

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024, at 6:15 PM or immediately following the Public Hearing
TO BE HELD AT UCRRRA’S MAIN OFFICE, 999 FLATBUSH ROAD, KINGSTON, NY**

ROLL CALL

Board Members

Regis Obijiski X
James Gordon X
Andrew Ghiorse X
Donna Egan X
David Gilmour Absent

Agency Staff

Karen Sheard X
Marc Rider X
Timothy DeGraff X
Angelina Brandt Excused
Timothy Weidemann X

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Regis Obijiski.

ELECTION OF OFFICER(S):

Regis Obijiski noted that the resignation of Ken Gilligan at the previous meeting has resulted in the vacancy in the office of Secretary to the Board of Directors. He called for nominations and James Gordon nominated Karen Sheard to fill the office vacancy for the remaining term. Andrew Ghiorse seconded the nomination.

NOMINATION

Secretary: Karen Sheard

By: James Gordon
2nd: Andrew Ghiorse

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: Gilmour

Karen Sheard accepted the position and Regis Obijiski welcomed Ms. Sheard as Secretary to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Regis Obijiski asked for public comments. None were offered.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regis Obijiski called for a motion to approve the Agenda as prepare. A motion to approve the agenda was brought by Andrew Ghiorse and seconded by James Gordon. The motion was approved with 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (Gilmour)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regis Obijiski called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the July 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as prepared. Moved by James Gordon, seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. Approved with 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Gilmour).

Regis Obijiski called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the August 22, 2024, Budget Workshop as prepared. Moved by James Gordon, seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. Approved with 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Gilmour).

Regis Obijiski called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the August 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as prepared. Moved by James Gordon, seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. Donna Egan suggested the correction of a typographical error on pg. 2, bullet 4, the spelling of “leachate”. Approved as modified with 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Gilmour).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Regis Obijiski thanked everyone who has responded or intends to respond to the Agency’s proposed budget for 2025.

GENERAL REPORTS

- Executive Director Update, Marc Rider.

Attended the Sustainable Hudson Valley Circular Economy Summit at SUNY Orange. Hot topic was the Ulster County Reuse and Innovation Center. Met with Town Supervisors on the Budget. 12 Supervisors were in attendance. NO questions. Energy and Environment Committee presented the draft budget. Legislators commented whether there could be mitigation of the raised tipping fee on low-income families. Toured the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Center and their incinerator. Cornerstone will be discussed in more detail in new business. Plan having received pre-screening approval is to move forward with an RFP for engineering services. Meeting Wednesday with an engineering firm that provided the best response to the RFP (only 3 responded). The Recycling Compliance Officer report indicates activities for the month 19 MRDCs, hauler meetings and inspections, including responding to complaints. Waiting for modification from the DEC for mattresses and compost. The Agency is out of bulk compost, approximately 100 bags remaining. Typically stop selling compost at the same time that we cease electronics recycling, October 26th (seen a downtick in electronics recycling).

Regis Obijiski praised the Recycling Compliance Officer’s efforts to date and on the report. Felt the DEC was less responsive than we anticipated and also had the opinion that the representative was off-putting given the Agency’s progress, especially in the composting area.

Marc Rider indicated that the public participation plan is the next step in the process and he is hoping to receive DEC approval in order to conduct the public meeting, as required.

DEC Application was incomplete, expectation that we would be advised of missing items in 15 days, but the Agency was instead advised after 4 months. In the future, have the consultant/Agency reach out to the DEC for a status.

Permit modification if we receive a response by October 10th we can conduct the enhanced public participation meeting. Marc Rider is hopeful that the approval will be received by the beginning of the year.

Donna Egan praised the amount and type of work that Robert Friedlander has done since being hired.

The Board is very pleased with his work and expect that it will result in a positive effect. Dutchess County incinerator. No flow control but process 140 tons MSW. They have an agreement with Royal that they will bring 130,000 tons annually. Only MSW, no CD. Casella which has purchased Royal has stated that the waste will now go to its own landfills. Believe the incinerator is operating well producing the 6 megawatts of electricity that is the expected by the county. Sullivan County is considering an incinerator but there is opposition.

- Recycling Program Update

Included in Board packets. A concern over the yearly winter shut down of the electronics recycling program was identified and Executive Director offered to explore continued operations (cost and impact).

- Board Committees

- Zero Waste Committee - No meeting since last board meeting, but efforts are continuing. Recycling Committee met.
- Governance Committee – pick up after the budget
- Finance Committee – Committee remains very active. Considering dates for the next meeting.

- MSW Tonnage Report – Timothy DeGraff under targeted tonnage this month and in the annual budget

- Recycling Tonnage Report – nothing notable

- MRF Cost Center Analysis – sold less OCC and news which had picked up in September. Includes hard mix, including cardboard which brings a higher rate. It evens out annually but can fluctuate when examined on a monthly.

- Treasurer's Report – personnel costs were up because of 3 paydays in August. Our net loss has improved when compared to last year at the same time. Market fluctuation was discussed. When markets are way down we see a lot of out-of-country recyclables. Concern whether we should accept out-of-country recyclables when it cost the Agency more than the Agency can recover in sales. Received amounts to pay for the cost of the Tiffin Project. YTD Deficit is up but expect it to correct itself (caused by the 3 payroll periods). Overall operations are positive and as anticipated. The Board acknowledged that finances and operations are strong and praised Tim's work and the Agency's employees overall.

James Gordon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse and approved with a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (David Gilmour).

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS

Landfill Feasibility Study Report – Marc Rider

Permit jurisdiction was approved by DEC. The next step would be to move forward with an RFP for engineering services on the two sites. The studies will be staged to provide the more expensive studies near to the end of the process. It was recommended by the County that the Agency proceed with potential landfill options.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

Resolution #2626 Re: Roundtrip EV Solutions Inc. Master Services Agreement

Discussion was held with respect to servicing and delivery of the EVs. It was noted that the roll off purchases were identified in the 2024 budget. Retention of older equipment is allowed under the proposal and if service is required, the older equipment will serve as a back-up. Timing of delivery is 6-9 months, but is not guaranteed.

James Gordon made a motion to approve Resolution #2626, the motion was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. The motion was approved with 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Gilmour).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the September 26, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was made by Andrew Ghiorse and seconded by James Gordon.

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: David Gilmour

Time: 7:28 p.m.