

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

This meeting commenced at approximately 6:09 PM on November 21, 2024, at the Agency’s Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

ROLL CALL

Board Members

James Gordon X
Andrew Ghiorse X
Donna Egan X
David Gilmour X

Agency Staff

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Erika Brown, Poppy Cannon-Reese and Adam Paiva

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT (Recording 00:51-8:43)

Public comments were made by Poppy Cannon-Reese and Adam Paiva residents residing around State Route 52 and Milk Road. They spoke about their concerns regarding a landfill in that area. Some concerns and oppositions brought to the Board were:

- Environmental impacts
- Impacts on the community
- Traffic
- Value of properties
- Financial benefits
- Noise
- Notified of meetings-Marc Rider, Executive Director advised to check the Town Agendas if it is a town meeting. If it is an UCRRA meeting regarding this topic, he will provide notice to Poppy Cannon-Reese. (All UCRRA meetings are posted to website and are advertised).

The Board and staff explained the process. The Board and staff advised that the process is long. Having engineers conduct different studies will help with ruling out sites before moving on in the process.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Recording 8:45-10:50)

Andrew Ghiorse moved that the **Election of Officer(s)** move above **Approval of Minutes**, and it was seconded by David Gilmour. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

David Gilmour made a motion that the Special Meeting regarding the 2025-2029 Capital Plan be identified

in **Communications and Announcements** and that under **New Business** discussion of the Executive Director review be proposed to be done in January 2025, and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

The Board approved the amended agenda. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

ELECTION OF OFFICER(S) (Recording 10:55-17:48)

James Gordon opened the nominations up for Chair and Treasurer. These nominations would be from December to the Annual Organizational Meeting in January 2025.

NOMINATION

Chair: James Gordon was nominated by Andrew Ghiorse and seconded by David Gilmour. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

Treasurer: David Gilmour was nominated by Donna Egan and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

The Board agreed to appoint David Gilmour as the Chair of the Audit Committee and James Gordon as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Special Meeting regarding the 2025-2029 Capital Plan to immediately follow this meeting (November 21st Regular Board Meeting)
- Zero Waste Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024, at 5:00 PM
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM

GENERAL REPORTS (Recording 18:45-41:30)

Executive Director Update-Marc Rider (Recording 18:45-23:50)

➤ **Stakeholder Meetings**

- Attended the Wawarsing Town Board meeting and provided an update on the landfill project. It was attended by about 20 property owners.
- Attended the November 4th meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee. There were resolutions before the committee related to banning polypropylene plastics at food establishments and establishing a 24-hour recycling center. The committee voted down the 24-hour recycling center. Marc agreed to work with the sponsor regarding the polypropylene ban.

➤ **Leachate Collection Project**

- The kickoff meeting with SCS Engineers was held on 11/15/2024 (virtual meeting)
- Will include Ulster and New Paltz facilities
- Site visits will be conducted in first week of December
- Contract was approved at the last meeting
- Donna Egan, Board Member asked that the Agency keep the Town of New Paltz transfer station apprised of the project. Marc Rider and Tim DeGraff explained that

the project will be on the Agency's property. Marc Rider stated he would communicate with them.

Recycling Compliance Officer Update-Robert Friedlander (Recording 23:51-27:04)

The Board stated they were very impressed with Robert's work so far.

Robert stated his presence is known now. He stated the biggest challenge he is having is with receiving responses from apartment complexes. Robert and the Board discussed contacting the building departments to help with communications and contacts.

Executive Director Update cont.-Marc Rider (Recording 27:08-34:55)

➤ **Insurance Renewal**

- Received insurance renewal quote for next year. This year the Agency used the usual insurance broker and allowed another broker to get a quote from Erie Insurance. Erie declined to provide a quote due to a large automobile loss that occurred a few years ago. Our premium will increase 52 percent next year. The Agency had budgeted for a 30 percent increase. The Agency will have to evaluate this throughout the year to see where we can cut costs to make up for this. The premium in 2024 was \$275,857 and will be \$419,151 in 2025.
- The Agency is not required to go to bid for this insurance.

