

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 27, 2024**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on June 27, 2024.

The proceedings were convened at 6:06 PM. This meeting was held at the Agency's Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

**Board members present:** Chair/Treasurer Regis Obijiski, Member Andrew Ghiorse, Member David Gilmour and Member Donna Egan. Vice Chair James Gordon was absent.

**Staff present:** Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan; 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**

Regis Obijiski went over the guidelines regarding Public Comment. He also provided his email address for anyone who would like a topic to be addressed or discussed at a board meeting; [robi@ucrra.org](mailto:robi@ucrra.org).

Public Comment Speakers (recording 1:48-7:10):

Joann Mead, town of Esopus resident. Ms. Mead discussed the letters she received regarding the Dyno-Nobel site and OU1/OU2. She stated the public has the right to know what is going on and believes the public is not receiving the truth.

Kevin Roberts, Ulster County Legislator. He discussed his proposed resolution to the legislators regarding a 24-hour recycling drop-off center. He asked the Agency to review it and cooperate with the County on implementing the resolution. He stated this would help with the goals of the County for recycling.

Willie Castillo, Jr. Town of Plattekill Councilman. Asked if comments would be accepted after the presentation. Regis Obijiski clarified that no comments will be made after presentation and any comments/questions could be submitted to him by email. He asked if Plattekill would be part of the report. Regis stated most questions will be answered in the presentation.

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator. She stated whatever the report says, maximum waste diversion is what will take off the burden for a potential host community. She asked the Board to look at the Zero Waste Implementation Plan and see if there is a way to bring people together to finish it.

## **AGENDA**

The Board agreed to move “New Business” under the “Executive Director Update”. David Gilmour made a motion to accept the revised Agenda, and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GORDON)

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, and Donna Egan seconded the motion. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GORDON).

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 3, 2024, Special Meeting and it was seconded by Regis Obijiski. 3 in favor, 1 abstention (GILMOUR) and 1 absent (GORDON).

## **COMMUNICATIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS (Recording 11:20-16:10)**

### **Regis Obijiski, Chair stated and noted the following announcements/communications:**

1. Local Landfill Site would be the main feature of the meeting. He stated the board is very appreciative of the energetic, yet prudent leadership exhibited by our executive director in this regard.
2. Personnel additions: Karen Sheard has been hired as the Agency’s Attorney and will start on July 9th. Karen’s position will overlap with Kenneth Gilligan, Esq. Regis and the Board thanked Ken for his many years of service at the Agency but also for his willingness to assist Karen in acclimating to her new duties. Tim Wiedemann, who was hired part-time as the Coordinator of Organizational Performance and Development. Allison McIntyre was hired as the Administrative Assistant. Regis and the Board welcomed all the new employees.
3. Governance Committee is chaired by Board Member James Gordon. James Gordon was unable to attend the Board meeting. Regis stated that Jim will schedule a date for the next Governance Committee meeting soon.
4. Zero Waste Committee “ZWC” is chaired by Donna Egan. Donna stated the main topics of discussion were to wrap up the discussion with regards to MRDC composting, incentives/programs for the coming year, and goals/ideas the Agency could formulate into a plan. The next ZWC meeting discussion will be on C&D and plastics.
5. Finance Committee was scheduled to meet on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6PM but was cancelled and rescheduled to July 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM. The subject will be 2025 Agency Budget.
6. Mandatory Training regarding Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment was conducted at the Agency for Staff and Board members on June 26, 2024. Board members

who missed this in-person training may take this course online. Amy Lopiano could provide the necessary links and information.

7. Next Regular Board Meeting: July 25, 2024, at 6PM

## **COMMITTEE & OFFICIAL MEETING UPDATES** (Recording 16:28-17:08)

**Recycling Oversight Committee:** Donna Egan provided the update. A meeting was held on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The main topic of discussion was C&D recycling and deconstruction. Laura Petit added the Reuse Innovation Center was also discussed.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS** (Recording 17:09-1:15:46)

Marc Rider presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Cornerstone Landfill Siting Report. The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the end of these Minutes as an attachment. The recording of the presentation and discussion between staff and board with regards to the report can be heard on the recording (17:09-1:12:57).

**Regis Obijiski** made a motion to move **Resolution # 2620 Re: Authorizing and Approving a Request for Proposal for Further Landfill Site Analysis**. Andrew Ghiorse moved the resolution for discussion and Donna Egan seconded it.

The Board and staff discussed **Resolution #2620 Re: Authorizing and Approving a Request for Proposal for Further Landfill Site Analysis** and the report from Cornerstone. Andrew Ghiorse moved to discuss the amendments to the resolution and Regis Obijiski seconded it. After discussion, the Resolution was amended as follows:

- In the fourth “Whereas” paragraph, “*TBD*” was changed to “*located at Brown Road and Milk Road*”
- In the first “**Further Resolved**” paragraph should now read “**Further Resolved**, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to submit the RFP *developed with Board input*, to any and all qualified firms in accordance with said terms, and be it further”

Donna Egan moved to approve amended **Resolution #2620 Re: Authorizing and Approving a Request for Proposal for Further Landfill Site Analysis**. **Roll Call:** David Gilmour-Ayes; Andrew Ghiorse-Ayes; Regis Obijiski-Ayes; Donna Egan-Ayes; James Gordon-Absent. 4 in favor, 1 absent (GORDON).

