

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2025**

Meeting began at 6:15 PM and ended 8:49 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>X</u>
Erica Brown	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mike Baden	<u>X</u>

Agency Staff

Marc Rider	<u>X</u>
Timothy DeGraff	<u>Excused</u>
Angelina Brandt	<u>X</u>
Tim Weidemann	<u>X</u>

Agency Counsel, Jillian Jagling, Esq. from West Group Law was present. (Arrived at 6:40 PM Virtually).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT (Recording 3:24-15:55)

The following were present from the public: Mike Fisher, Michael Kennel, Madlyn Phelan- Sec of NAACP & Environment Climate Justice Committee, William Foster- Chair to Environment Climate Justice Committee, John Blauvelt, Poppy Cannon Reese, Joe Stoeckeler, Brooke Gillespie, Manna Jo Greene- Ulster County Legislature, Emily Klucinec, Laura Petit, Margret Rogers, Matt Canale.

Mike Fisher – He spoke to oppose the landfill on Brown Road in Ellenville; concern that the people and animals in the area will be affected. James Gordan Chair of the Board informed him that currently not considering any landfill sites right now; at some point in the future Agency will go out to look for a landfill site. Agency focus on Zero Waste right now.

Mike Kennel – He recommended using already existing “super-sites” (8 or 9) in Ulster County that are already contaminated lands for the future instead of creating new landfill. Asked his question of whether or not we could use an already contaminated landfill for the future instead of creating a new one? He is in support of separation facilities as opposed to landfill.

Madelyn Phelan (Secretary of NAACP & Environment Climate Justice Committee) – although they understand that Agency has removed their plans for landfill site, their organization would still like to go on record: local branch NAACP Ellenville branch represents one of the oldest civil rights organization in the country; mission is to eliminate discrimination and expand human and civil rights; historically provided voice for underrepresented groups, specifically rural communities. The then proposed site of the landfill is in an economically disadvantaged area where there is an even greater burden on its residents. They oppose proposed landfill in the area; please explore other options now and the future.

John Blauvelt – as a resident of Ellenville, he thanked the board for taking the landfill site off as a proposal; but will return if it gets back on agenda.

Poppy Cannon Reese – Also thanked Board for taking off landfill site from agenda. Wanted to propose a composting program in the town, Lippman Park.

William Foster (NAAP Chair) – he wished to reiterate he spoke with UC Planning Board and they informed him that the landfill plan is “dead” for now; but he is not convinced that it will be dead for long. Wanted to propose the ethical question of: why this type of situation occurs in rural, economically disadvantage areas.

Joe Stoeckeler, (Warwarsing Town Board) – Thanked the Board for taking off the landfill site from Agenda. Wanted to reiterate what Poppy Cannon Reese stated about composting programs. Stated that last time Marc Rider came to present, composting programs were discussed; grants are available which could offset overhead; supplies will be provided; wanted to revisit this plan. Mentioned Andrew Fausts, who works with Saugerties right now to come up with composting sites.

Brooke Gillespie – wanted to echo what everyone else said regarding opposing any future plans for landfill. Believes Ulster County could be a leading example of true Zero Waste.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Donna Egan requested an update regarding: 1) MRDC meeting, 2) confirm goals updates occurring in July, 3) permit update for composting and mattresses, to be added to the Executive Director’s update,

Mike Baden moved to approve the Agenda and Andrew Ghiorse seconded the motion. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of May 8, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Mike Baden made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 8, 2025, Regular Board Meeting and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (BROWN).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting scheduled for July 10, 2025, at 5:15 PM
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2025, at 6:15 PM

E-mail Communication Received by Marc Rider on June 12, 2025: (Recording 20:23- 25:13)

- E-mail from Supervisor of Town of Warwarsing. Supervisor acknowledged the good work in Zero Waste, but also requested, if Agency won’t site a landfill, please create a resolution that Agency would not plan a landfill. Marc Rider does not recommend that the Board do this since there already is a resolution taking the landfill off the 5-year capital project plan. Agency can revisit in 5 years, since the goal is to divert through alternative methods (i.e., composting,

reuse). Big issue will be in 2040 when Seneca Meadows closes and the Agency will have to go out to bid for landfill once more. Marc Rider's recommendation is by 2030 Agency should have an idea of a plan (whether regionally, partnering with bordering county)- and not take off a specific town or area from future plans because it will affect incentives and lifestyle. Start with new study. The Board agrees to put the discussion of this email communication on the agenda for next board meeting for further discussion.

