

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 22, 2024**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on August 22, 2024.

The proceedings were convened at 7:05 PM. This meeting was held at the Agency's Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

The meeting began with a roll call by Attorney Ken Gilligan, Secretary to the Board of Directors.

**Board members present:** Chair/Treasurer Regis Obijiski, Vice Chair James Gordon, Members Andrew Ghiorse, David Gilmour and Donna Egan. A quorum was noted.

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

**From the public:** Michael Stribl, Reporter, Daily Freeman.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Regis Obijiski led the group in the 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: No comments were offered by the public.

**AGENDA**

Chair Regis Obijiski called for a motion to set the agenda, as prepared. James Gordon made a motion to approve the Agenda, as prepared. Andrew Ghiorse seconded the motion, which was passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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

1. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish to recognize Agency Attorney Ken Gilligan. This is Ken's last meeting, and we thank Ken for his many years of important legal advice, unselfish service, and availability to the board on so many legal matters. We thank you, Ken, for your willingness to help Karen Sheard as she adjusts to her responsibilities as attorney for the UCRRA. I have known you only for about a year but, as a fellow golfer, I wish to indulge all of you with a few golf metaphors to describe Ken. He has the integrity to play it as it lies not as he prefers; grants courtesy to his fellow

players understanding that those who are behind go first; knows that the most important shot is the next one because you need to let go of mistakes; in golf as in life follow-through is essential; the “yips” in putting, like the jitters in life, require stepping back, taking a deep breath, and doing your routine to get your mind back to the present moment. Hit ‘em long and straight, Ken!

2. The Ulster County Fair was even more fun because of UCRRA. I would like to thank both our Director Sustainability, Angelina Brandt, and Recycling Educator, Tanesia White, for organizing the UCRRA table that made community education, prizes included, both instructive and fun. I wish to acknowledge UCRRA employees and Board members for volunteering their time to engage the Ulster County community.
3. Next Regular Board Meeting: September 26, 2024 at approximately 6:15 PM, immediately following the Public Hearing concerning the proposed 2025 Agency Budget.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regis Obijiski called for a motion to accept the minutes, as prepared. Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to accept the July 25, 2024, minutes as prepared. David Gilmour seconded the motion. Discussion. Approval of the Minutes was postponed until the next regular Board meeting.

### GENERAL REPORTS

1. Executive Director Update -Marc Rider
  - *USDA Grant* – Mr. Rider discussed a USDA grant that the Agency was applying for and explained that the grant relates to food diversion, and will include some processing, as well as an agricultural component. He indicated that the Agency is collaborating with Ellenville, Wawarsing and Kingston City School Districts, the Cornell Cooperative and the YMCA to develop a plan and apply for this grant.
  - *Landfill Feasibility Study Report* –We continue to wait for the DEC’s preliminary determination before we go out to RFP on further engineering studies for the sites.
  - The Agency hired Robert Friedlander as its Recycling Compliance Officer, and he has begun working in that capacity.
  - The Agency is evaluating and discussing the responses to our RFP for Leachate Collection. – 3 responses, not yet had the opportunity to review
  - Transportation and disposal rate increase \$28/ton on the disposal side, with an all-in blended rate increase with fuel included is \$25/ton.
  - Shared pictures of staff efforts to recover cardboard that was sourced out generating additional revenue. (It was noted that the end goal is to divert recyclable sources before they are received at the facility).
  - It was noted that our facility was inspected 11 times and received no violations.
2. Sustainability Report- Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability
  - Ulster County Fair – Ms. Brandt indicated that 39 staff members volunteered 60 hours and 519 adults, and 134 children spent time at our display table. 323 tiffin containers were distributed in accordance with the terms of our grant. Although our grant is ending, we have been asked to lead two additional information sessions – 8/27 at SUNY Ulster and 9/20 at SUNY New Paltz.

