

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2024**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on July 25, 2024.

The proceedings were convened at 6:09 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. A quorum was noted.

Staff present: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan; Executive Director Marc Rider, Agency Counsel Karen Veronica Sheard (DeFio), Coordinator of Organizational Performance and Development Tim Weidemann, and Director of Sustainability Angelina Brandt. Director of Finance and Administration Timothy DeGraff was absent.

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

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:

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator (District 19). Legislator Greene wanted to let the Board know that we are making good progress on the UCRRA Reform Committee and that report will be issued to Energy and Environment in August. Marc has been coming to the meetings and Jim Gordon is the representative so I think they are keeping you well informed, but I wanted to be sure you know after more than six months, we are down to just the fine edits and one recommendation that has complete consensus is to continue the UCRRA not close the UCRRA down or try to make it a department or anything like that, and also to expand the Board to have a little bit more representation, but to keep the current Board Members until your terms expire and then it will be up to the legislature whether you wanted to run, if you would be reappointed. Those are the major things; there is a lot of emphasis on waste diversion and there is also a consensus to try to locate a county or regional landfill which you are in the process of working on. Just a quick update on that and I am really glad to see the progress and the cooperation.

AGENDA

Chair Regis Obijiski called for a motion to set the Agenda, as prepared. David Gilmour made a motion to approve the Agenda, as presented. Donna Egan seconded the motion. Marc Rider made two requests: that Resolution #2622 be removed from the Agenda until the budget outlook is more clear and referring it back to a future meeting, if appropriate; and, identifying that two representatives from Round Trip EV were in attendance (having traveled a distance to be in attendance) and another was attending by video-conference, requests to move them up, ahead of “New Business” and after “Approval of Minutes”. Regis Obijiski offered the request to modify the Agenda to remove, for now, Resolution #2622 and that will come up at another time, perhaps once the 2025 Budget has been decided. David Gilmour offered as a point of information as to procedure, whether it would be appropriate to refer the resolution to the Finance Committee for consideration. Regis Obijiski agreed. Andrew Ghiorse made a motion that Resolution #2622 be sent back to the Finance Committee for disposition, David Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Donna Egan) and 1 absent (Jim Gordon).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regis Obijiski called for a motion to accept the minutes, as prepared. David Gilmour made a motion to accept the June 27, 2024 minutes as they were presented. Andrew Ghiorse seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 4 in favor, 0 opposed 1 absent (Jim Gordon).

COMMUNICATIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS (Regis Obijiski, Chair stated and noted the following announcements/communications:

1. Zero Waste Committee. Offering thanks to Donna Egan and the Zero Waste Committee for having an excellent panel to challenge us and for providing excellent information.
2. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we welcome Attorney Karen Sheard to the UCRRA who began her duties three days ago. Ken Gilligan will be available to Karen for a while to acquaint her with issues and records pertinent to our industry. We thank you, Ken, for your willingness to acquainting Karen with some of these important details.
3. Last month’s meeting mostly concentrated on a potential landfill siting in Ulster County. As a result of high interest, nine print articles were published along with one radio interview. The Kingston Community Radio (WKCR) interviewed Marc Rider for about 40 minutes on July 20. Marc did an exceptional job with this interview, answering questions in considerable detail without notes. Links to all of these can be found on the UCRRA.org website.
4. This morning’s *Daily Freeman* had an excellent article extolling the City of Kingston’s NYS grant to accelerate their Organics Program which has diverted 34 tons of food waste from the Seneca Meadows landfill and turned it over to UCRRA’s composting program. In the process, the City of Kingston saved several thousand dollars in tipping fees. This enlightened program is a wonderful example of where our entire county needs to be headed regarding organic waste.
5. Next Regular Board Meeting: August 22, 2024, at 7 P.M.

Regis Obijiski next suggested that Marc Rider introduce the speakers from Round Trip EV (“RTEV”).

Round Trip EV Presentation

Marc Rider indicated that he and Tim DeGraff have been working for some time with RTEV, a company that has received a grant from NYSERDA. He further stated that representatives from RTEV (Sunil Kurian and Dan Friedberg – in person and Michael Stafford via video-conference) are in attendance to present a program for the purchase two electric roll-off vehicles to be used to haul recycling from the towns to the transfer center.

Presentation

Mr. Friedman began the presentation by providing a brief background of the company and speakers.

- RTEV’s business aims to support municipalities with the transition to electric vehicles in a manner that supports the environment and budgets and economics. RTEV has been vetted and approved by Sourcewell for electrification of all Class 4 to 8 vehicles.
 - Sourcewell is the largest buying cooperative for municipalities.
- Mr. Friedman has experience in waste services and diversion, electric batteries and charger technology.
- Mr. Stafford has experience working generally in the electrification of vehicles, working with Tesla and other vehicle electrification companies.
- Mr. Kurian’s experience lies in alternative technologies and their financing.