GENERAL REPORTS

- **Committees and official meeting reports by Board Members - NONE**
- **Recycling Program Update-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability** (Recording 25:25-29:40)

Angelina provided the following updates:

- Celebration of International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) in May:
 - Initiative of Compost Research Education Foundation with goal of raising public awareness about the benefits of compost.
 - This year's theme: Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost.
 - Recycling Educator, Eva Barnett created a new initiative to partner with local libraries. She created and circulated booklists and circulated to (10) participating libraries. Used this list and other provided resources to set up composting themed book display
 - 7 of the 10 participating libraries had educational workshops; Agency focused on youth programming in partnership with Olive and Stone Ridge Libraries.
 - Outreach to local composting companies with invitation to help teach classes to adults
 - Addie Smoke delivered a workshop at Kingston Library
 - Speakers from Greenway Environmental delivered talks at New Paltz, Stone Ridge, Platteville, Rosendale and Cragmore libraries.
 - Social Media: quotes from local composting communities, planning instructions for how to use finished compost
- In May, the Recycling Outreach Team responded to 178 phone calls
- Completed 8 other Outreach events in partnership with Crosby Elementary School, Shandaken Conservation Advisory Committee, Pinehill Community Center, Kingston Farmer's Market, Lifetime Learning Institute in New Paltz and City of Kingston Earth Fair. These programs reached 373 adults and 140 children. 77 hours of direct community engagement.
- 87 customers at Annual Compost bin and rain barrel sale.
- Spring Advertisement Campaign: sold 537 bags of compost in the month of May.
- Saturday Electronics Collection Program: 330 drop offs.
- Distributed 13 media kits.
- Promoting next household hazardous waste collection event; still accepting appointments for the event, which will take place on Sunday, June 22, 2025 in Kingston.
- June's Focus:
 - Celebrating National Waste and Recycling Workers Week
- **MSW Tonnage Report, Recycling Report, MRF Cost Center Analysis and the Treasurer's Report-**

Marc Rider, Executive Director on behalf of Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance and Administration (Recording 30:14-46:34)

MSW Tonnage Report

April

TARGET TONS	TONNAGE IN	VARIANCE
MSW-9,041 tons	MSW-8,399 tons	MSW-642 tons less than targeted tons
C&D-3,014 tons	C&D-3,327 tons	C&D-313 tons more than targeted tons

Year-to-date: total tonnage is 41,053, which is 3% off our target (1,271), which is 42,324. Second year in a row not hitting our goal. Donna Egan suggests we use a different term rather than “target”. Marc Rider said he will discuss with Tim DeGraff and circle back.

Recycling Tonnage Report

Marc Rider stated that recycling tonnage is down 38 tons or 2.2%. MRDC and Kingston recycling is down 4.2% which correlates with decrease of volume for MSW which was 6%.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

- Total Sale of Recyclables for April was \$29,720
- Total Recycling cost for residuals was \$6,875
- Net Revenue of \$22,845
- Total Personnel/Operating Expenses \$77,300 (higher due to furnace and AC repairs and sorting line belt replacement- \$25,000)
- Net loss of \$50,236 for the month
- Year-to-date net loss of \$106,094
- There is loss in the month of April because we did not sell- can be depicted on the Recycling Markets Graph

Treasurer's Report (Recording 39:30-46:34)

- Total Revenues were \$1,921,474
- One Revenue Line Item to Note:
 - Miscellaneous Revenues: \$60,679 (Higher than normal due to worker's compensation refund of a premium policy for the policy year 7/1/23 to 7/1/24, which represents 50% of our premium. So we got about \$48,000 back.
- MRF Operation Expenses were \$30,029
- HHW Clean up date: \$34,240
- Transportation System \$10,773 – annual
- Total operating expense \$1,838,320
- Net Operating Revenue: \$83,154

- Year to Date surplus of \$115,448

Mike Bade made a motion to accept April's Treasurer Report and Andrew Ghiorse seconded it. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (BROWN).

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates (Recording 47:09 – 1:14:58)