- The Calcuta Kitchen, Phoenicia Diner and Protect Our Waters is looking to purchase, sell and distribute tiffins.
  - Staff hosted an informational training session for new employees at the Town of Rochester transfer station. May follow up with a visit to the transfer station and to the town hall to assist them with promoting our recycling program.
  - 2 new food scrap drop off sites, Accord subscription service and Woodstock Farm Fest. Working with New Paltz Community Center to troubleshoot compost and food waste issues they have experienced.
  - Working on 2023 Annual Waste and Recycling Report – total waste stream analysis based on self-reported survey responses from haulers, restaurants and other large waste generators. (Survey completed in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters and takes time to analyze information and to reach findings. Response is mandated by source separation law and has been consistent with prior years.
3. Other Reports presented
- Zero Waste Committee. Discussion about construction and debris recycling will continue. Also received a presentation on grants that the staff will research further for applicability.
  - Finance Committee, chaired by Regis Obijiski, as Treasurer, met twice at the Agency's headquarters on August 12 and 19. The specifics of the meetings were reported at today 5PM Special Meeting of the Board of Directors.
    - Result of the committee meetings was to recommend a draft budget scenario that applied ½ of debt relief savings to reduce tipping fees and the remaining ½ to fund a capital expenditures account.
    - Recommend the adoption of a resolution providing healthcare for eligible retirees
4. Tim DeGraff, UCRRA's Director of Finance and Administration, will report on: MSW Tonnage, Recycling Tonnage, MRF Cost Center Analysis, and the Treasurer's Report spreadsheet.
- MSW - YTD under target by 1.2%, sludge - YTD slightly over target
  - Recycling Tonnage - consistent with previous months
  - MRF Cost Center Analysis – YTD net loss of \$72K (improved compared to last years \$125K net loss at this time of year)
  - Treasurer's Report - indicates YTD net loss of \$1,000,000 (approx. \$158,000 more than last year at this time). Historically, the Agency begins to break even around September. It is predicted that the break-even point may be closer to year's end.
    - Regis Obijiski: As Treasurer, Mr. Obijiski added a few bottom-line remarks on the Treasurer's spreadsheet (the tan-colored paper, printed horizontally). He noted that the report focuses only on the first six months of the year, and yet the still indicates that the Agency is living within its means while eliminating long-term debt.
    - Focus on the 9<sup>th</sup> vertical column labelled 2024 Year-To-Date.

- From an operations cash perspective, the Agency's net operating revenues were \$1,172,810. \$911,374,049 (revenues) - \$10,201,239 (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 \$1,172,810 June surplus into a (\$1,019,087) overall cash deficit. We are still month-by-month satisfying our long-term debt.

James Gordon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, David Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 5 in favor 0 opposed.

**Old Business** (unfinished business): None

**New Business:** None.

**Resolutions:**

Resolution #2622 Re: Authorizing and Approving Defining Health Insurance Benefits for Eligible Retirees of the Agency

Motion was made to approve Resolution #2622 by Jim Gordon, Seconded by David Gilmour. Discussion.

A motion was made to again refer Resolution #2622 to the Finance Committee by Donna Egan. The motion was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse and approved with 3 in favor (David Gilmour, Donna Egan and Andrew Ghiorse) and 2 opposed (Regis Objijski and James Gordon)

Resolution #2624 Re: Approving Draft Capital Plan

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2624 by David Gilmour and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Discussion.

The motion was approved with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Resolution #2625 Re: Tipping Fee 2025 Fee Schedule

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2625 by David Gilmour and seconded by James Gordon. The motion was approved with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Resolution #2623 Re: Authorization of Draft 2025 Agency Budget

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2623 by Donna Egan and seconded by James Gordon.

Discussion.

It was recommended that the Draft 2025 Agency Budget be passed as written and the line item relating to the costs allocated to Resolution #2622 which has not been adopted, be reallocated within the Draft 2025 Budget as necessary.

The motion was approved with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Executive Session:**

David Gilmour made a motion for the Board to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and it was seconded by Donna Egan. The motion was approved with 3 in favor (David Gilmour, Donna Egan and Andrew Ghiorse) and 2 opposed (Regis Obijiski and James Gordon).

Executive Session began at 8:16 PM and concluded at 8:18 PM.

**ADJOURN**

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to adjourn the August 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and it was seconded by James Gordon. The motion was approved with 5 in favor, 0 opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

September 26, 2024


Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the August 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was made by James Gordon, Seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Gilmour).

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

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

Signatures:

  
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Regis Obijiski, Chair

  
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K.V. Sheard (DeFio), Secretary