

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2025**

Meeting began at 6:15 PM and ended 8:18 PM

This meeting was held at the UCRRA's Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

ROLL CALL

Board Members

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| James Gordon | <u> X </u> |
| Donna Egan | <u> X </u> |
| Andrew Ghiorse | <u>ABSENT</u> |
| Erica Brown | <u> X </u> |
| Mike Baden | <u> X </u> |

Agency Staff

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Marc Rider | <u> X </u> |
| Timothy DeGraff | <u> X </u> |
| Angelina Brandt | <u> X </u> |
| Tim Weidemann | <u> X </u> |
| Robert Friedlander | <u> X </u> |

Agency Counsel, Jillian Jagling, Esq. from West Group Law was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT (Recording 1:55-15:23)

The following were present from the public: Darren Joseph, Poppy Cannon Reese, Laura Petit, Casey Plasker, William Kearney Sevier, Lauren Salvy, Reuben Butchart, John R. Glagola, Mr. Shultz, Grace Jones, William Kemble of the Daily Freeman and Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature.

Manna Jo Greene – She spoke about her experience with the Repair Café. She stated that it was a great experience. She hopes the RIC will be named after John Wackman because it was his vision. John Wackman brought the Repair Cafés to the Hudson Valley.

Laura Petit – She stated it was very important to complete the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. She stated that Mike Baden and Donna Egan were part of the group who worked on the plan, and it is almost completed. She stated it is very important to get it completed before doing any landfill evaluations because if the waste could go down that will greatly impact final disposal.

Poppy Cannon Reese – She spoke about being against the landfill in Wawarsing. She discussed the waterways in the area and the impact that the landfill would have on the area (businesses & economic development).

John Glagola – He seconded what Poppy Cannon Reese stated.

Lauren Salvy – She stated that everyone in the community there rely on wells for water. She quoted from an article from Hudson Valley One-*Search for Landfill Pauses*; “In spite of his seeing the mandate of the legislature through, Rider knows better than most just what it is he was proposing. I grew up in that situation, Rider said. For the first ten years of my life [in Spokane County, Washington], my street dead-ended into a fence which just behind was the countywide landfill. We had to have municipal water lines come out because we

couldn't drink out of our well." She said it is shameful that Marc pursues a legacy of condemning an entire community to the same thing.

Darren Joseph – He asked the board if a new landfill would be sited within 1000 feet behind their house would they rather the waste to be shipped to an incinerator. James Gordon stated the Board does not engage in public comment. He stated that the Board has to explore all the options that are available, that are economically feasible and environmentally viable. Mr. Joseph asked if that included eminent domain to seize property. James Gordon explained that the Agency is not allowed to do that. Marc stated that the DEC stated that you cannot use eminent domain to site a landfill. Marc stated we are allowed to go on the site and take samples for testing.

Grace Jones – She stated that she seconded what everyone has said. She doesn't understand why the Agency is wasting their time and looking at this site when the owner doesn't want to sell.

Ruben Bouchardt – He agreed with everyone about no landfill. He asked why waste-to-energy has not been explored and off the table. Marc Rider responded that several times throughout the years the public has been against incinerators. In NYS Solid Waste Management Plan, they prohibited any combustible incinerators from being built. Marc stated the Agency has been looking at bio gasification, a dirty MRF, and hydrolysis. Marc stated that the Agency should get all RFP proposals in June.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Donna Egan made a motion to remove Resolution #2651 from the Agenda. This resolution will be discussed at the next meeting when all Board members will be present. Mike Baden moved the amendment to the Agenda and Erica Brown seconded the motion. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GHIORSE).