**Marc Rider continued his Executive Director Update. The following points/comments were made.**

- The office parking lot has been expended
  - Section paved was where the textile boxes were and part of the grass next to that site
  - The expansion added 6 parking spots
  - This was done by shared services with Town of Ulster
  - Bicycle parking was not considered but could be looked into

- Responses regarding the RFP for engineering services with respect to leachate collection will be received in July
- MSW and C&D Debris Disposal RFP proposals are due by July 19<sup>th</sup>
- Budget preparation will be in July
  - Board has until the end of July to submit any ideas for the budget

### **RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE (Recording 1:15:46-1:24:50)**

Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability provided the updates for the Recycling Outreach Team. Her updates included the following:

- This month, completed 36 hours of direct community engagement
  - Reached approximately 204 children and 83 adults
  - Had 13 presentations, 2 facility tours, and 1 tabling event
  - 256 residents participated in the household hazardous waste collection event on June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 8 local residents completed the Class of 2024 UCRRA Master Composter Master Recycler training and certification course
  - 20 hours of training and professional development about the waste-climate connection, local recycling programs, plastic pollution, local composting, and environmental education leadership.
  - Angelina congratulated the new volunteers who completed the program
- Hosted a composting operations tour for 26 visitors from 26 different countries visiting the City of Kingston as part of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership program.
  - The focus of their trip to the United States was on Sustainable Cities - to explore and exchange best practices in urban planning and the design and maintenance of sustainable infrastructure. In addition to the City of Kingston, these visitors also traveled to Washington, D.C., New York City, Minneapolis, and New Orleans. The guests were extremely impressed with the Agency's compost operation.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> was nationally celebrated as Waste & Recycling Workers Week
  - UCRRA joined communities across the nation celebrating the workforce that supports the essential public service of materials management. Angelina acknowledged and thanked all the dedicated people who make up our local recycling, composting, and wasteshed here in Ulster County.
- Tiffin Project
  - Scheduled six educational events in Pheonicia, Gardiner, New Paltz, Saugerties, and Kingston to educate about the impacts of single-use disposables and to promote reuse as a form of pollution prevention. All participants will receive a free tiffin. All six classes are open and are now accepting registration.
  - David Gilmour asked Angelina to send a written write-up/press release of the Tiffin events to the community calendars.
  - All supporting partners are acknowledged on the flyers and website.

### **GENERAL REPORTS (Recording 1:25:50-1:35:10)**

Tim DeGraff provided an update regarding the following reports for May:

➤ **MSW Tonnage Report**

Target Tons	Actual Tonnage in	Difference
12,466	12,962	Actual Tonnage was 496 tons more than the targeted tons

- Year-to-date MSW was under budget by 1.8% or under 999 tons

➤ **Sludge Tonnage**

Target Tons	Actual Tonnage in	Difference
284	309	Actual Tonnage was 25 tons more than the targeted tons

➤ **Recycling Tonnage Report**

- Tim pointed out that recycling was consistent from the prior year and there was nothing to note

➤ **MRF Cost Center Analysis**

- Market prices for OCC (corrugated carboard) and mixed news were up
- Total Sale of Recyclables were \$55,745
- Total Transport/Disposal Costs were \$11,143
- Net Revenue/loss was a positive \$44,602
- Total Personnel/Operating Expenses were \$42,428
- On the expense side there was a net income of \$2,174
- Year-to-date there is a Net Loss of \$60,397

➤ **Treasurer's Report**

- Total Revenues were \$1,821,717
- Expenses-
  - HHW Cleanup-\$37,324 for the April event
  - Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance-\$63,631 which \$24,517 was for Volvo L90 repairs-machine was in derate due to regen issues and injector failures
- Total Operating Expenses were \$1,596,226
- Total Net Operating Revenue was \$225,491
- Capital Outlay was \$41,691 for the purchase of the EV Nissan Ariya
- For the month of May there is a surplus of \$183,800
- Year-to-date the deficit is \$1,289,029
- Compared to last, the budget is off by \$201,384

- Regis Obijiski noted a few items on the Treasurer’s Report

Andrew Ghiorse motioned to accept May’s Treasurer’s Report and it was seconded by Regis Obijiski. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GORDON).

**ADJOURN**

David Gilmour made a motion to adjourn the June 27, 2024, Regular Board Meeting at 7:43 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, Regular Board Meeting was made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ in favor, 0 opposed, \_\_\_\_\_ absent.

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Melinda France, Office Manager.

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regis Obijiski, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Gilligan, Secretary