

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2025, AT 5:15 PM**

ROLL CALL**Committee Members**

Donna Egan x _____
James Gordon x _____
Erica Brown Absent

Agency Staff

Marc Rider x _____
Timothy DeGraff Excused
Angelina Brandt x _____
Tim Weidemann x _____

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**PUBLIC COMMENT** (recording 3:42 – 10:53)

Present at the Zero Waste Committee were the following individuals from the public:

Poppy Cannon Reese – stated that they are setting up a repair café in Ellenville for August 16 and the Agency’s resources were incredibly helpful. She is in a volunteer training program with Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability.

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature - stated that they wanted to encourage the Agency to find a facility for the reuse center. Hub and spoke is very valuable and pointed out there aren’t a lot of municipalities that have 19 locations to collect reusable. Hub is important. Unsure that the spokes without the hub or central facility would be as successful.

Laura Petite, Ulster County Legislature – made comments about the environmental committee meeting. She stated that she had an issue with the idea that the Zero Waste Plan being proprietary. She stated that it is not proprietary because when it was introduced to the Agency, she wrote the cover page with Josephine Papagni. It was brought to legislature as Resolution #265 of 2020 – but never passed the Committee. She stated that it was decided to do a working group. It was rewritten with input from Tracy Bartell and Emily Howser. She questioned why the individual at the environmental committee meeting said the Zero Waste Plan was proprietary. Marc Rider responded that he said it was proprietary because they had paid a consultant to put together the plan. Laura Petite stated that all of the work was given to the consultant to create a plan, but it never happened. She stated that the Agency and County can start from scratch instead of giving it to a consultant. She can turn over the first and second draft and Manna Jo can also provide further documents.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

James Gordan made a motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 2 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of May 8, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting

James Gordan made a motion to approve the May 8, 2025 Minutes and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 2 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2025 at 5:15pm.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (none)**NEW BUSINESS** (recording 15:35- 26:21)

- Presentation by Neil Seldman, Zero Waste USA

Neil Seldman was unable to appear by video conferencing due to technical difficulties and therefore appeared by telephone. He began to discuss about the RFP, which he found out about in May at a conference. He has spoken about UCRRA in high regard. Surprised that UCRRA would be considering 2 technologies: 1) paralysis/incineration and mixed waste processing. At which point, Donna Egan the Chair of the Committee informed him that he was off topic. He stated he is not prepared to present on the Zero Waste Plan or study. Instead, he continued to state that the RFP that includes the incineration and mixed waste processing will take the Agency backwards. He will forward to Marc Rider all of the information from his colleague that supports this statement.

After Neil Seldman hung up, Marc Rider explained the RFP. He stated that the Agency has an RFP for diversion and alternative technologies to landfilling and combustible incineration. The RFP is very broad that looks at any strategy, so the Agency would not be closing down MRF or other diversionary practices (source separating composting, source separating recycling). He stated that that recycling is low in New York. Agency is looking at proposals of source separation but also open to any solution, including mechanical separation. Zero Waste USA would not consider mechanical separation as a zero waste principal because of the contamination – even the organics.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn June 12, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 5:46 PM was made by James Gordan and seconded by Donna Egan. 2 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

July 10, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of June 12, 2025 Zero Waste Committee Meeting was made by _____, seconded by _____. in favor, _____ opposed, _____ absent.

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel

Signatures:

Donna Egan, Chair