ELECTION OF OFFICER(S)

Donna Egan made a motion to elect Mike Baden as the Treasurer, and it was seconded by Erica Brown. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GHIORSE)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of April 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

The minutes were amended as follows:

On page 7, in the Zero Waste Committee paragraph Erica Brown asked that "Due To Erica's busy schedule" be stricken. Erica Brown made a motion to approve the amended Minutes of April 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GHIORSE) and 1 abstention (BADEN).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting scheduled for June 12, 2025, at 5:15 PM
 - Neal Seldman will be the guest speaker

- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025, at 6:15 PM

GENERAL REPORTS

- **Committees and official meeting reports by Board Members-None**
- **Recycling Program Update-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability** (Recording 22:31-29:03)

Angelina provided the following updates:

- April marked the launch of the seasonal programs:
 - Sold 1,052 bags of compost in the month of April
 - Saw 277 drop offs at our Saturday electronics collection program
 - 233 households participated in our HHW event on April 5th
 - Registration is now open for our next event, Sunday June 22nd in Kingston
- Recycling Outreach Team
 - Responded to 276 phone calls on our Recycling Hotline
 - Completed 5 outreach events in partnership with Woodland Pond, Highland Middle School, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Rosendale - Marbletown Environmental Commission
 - The programs reached approximately 266 adults and 32 children through 18 hours of direct community engagement programming
- Spring Advertising campaign
 - Volunteer Program – recruiting for the 3rd annual Master Composter-Master Recycler training scheduled to be held as ten classes in the month of June
 - It is a free program
- 12 requests for media kits this month – shared with Greenway Environmental, and various public libraries to celebrate International Compost Awareness Week.
- Angelina will share more about ICAW at the next Board meeting
- FREE recycling events that are coming up
 - Kingston Earth Fair on May 10th
 - Open to City of Kingston residents
 - There will be paper shredding, electronic recycling and Freon recycling (air conditioners, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, etc.)
 - For Ulster County Residents there is the Coolest Recycling Drive (3 dates in May)
 - At the New Paltz Town Transfer Station
 - All Freon items are accepted for FREE
 - Climate Smart Commission will host a paint event on May 31st
 - By appointment
 - Anyone in NYS can participate

Mike Baden asked if the Agency could look into shredding events. Marc stated the Agency has tabled at events that have done paper shredding. Donna Egan added that the bank donated the shredding truck for the Plattekill Event.

- **MSW Tonnage Report, Recycling Report, MRF Cost Center Analysis and the Treasurer's Report-Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance and Administration** (Recording 29:10-34:35)

MSW Tonnage Report

March

| TARGET TONS | TONNAGE IN | VARIANCE |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| MSW-7,964 tons | MSW-8,173 tons | MSW-209 tons more than targeted tons |
| C&D-2,655 tons | C&D-2,766 tons | C&D-111 tons more than targeted tons |

Year-to-date: MSW targeted tons were off by 942 tons which is about 3.1%.

Recycling Tonnage Report

Tim DeGraff stated that recycling and food waste were pretty consistent with the first quarters of last year.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

- Total Sale of Recyclables was \$34,905
- Total Recycling cost was \$5,235
- Net Revenue of \$29,670
- Total Personnel/Operating Expenses \$44,865
- Net loss of \$15,195 for the month
- Year-to-date net loss of \$55,858
- Net loss per ton for the year was \$44.69
- Would need to have charged \$44.69 per ton to break even

Treasurer's Report

- Total Revenues were \$1,734,647
- One Revenue Line Item to Note:
 - Composting Tipping Fees/Sales in the amount of \$29,506 was for bulk sales spike and bag sales started
- Total Operating Expenses were \$1,632,758
- The year-to-date surplus and net operating revenues are \$101,889
- Year-to-date surplus of \$32,294
- Debt Service Payment-final debt service payment was made with debt service reserve funds

Mike Bade made a motion to accept March's Treasurer Report and Donna Egan seconded it. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (GHIORSE).

Executive Director, Marc Rider & Recycling Compliance, Robert Friedlander Updates (Recording 34:45-1:08:25)

Robert Friedlander provided the Board with an update. He stated that with regards to multi-family

dwellings, he has a lot of complaints and resistance from the owners. He explained that he reaches out to owners by phone, he sends letters by regular mail\certified mail and continues to follow-up.

He stated, there are several hauler applications that are being held until they are in compliance. He has meetings set up to go over the compliance issues.

Donna Egan asked Robert to go to one of the Council Industry in Orange County to do a presentation. She will provide Robert with the contact information of the President of the Council Industry.

Mike Baden asked what the process is for someone who is in violation. Marc stated it would be handled by in-house legal counsel and if it continued it would go to Administrative Hearing Officer.

Robert takes notes, keeps a checklist and photos of haulers dumping in the transfer stations for violations.