➤ **NYSAR, Seneca Meadows landfill and the Finger Lakes Reuse Center**-brief update was provided

Committees and Official Meeting reports by Board Members-none were provided.

Recycling Program Update-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability (Recording 35:07-41:30)

Angelina Brandt update included the following:

- America Recycles Day was celebrated this month.
 - Advertised in print and digital, on the website, blog, newsletter, newspapers and social media.
 - Communications were also shared with all the towns to highlight the free recycling outreach team services and the resources available to them.
- Household Hazardous Waste
 - Was successful this year
 - Waiting on final metrics from vendor
 - Approx. 1,033 residents participated
- Bagged compost
 - 2000 bags sold this season. That is a difference of about 800 bags or a 72% increase in bagged compost sales from last year
- Electronics
 - 2001 individuals participated
 - Increased by 250 people from last year
- Tiffin Project

- Reached over 700 residents
- Will present “Program Impact Story” of the year-end results from the Recycling Program Update
- Scholarship
 - Won a competitive scholarship through the NY Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America to attend their annual conference (SWANA WasteCon)
 - Notes from the conference was provided prior to the meeting
 - Highlighted two items that were heavy impressed at the conference:
 - Solid waste programs need to get better at telling their story with the impact of their programs. One speaker noted that the media loves to convey disasters in recycling, and not successes. A lot of news about recycling is out of context and leaves the public with strong disbelief and frustration about the state of recycling in America.
 - Provided tips on dealing with the press by addressing misinformation
 - Another focus of the conference was the benefits of Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.
 - Five states in the U.S. have successfully enacted packaging EPR, bills for packaging EPR have failed in 6 states including New York and Washington; EPR packaging discussions are underway in 6 other states
 - Fact Finding Document has been prepared

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Recording 41:35-43:35)

David Gilmour made a motion to approve the October 24, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes with one amendment to the title, remove the word “Agenda” and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 1 abstention (EGAN) and 0 absent.

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve the September 26, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes with one amendment to the title, remove the word “Agenda” and it was seconded by David Gilmour. 3 in favor, 1 abstention (EGAN) and 0 absent.

James Gordon made a motion to approve the September 26, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes with one amendment to the title, remove the word “Agenda” and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

Tim DeGraff provided an update regarding the following reports: (Recording 43:37-49:49)

➤ **MSW Tonnage Report for October** (Recording 43:40-45:00)

Target Tons	Actual Tonnage in	Difference
13,200	12,591	Actual Tonnage was 609 tons less than the targeted tons (4.6 %)

- For the year-to-date; under targeted tons by 3,623 tons (MSW/C&D) or 3%

➤ **Recycling Tonnage Report (Recording 45:03-45:26)**

- Tim DeGraff pointed out that there was nothing significant to report and that, recycling was consistent

➤ **MRF Cost Center Analysis (Recording 45:28-47:14)**

- Total Sale of Recyclables was \$38,888
- Total Recycling cost \$6,271
- Net Revenue of \$32,617
- Fiber prices have dropped (OCC/hard mixed/mixed news) referred to the Recycling Market Graph provided in packet
- Personnel Expenses \$37,546
- MRF Operating Expenses \$19,363
- Total Personnel/Operating Expenses \$56,909
- Material and Supplies were higher due to purchasing baling wire at \$10,639
 - Last purchased in April of 2023
- Net loss of \$24,292 for the month
- Year-to-date net loss of \$105,062
- Breakeven number would be \$24 for the tipping fee

➤ **Treasurer's Report (Recording 47:15-49:59)**

- Revenue Line item to note
 - Tiffin Project in the amount of \$5,895
 - Total Revenues were \$1,712,314
- Expenses-
 - MRF Operations
 - Higher due to purchasing baling wire in the amount of \$10,639; total MRF Operation was \$16,750
 - Total Operating Expenses were \$1,459,655
- Net Operating Revenues and a surplus of \$252,659
- Year-to-date the deficit is \$473,987

