

**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.

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 24th. 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 19th
- 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 23rd
- 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 17th 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

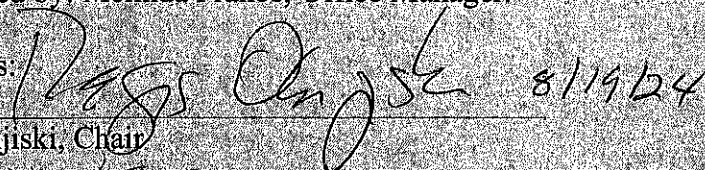
David Gilmour made a motion to adjourn the June 27, 2024, Regular Board Meeting at 7:43 PM and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GORDON).

July 25, 2024


Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the June 27, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was made by David Gilmour, and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GORDON).

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Melinda France, Office Manager.

Signatures:  8/19/24

Regis Obijiski, Chair



Ken Gilligan, Secretary

ULSTER COUNTY LANDFILL SITE SELECTION STUDY

Findings from the
Cornerstone Report
And Executive Director
Recommendations

1

How Did We Get Here?

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency(the, Agency) was created in 1986 by state legislation at the request of the Ulster County Legislature, in part to site a county-wide landfill.

Almost 40 years later no county-wide landfill site has been identified

In 2021 the Agency engaged HydroQuest to conduct a GIS Analysis and Hydrogeological study to identify potential sites

2

How Did We Get Here?

After receiving the HydroQuest Study the Agency Board of Directors determined a more comprehensive study was needed

In 2023 the Agency released a Request for Proposals for an Ulster County Landfill Selection Study and selected Cornerstone Engineering and Geology, PLLC

3

What is the Cornerstone Study?

- The Cornerstone Study has three specific tasks:
 1. Review HydroQuest's Landfill Site Selection Study in Ulster County, New York Report dated January 5, 2022
 2. Review existing closed Ulster County landfill sites for potential landfill reclamation
 3. Review potential groupings of adjacent properties within Ulster County which in aggregate would provide 100 or more acres suitable for landfill development

4

What the Cornerstone Study is not

The Cornerstone Study has not identified a site for a future landfill, rather it has identified five sites that need further evaluation

The Cornerstone Study has not determined the availability of any parcels for which they have identified for further evaluation; that will be done as part of further due diligence

Cornerstone has not provided the engineering services that would be required to begin the permit process with the DEC; those type of services could be hundreds of thousands of dollars per site

5

Setting Expectations and Context

The landfill siting process typically takes approximately 10 years

Any landfill permitted in Ulster County will be constructed to the highest standards when it comes to environmental stewardship

The Agency is committed to diverting as many materials as possible and keeping these materials out of a landfill, regardless of whether the landfill is sited in Ulster County or not

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Why Site An Ulster County Landfill?

Each year the Agency receives and disposes of roughly 140,000 tons of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris

Currently, the Agency transports that waste to Seneca Meadows Landfill about 250 miles away, generating over 4,000 tons of CO2 emissions per year

Seneca Meadows Landfill's permit and capacity is scheduled to end in December of 2025, and even with a permit extension is slated to close by 2040

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Why Site An Ulster County Landfill?

There are 26 active landfills in New York State

As of 2020 data, the most recent available, the total annual permit capacity of all 26 landfills is 10,940,983 tons and New Yorkers currently send 8,946,113 tons a year to those landfills

As of 2020: 202,168,019 tons of total lifetime permit capacity exist at those 26 landfills

If NY residents continue to send 8,946,113 tons a year to existing landfills, there will be enough capacity for 22 years from 2020, or through 2042

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Why Site An Ulster County Landfill?

Facility Name	County	2020 Waste Quantity (tons)	Existing Annual Permit Limits (tons/year)	Existing & Planned Capacity Under Permit
Albany City SWMF	Albany	97,859	275,100	1,336,998
Allied BFI Niagara Falls Landfill	Niagara	417,084	800,000	2,699,101
Chautauque Landfill	Chautauque	263,624	408,000	7,152,155
Green Ridge RDF	Saratoga	268,545	375,500	3,532,557
Ontario County SLF	Ontario	774,415	920,893	5,456,523
Seneca Meadows LF	Seneca	1,738,844	2,190,000	8,520,432

- Although there are 26 active landfills in NY State only 6 have the additional capacity needed to accept waste from the Agency

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Results of Cornerstone Study

64 Sites were evaluated by Cornerstone through the 3 Tasks

Task 1

Task 1 sites recommended for further evaluation

- Site E (SBL 94.2-1-3) Gardiner- Candidate Site E in Task 3 This site was eliminated in Task 3
- Site H (SBL 95.3-4-36.1) Plattekill Candidate Site G in Task 3
- Site I (101.2-2-12.92) Plattekill Candidate Site H in Task 3