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

- **Presentation in May by Marc Rider and Tim Weidemann at 2 Caucuses:**
 - Working Together Toward Zero Waste, May 20, 2025
 - Orientation for new legislators- provides history of UCRRA, the laws (Enabling Statute), vision and mission statement, recent accomplishments, 2025 Capital Project; Hub and Spoke – the RePower Project; Compost Processing Expansion- invest at town MRDCs.
 - Would like complete 5 town hall meetings: go to the town (Ellenville, Saugerties, New Paltz, Shawangunk, Pinehill area) and do an evening presentation first and then a 30min Q & A after.
- **Stakeholder meeting:**
 - SWANA NY Federation Annual Conference- Several staff and 2 board members attended in Lake George- Marc Rider stated it was an excellent opportunity to network. He had to leave early to give above presentation
 - Conference in Albany (Tuesday and Wednesday)- Marc Rider traveled to Albany with Beyond Plastics to advocate for Packaging Reduction Recycling Infrastructure Act. Met with Assembly Members pulled off the floor. He believes legislation has the votes to pass the Assembly, however deciding factor is whether leadership is going to put it on the floor.
- **Leachate Collection Testing**
 - Marc Rider spoke with SCS on 6/12/2025; they informed him they will provide report in 2 weeks – ready to present at July Board meeting. Getting quotes right now.
- **REPOWER/RIC**
 - Will discuss at Executive session.
- **County Contract**
 - Will discuss in Executive session.
- **2 Resolutions related to Agency Counsel tonight.**
 - Nancy Lam can start the next day Friday with orientation.
- **Permit Modifications**
 - Agency submitted everything including enhanced public participation plan.
 - Next step: DEC has 90 days to respond.
- **RFP for Diversion and Alternatives to Landfills**
 - Marc Rider extended deadline to July 11, 2025 due to request of several potential proposers
 - Marc Rider already received several bid intent forms and had walkthroughs- and believes Agency will receive 5-10 proposals (10 companies)
- **MRDC Meetings:**
 - Marc Rider still waiting on Supervisor of Marbletown if date Monday July 14, 2025 (morning/early afternoon) is available; to conduct one meeting in Kingston and one in Marbletown same day.

- **Goals Update for Next month:** Donna Egan requested a goals update for next month. Marc Rider confirmed.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS (Recording 1:14:59- Recording 1:50:57)

- **Resolution #2651 Re: Approving the Service Agreement between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and Ulster County** (Recording 1:14:59- Recording 1:16:38)

Marc Rider explained that this resolution does not have to be opened right now; it can be postponed as it is still sitting in energy and environment. Marc Rider has agreed to meet with the chair of legislature.

- **Resolution #2652 Re: Authorizing and Approving a Revised Job Description and Payment Scale for Agency Counsel** (Recording 1:16:39- 1:18:09)

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2652 and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. Mike Baden wanted to ask if the position is a part of civil service. Marc Rider indicated it is exempt. Donna Egan asked a question regarding the percentage of when agency counsel will be onsite. Marc Rider indicated 75% commitment.

Resolution #2652 was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

- **Resolution #2653 Re: Affirming Appointment of Agency Counsel** (Recording 1:18:10- 1:19:47)

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2653 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

Resolution #2653 was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

- **Resolution #2654 Re: Authorizing and Approving Revisions to Agency Procurement Policy**
(Recording 1:19:49-1:43:48)

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2654 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

Marc Rider explained that the procurement policy is found online in an old PDF format (1980s), together with later addendums. The policy and the addendum conflicted. Unable to redline the policy. Major changes of note: 1) recycling section had exceptions that were too narrow. Marc Rider will circle back in July or August with a sustainable/green procurement policy as an amendment or addition similar to the county's procurement policy; 2) Threshold numbers were very low; 3) Modernized some of the exemption language.

Donna Egan raised some questions and concerns with specific terms of the policy as well as certain edits to the grammar and language of the policy.

As such, Mike Baden motioned to table Resolution #2654 to the next meeting and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

- **Resolution #2655 Re: Approving the Second Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 445** (Recording 1:44:00- 1:49:00)

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2655 and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Marc Rider explained that the current CBA, after employee serves 1 year probationary period, there is a 10% reduction of salary. Operations Management approached Marc Rider regarding this issue, notwithstanding the fact that the salary for drivers are higher in the area than the Agency and the Agency has had a vacant driver position for at least year or more. Thus, Marc Rider had a discussion with the Union Business Agent to amend the CBA; the Union Business Agent was amenable and has signed off on changes to the CBA. Marc Rider does note that not all staff are thrilled about this.

Resolution #2655 was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

- **Resolution #2656 Removing Project 25-05 Countywide Sanitary Landfill from the 2025-2029 Agency Capital Project Plan** (Recording 1:49:15-1:50:57)

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2656 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

Marc Rider explained the Capital Project Plan is a living document that can be amended year to year; he advised that as we stand now, the site for landfill should be removed and be revisited in about 5 years.

Resolution #2656 was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS (Recording 1:55:21-2:02:29)

- County Code 304, Solid Waste, Recycling

Andrew Ghiorse's proposes that County Code 304, which is confusing, needs to be updated. Requests that the Agency approach legislature to clarify and update it so that the Agency can utilize it. Raises issues that parts of the code are not relevant or ignored. Marc Rider suggests that the Board can review the code and provide comments and revisions, and add to Old Business for further discussion at next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mike Baden made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:17 PM for the purpose of discussing a real estate transaction, seeking legal advice, and future employment of an individual and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

Mike Baden made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:48 PM and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn June 12, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at 8:49 PM was made by Mike Baden and seconded by Donna Egan. 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (BROWN).

July 10, 2025

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

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Nancy Lam, Esq., Agency Counsel.

Signatures:

James Gordon, Chair

DRAFT