Mr. Friedman indicated that there is currently a unique opportunity to initiate the Agency’s transition to electric vehicles in the waste sector and RTEV is specially equipped to assist the Agency with leveraging the opportunity.

- Electric roll-off vehicles provide environmental, financial and employee benefits
 - significant environmental benefits – each electric roll-off vehicle saves the equivalent of about 6 passenger vehicles
 - roughly the same cost as diesel (with grant money, incentives, rebates, and alternate income)
 - boosts employee retention because they are fun to operate and provide a healthier working environment

In summary, the program would provide the Agency the ability to purchase 2 electric roll-off vehicles, each with its own charging infrastructure, and to operate and maintain the vehicles, charging infrastructure and any necessary software (and updates) at a price that is competitive with the purchase, maintenance and operation of its diesel counterpart. RTEV would procure and finance the vehicles, install the infrastructure, provide energy maintenance, and maintain and repair the vehicles.

With the application of a grant awarded to RTEV, RTEV’s partnership with Borg-Warner (a large and long-standing corporation that specializes in electric batteries and infrastructure, and the cooperation of Central Hudson, RTEV can offer the Agency the following opportunity:

- The purchase of 2 electric roll-off vehicles (“erov”) at the cost of approximately \$325,000 per vehicle.
 - The actual cost of each erov is \$529,000.
 - Subsidies reduce the actual cost by \$165K-\$200K (applying the NYSERDA grant, federal tax credits and other incentives)
 - The cost of a new diesel roll-off vehicle is currently approximately \$300,000
- The cost of the charging infrastructure, including wiring, cabling, and the charging station has an actual cost of approximately \$100K per vehicle which is reduced with grant money and Central Hudson incentives to approximately \$16K per vehicle.
- The operating costs, including maintenance of truck, battery, charging infrastructure, and software (including an uptime guaranty) are approximated at \$29K per year.
 - Operating costs of a diesel roll-off are approximately \$20K per year
 - The erov batteries provide an additional revenue source through vehicle to grid energy transfers (“V2G”) (such revenue would be divided 50/50 between the Agency and RTEV)
 - Erov batteries are approximately 8x the size of a Tesla battery
 - V2G revenue is made by selling reserved battery power at the end of use each day to the grid at times when the grid is stressed and recharging/repurchasing the power overnight when the cost is at its lowest
 - Estimated V2G revenue ranges between \$4K-8K annually
- RTEV would provide the following:
 - Specify the appropriate vehicle, charging equipment and software
 - Procure the best price for vehicle and equipment
 - Provide maintenance and repair for vehicle and equipment
 - Guarantee uptime for vehicle and equipment
 - Repair vehicles and equipment (If RTEV fails to provide a replacement vehicle during repair, it will have to pay the Agency a penalty fee).
 - Provide replacement vehicles.
 - Provide ongoing training
 - Take on any new technology “bug” risks
 - Monitor future incentives and rebates for applicability
- Timeline
 - Finalize contract
 - Place order for vehicles
 - Central Hudson has preliminarily conducted a site-visit
 - Erovs could be deployed in Q1 or Q2 of 2025
- Other
 - Members of the Board of Directors asked many clarifying questions and offered evaluative remarks.
 - Agency would be the 1st in NYS (and potentially, the USA) to use electric vehicles in the waste sector
 - Most grants come with caveats, i.e., scrapping existing diesel trucks. This grant does not do this kind of scrapping; accordingly, the Agency can provide alternate uses for the out of commission diesels or generate income selling/scrapping at later date.

- Other municipalities are already participating in the program, in different sectors (i.e., busing)

General Reports

1. Executive Director Update -Marc Rider

- Landfill Feasibility Study Report – attended Town Board meetings for Plattekill and Wawarsing. Wawarsing went well. Some of the public attended and the board asked good questions. There is an understanding that any negative impact will be offset by a host community benefit. Everyone understands that this is still very early in the process. The DEC has the parcel numbers of the two identified sites and is conducting a preapplication screening process suggested in the UCRRA Reform Committee Meeting. We will wait for DEC’s preliminary determination before we go out to RFP on further engineering studies for the sites.
- We just received responses to our RFP for Leachate Collection – 3 responses, not yet had the opportunity to review
- Expect to put out an RFP for alternative technology options in late August
- Completed hiring personnel. Our final employee, Robert Friedlander will begin on August 12 as a Compliance Officer
- Climate Small Community Grant – will be discussed with Resolution #2621