Task 2

Task 2 sites recommended for further evaluation

- Site 42 Town of Rosendale Landfill This is Candidate Site J in Task 3 This site was eliminated in Task 3
- Site 43 Williams Lake Dumpsite 4 Rosendale This is Candidate Site J in Task 3 This site was eliminated in Task 3
- Site 44 Environmental Landfill Inc. (Hertel) Plattekill Candidate Site G in Task 3
- Site 45 Hercules, Inc Esopus Candidate Site H in Task 3

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Results of Cornerstone Study

64 Sites were evaluated by Cornerstone through the 3 Tasks

Task 3

Task 3 sites recommended for further evaluation

- Candidate Site A: Wawarsing: Adjacent Road Milk Rd 247 Acres
- Candidate Site B: Wawarsing: Adjacent Road Brown Rd 596 Acres
- Candidate Site G (Site H from Task 1): Plattekill: Adjacent Road Route 44/55 127 Acres
- Candidate Site H (Site I from Task 1): Plattekill: Adjacent Road Camp Sunset Rd 86 Acres
- Candidate Site I: Esopus: Adjacent Road Hercules Dr 196 Acres

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Executive Director Recommendations

3 Tiers of Sites

- Tier 1 sites recommended for further evaluation
- Tier 2 sites with complex environmental concerns which must be resolved prior to further evaluation
- Tier 3 sites not recommended for further evaluation

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Tier 3

Sites Not Recommended for Further Evaluation

- Candidate Site G: This site includes the former Hertel Landfill in the Town of Plattekill
 - Ulster County Legislature Resolution 200.2 of 2023 opposes a County Wide Landfill in the Town of Plattekill
 - The overall usable size of this parcel will not allow for necessary expansion, and it is surrounded by wetlands
 - There are over 50 residences that are in close proximity to this site. Although, they are beyond the required buffer area needed to make the site feasible, this will make permitting more difficult
 - The footprint of the actual usable space for the landfill is not ideal and will make construction and maintenance difficult

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Tier 3

Sites Not Recommended for Further Evaluation

Candidate Site H: This site is on Camp Sunset Road in the Town of Plattekill

- Ulster County Legislature Resolution 200.2 of 2023 opposes a County Wide Landfill in the Town of Plattekill
- This site is too small as it only has 86 usable acres and no ability for expansion
- There are at least three dozen residences that are in close proximity to this site. Although, they are beyond the required buffer area needed to make the site feasible, this will make permitting more difficult
- This site is constrained by a powerline corridor, large wetland area, a lake and is a tributary of the Hudson River via the Black Creek.

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Tier 2 Sites With Complex Environmental Concerns Which Must Be Resolved Prior To Further Evaluation

Candidate Site I: This is the former Hercules Inc Landfill on Hercules Drive in Esopus

- This is a superfund site with many known hazardous contaminants on site. This will require coordination with the DEC and EPA prior to any further additional evaluation can be made
- The site was used to manufacture explosives, which may be buried in the soil onsite
- There may be funding available for environmental studies and remediation
- This site does have rail infrastructure which makes receiving/sending waste much more cost effective
- This site is centrally located between UCRRA's current transfer stations and is in close proximity to Route 9w
- This would take a coordinated effort between the Town of Esopus, Ulster County, UCRRA, DEC, EPA, and those responsible for the superfund site cleanup to remediate this site in order to make it possible as a county-wide landfill

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Tier 1 Sites Recommended For Further Evaluation

- Candidate Site A: Wawarsing Adjacent to Milk Road
 - 247 Acres
 - Access from State Rte 52
 - Fewer than 20 residences near the site
 - Located on the Sullivan County border which could be useful for regionalization
 - Other parcels available in Sullivan County for expansion
 - This site is made up of only 8 parcels

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Tier 1 Sites
Recommended
For Further
Evaluation

- Candidate Site B: Wawarsing Adjacent to Brown Road
 - 596 Acres
 - Located in close proximity to Sullivan County
 - Main access roads are Ste Rte 52 and 55, however travel on smaller roads will be necessary for direct access to site
 - Four parcels are currently for sale totaling 191 acres
 - 20 residences in close proximity to site
 - This site is in a Potential Environmental Justice Area, therefore further evaluation will determine if siting a landfill at this site meets all 360 permit requirements

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Likely
Questions

- How did Site B's inclusion in a community with a designation as a Potential Environmental Justice Area affect this recommendation?
 - I take this designation very seriously and it weighed heavily on my decision-making process. Ultimately, I decided that the correct process to determine whether the potential benefits to the community would outweigh any environmental impacts, would be further evaluation by a consultant with expertise in this analysis.

