permit modification was to request that the Agency be permitted to collect 7,500 tons. The Agency is permitted currently to collect 5,000 tons of food scraps.

The Board agreed that the Agency should move forward with regards to organics even if there are no grant funds.

Donna Egan asked the staff to prepare the framework with respect to the questions presented.

The Board agreed the next topic for discussion will be plastics and C&D. Marc Rider requested the committee discuss C&D at the next meeting. He stated he has been in discussion with Charlie Whittaker and Tim DeGraff to include a C&D diversion building in next year’s capital plan and budget.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ulster County ZWIP-there was no other discussion regarding the ZWIP

ADJOURN

David Gilmore motioned to adjourn the June 27, 2024, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GORDON).

July 25, 2024

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the June 27, 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