2. Sustainability Report- Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability

- Tour by Recycling Outreach staff and volunteers of Sierra Processing, MRF in Albany.
- Hosted a tour of our facility for Luzon Environmental Services who is looking to branch out in compost service and operation
- Site Visit Consultation – Angelina and Tanesia visited a new business complex in Gardiner that includes a bakery to provide, at the business’ request, a consultation with respect to responsible packaging decisions and a potential on-site composting solution. We offer free consultation visits to local businesses, institutions, and schools. At the end of the visit, we provide a written report of our observations and recommendations.
- Bin Rentals to Festival Organizers – 2 requests
- Recycle Outreach Team has conducted 4 out of 6 of the planned Tiffin Project Events in compliance with the community grants contract with the pollution prevention institute. To date there have been 173 participants. There are 2 remaining classes, and an additional 120 people have signed up to participate. We do surveys pre and post class and are reviewing the responses to see if the class has a direct impact on changed behaviors.
- Adapted our Tiffin presentation into an interactive trivia game that will be launched at the Ulster County Fair. We also plan to coordinate with the SUNY campuses in the county to provide programs on campus.

3. Other Reports presented

- MSW Tonnage Report
- Recycling Tonnage Report
- MRF Cost Center Analysis
- Treasurer's Report
 - The main thing is that the report focuses only on the first six months of the year, and yet the report shows that the Agency is living within its means while chipping away at our long-term debt.
 - Focus on the 8th vertical column labelled 2024 Year-To-Date.
 - From an operations cash-perspective, the agency's net operating revenues were \$856,266. That is, \$9,500,912 (revenues) - \$8,644,646 (expenses).
 - As mentioned in previous reports, the Agency's long-term debt service payments will be satisfied at the end of the first quarter of 2025.
 - The familiar \$1,790,000 you have seen on previous Treasurer's reports appearing in the bottom one-fifth of the page as an annual debt-service figure plus a capital outlay of \$401,987 turns the \$856,266 June surplus into a (\$1,335,631) overall cash deficit. Even though June's capital outlay is somewhat larger than last month's, we are still our long-term debt.
 - Agency has received some information that disposal costs have increased. This is being analyzed by the Finance Committee.

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Regis Obijiski, and was approved with 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (Jim Gordon).

4. Board Members, at this time, will report on other committees or official meetings in which they are appointed to participate.

- Our Governance Committee is chaired by Board Member Jim Gordon, who is unable to join us tonight. He will soon be scheduling a date for the next Governance Committee meeting. Jim also represents the Agency at the UC Legislative Committee for UCRRA Reform. This committee is expected to release its full report of the topic very soon
- Zero Waste Committee. Good speakers at the meeting this evening. The committee may present additional speakers or move forward with our own objectives at the next scheduled meeting.
- Finance Committee, chaired by Regis Obijinski, as Treasurer, met here at the Agency's headquarters on Monday July 22 at 6:00 PM. The Agency is beginning its budget season with the issue of disposal costs. We will have more to say about this next month, after our Finance Committee will have met three times: August 12, 19, and 22. As a result of this, Resolution #2622 was removed from tonight's agenda.

Old Business (unfinished business): None

New Business: Climate Smart Communities Program - Grant Application (Marc Rider)

Resolutions and Board Notifications

Resolution #2621 Re: Authorization to collaborate with Ulster County to apply for grant funding and approving the use of Agency funds for a required match

Regis Obijiski called for discussion.

Timothy Weidemann provided an overview of the resolution which provides that the Agency collaborate with Ulster County to apply to the NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Program for a grant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from disposal of food waste through expanded composting by: assisting the county with submitting the application, preparing a project work plan with tasks and activities for both the county and the Agency, support the process for expanding of compost operations at the Flatbush site, expansion of education and outreach and promised activities for food scrap diversion, and providing a commitment of in-kind financial support, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 over five-years, by way of increasing the Flatbush Road compost operations from 5,000 to 10,000 tons. (Volume increases to be incremental over the 5-year period).

The Board indicates that this a high priority for the Agency even in the event we are not awarded this grant.

Andrew Ghiorse moved to adopt Resolution #2621, Regis Obijiski seconded the motion and it was approved with 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (Jim Gordon).

Resolution #2621 Re: Authorization to collaborate with Ulster County to apply for grant funding and approving the use of Agency funds for a required match

- Resolution # 2622: Authorizing and Approving Defining Health Insurance Benefits for Eligible Retirees of the Agency. This resolution has been returned to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

ADJOURN

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to adjourn the July 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting at 7:45 PM and it was seconded by Regis Obijiski. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GORDON).

July 25, 2024

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the July 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was made by _____, seconded by _____. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Gordon).

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Karen Veronica Sheard (DeFio), Agency Counsel.

Signatures:

Regis Obijiski, Chair

Ken Gilligan, Secretary

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