The Board is appreciative of Robert's work and thanked him for being at the meeting. They told Robert to reach out to them if he needed any support.

Marc Rider provided his Executive Director Update. He stated the following:

- **Meetings:**
 - Attended a conference in Albany for Zero Waste NY
 - Many of the sessions were presented by Mike Ewall
 - Neil Seldman, also presented and will be presenting at the next ZWCM in June
 - They gave examples of communities diverting 60-70 percent of all waste
- **Leachate Collection Testing**
 - SCS is still developing both a short-term and long-term strategy for leachate treatment and disposal
 - Charlie and Marc visited the Town of Hurley PFAS treatment system. It uses foam and bubbles to collect PFA/PFOS.
- **REP0WER/RIC**
 - Received news that one of the philanthropic partners that they were seeking funding from had decided not to fund the project. This is the fourth or fifth rejection received on this project. He advised the sellers of the Flatbush building that the Agency would not be going forward with the purchase
 - Met with financial advisors from Capital Market Advisors who cautioned that removing the net service fee could have a negative effect on bond rating. They also cautioned about the uncertainty of the municipal bond market and escalating rates. If the Agency were to fully bond the project the Agency would likely not be eligible for tax-free municipal bonds because of the type of project, which means rates upwards of seven percent. This would mean that 10 million dollars in bonds would cost the Agency approximately 16 million to finance.
 - Will need to reconfigure the RIC
 - It is possible to still have \$1,000,0000 from the County. Marc stated the Agency could possibly provide sheds to the MRDCs and commit the \$1,000,000 over the next five years to a non-profit that would like to take on collections from the spokes and redistribute the materials to other reuse organizations or maintain a small storefront
 - Will provide a new presentation in June

- **County Contract**
 - The County contract was postponed in the Energy and Environment Committee
 - There are committee members that believed the contract should have a bonding cap
 - In the draft contract, the net service fee was removed
 - Legal counsel is reviewing the contract
 - The Board decided to postpone the conversation regarding the county contract until the June meeting when all Board Members will be present
 - The Board and staff discussed why there should be a contract
- **Permit Modifications**
 - Thursday, May 1st was the Public Participation Meeting
 - 10 residents in attendance in person and two online
 - Most comments were positive
 - Sterling will compile the record of our public comments and responses and will submit them to the DEC
 - The Agency has not received further information from the DEC on other sections of the application. They are currently reviewing the Disproportionate Burden Analysis that must be done due to the CLCPA. Once the record of the public meeting is sent, and they finish the disproportionate burden analysis, the application will be deemed complete. There will be a 30 day public comment period, and then the application should be approved.
- **Agency Counsel**-will be discussed in executive session.
- **RFP for Diversion and Alternatives to Landfills**
 - This RFP was sent out and is due back by June 13th
- **RFP for Landfill Engineering**
 - Will go out next week

Donna Egan stated she would like the MRDC meetings to be scheduled no matter how many towns can participate because they are very important. Marc Rider stated they will be scheduled in July. Mike Baden stated there were a lot of adversaries with the Towns and the Agency. He believes these meetings would be beneficial.

Donna Egan requested an update on the goals. Tim Weidemann stated that the update on the goals will be provided at the July meeting due to the checkpoint being in mid-June.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

- **Resolution #2650 Re: Authorizing Agency to Accept Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.'s Proposal and Authorizing Agreement for Engineering Services for HVAC Equipment Replacement** (Recording 1:08:461:14:25)

Mike Baden opened Resolution #2650 for discussion, and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

Marc explained that the HVAC equipment is outdated, and GPI will propose a more modern system and will help review the bids for a company to install the system. There were two proposals received.

Resolution #2650 Re: Authorizing Agency to Accept Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.'s Proposal and Authorizing Agreement for Engineering Services for HVAC Equipment Replacement was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GHIORSE).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Donna Egan made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:40 PM for the purpose of discussing the future employment of an individual and it was seconded by Mike Baden. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GHIORSE).

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:16 PM. No action was taken coming out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn May 8, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at 8:18 PM was made. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GHIORSE).

June 12, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of May 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting was made by _____, seconded by _____.
in favor, _____ opposed, _____ absent.

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Melinda France, Office Manager.

Signatures:

James Gordon, Chair