James Gordon motioned to accept October's Treasurer's Report Andrew Ghiorse moved it and it was seconded by David Gilmour. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

RESOLUTIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

- **Resolution #2632 Re: Approving Amendment to the Personnel Policy** (Recording 50:08-1:00:53)

The Board and staff discussed the above resolution in more detail. After discussion, Donna Egan requested that the Resolution's attachment be amended. The following should be added to 10th paragraph, under the bold paragraph "at age 65" and after "the stipend of \$2,500" should add "in the form of an HRA or other eligible vehicle. The amended paragraph reads as follows: "Upon becoming eligible for Medicare (at age 65), the Agency will offer an annual stipend of \$2,500.00 in the form of an HRA or other eligible vehicle to

Retirees.” The amendment was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor and 1 opposed to the amendment (GORDON).

David Gilmour made a motion to approve amended **Resolution # 2632 Re: Approving Amendment to the Personnel Policy** and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

- **Resolution #2633 Re: Amending Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 445** (Recording 1:00:58-1:05:17)

The Board and staff discussed the above resolution in more detail. The amendment of the Collective Bargaining Agreement was to clarify the length of a new employee’s probation period.

David Gilmour made a motion to approve **Resolution #2633 Re: Amending Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 445** and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 1 opposed (GILMOUR) and 0 absent.

- **Resolution #2634 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Disposal Agreement with Seneca Meadows Inc.** (Recording 1:05:20-1:10:21)

There was discussion of different costs for other disposal and transportation possibilities. The Board and staff discussed the timeframe, CPI, contract terms and insurance certificates.

David Gilmour made a motion to approve **Resolution #2634 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Disposal Agreement with Seneca Meadows, Inc.** and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

- **Resolution #2635 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Disposal Agreement with Waste Management of New York, LLC** (Recording 1:10:23-1:12:45)

This resolution is for 20,000 tons to go to the Green Ridge Landfill. The Board and staff discussed why the Agency decided on only disposing 20,000 tons at Green Ridge Landfill. Green Ridge would only accept 20,000 tons.

David Gilmour made a motion to approve **Resolution #2635 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Disposal Agreement with Waste Management of New York, LLC** and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

- **Resolution #2636 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Transportation Agreement with Colucci Trucking, LLC** (Recording 1:12:46-1:15:46)

Marc Rider, Executive Director stated this is for hauling from New Paltz to Seneca Meadows. Approximately, 200 tons a day are taken from New Paltz. Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance and Administration, stated there was a typo in the contract regarding Fuel Allotment. It states \$93/load it should be \$93/gallons.

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve **Resolution #2636 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Transportation Agreement with Colucci Trucking LLC** and it was seconded by David Gilmour. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

- **Resolution #2637 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Transportation Agreement with Mr. Bult’s Inc.** (Recording 1:15:51-1:16:43)

David Gilmour made a motion to approve **Resolution #2637 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Transportation Agreement with Mr. Bult’s Inc.** and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

- **Resolution #2638 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Transportation Agreement with Goulet Trucking, Inc.** (1:16:44-1:17:40)

This contract is for transporting waste from Kingston to Green Ridge Landfill.

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve **Resolution #2638 Re: Authorizing Agency to Enter into Transportation Agreement with Goulet Trucking, Inc.** and it was seconded by David Gilmour. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS-none was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

James Gordon stated that the Board is obligated to do a performance review of the Executive Director. David Gilmour would like to have an executive session in December to discuss the parameters of the review and finalize the review in January. The Board concurred with that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person. The Board exited executive session at 7:40PM. There was no attention taken or necessary.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the November 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting at 7:40 PM was made by James Gordon and seconded by Donna Egan. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the November 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was made by _____ and seconded by _____. ___ in favor, ___ opposed and ___ absent.

Transcribed by: Melinda France, Office Manager

Signatures:

James Gordon, Chair