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Likely Questions

- Isn't all of Wawarsing designated as a Potential Environmental Justice Area and/or Disadvantaged Community?
 - No, Site A is not in a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community as designated by New York State.

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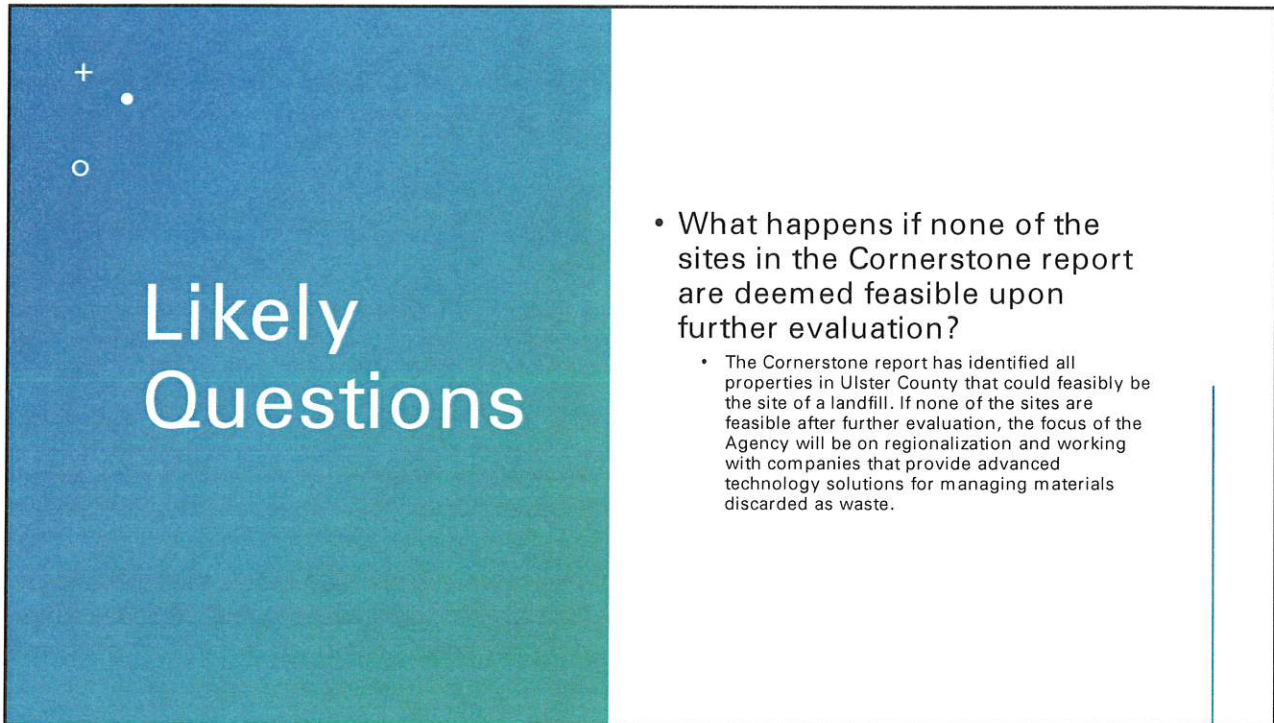
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Likely Questions

- What are the next steps?
 1. There is a resolution before the Board to authorize the Executive Director to procure the necessary engineering services to conduct further evaluation on sites that the Board selects. If the resolution is approved, we move to step 2 below.
 2. The Executive Director will solicit proposals for those services through an RFP process. The services will be provided and contracted in stages, which will include:
 1. Procuring agreements with landowners to conduct necessary studies to determine site feasibility.
 2. Conduct studies that will determine whether the hydrology and soil makeup of the site is appropriate for a landfill and conduct traffic studies to determine the same, along with other appropriate studies as required by NY DEC Regulations Part 360.
 3. Public meetings will be held with communities where the landfill site is selected.
 4. If a suitable site is identified, the Agency and consultants will apply for permits with the DEC and Town and will begin a SEQRA process.

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Likely Questions

- What happens if none of the sites in the Cornerstone report are deemed feasible upon further evaluation?
 - The Cornerstone report has identified all properties in Ulster County that could feasibly be the site of a landfill. If none of the sites are feasible after further evaluation, the focus of the Agency will be on regionalization and working with companies that provide advanced technology solutions for managing materials discarded as waste.