

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

August 14, 2025

Meeting began at 7:24 PM and ended 9:32 PM

This meeting was held at the Ulster County Town Hall at 1 Enterprise Drive, Lake Katrine, NY, due to a pest issue (i.e. bees) at the Agency'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>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>
Nancy Lam	<u>X (remotely)</u>

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT (Recording 2:53)

Present at the meeting were the following individuals from the public: William Kemble of the Daily Freeman, Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature, Poppy Cannon Reese, and Reuben Butchart .

Poppy Cannon Reese- stated that she took the course on Volunteering, Recycling and Composting with Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability and enjoyed the course. She stated that she took a deep dive into textile recycling and learned to compost. She offered one comment that it would be great to have more information to distribute to the public on how to compost properly; she suggested billboards.

Reuben Butchart asked a question about where he can find more information about the status of things and projects occurring with the Agency, such as the Reuse Center Project. Marc Rider stated that the Agency typically updates the website regarding status of projects and thus the public can check the Agency Website on news and updates regarding projects and events.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (recording 4:25)

- Andrew Ghiorse requested to add "an update regarding the town contracts negotiation" to the Agenda.

Mike Baden moved to approve the Agenda as modified and Donna Egan seconded the motion. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (recording 5:36)

- Minutes of July 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

There were a few corrections to the draft July Minutes:

- Page 7 of the draft Minutes, Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle's last name was inadvertently left off.
- Strike "Ulster County Legislature" after Laura Petit
- On Page 3, after discussion about conducting surveys with the towns, add: "*Donna Egan commented that when conducting surveys, she believes it would be beneficial to receive all feedback, the good and the bad, so that the Agency can identify gaps to improve.*"

Mike Baden made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting as amended, and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Recording 10:55)

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting scheduled for September 11, 2025, at 5:15 PM
- Public Hearing regarding Draft 2026 Agency Budget (Resolution #2659) scheduled for September 11, 2025 at 6PM
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM or after the Public Hearing on Draft 2026 Agency Budget (Resolution #2659) concludes.
 - James Gordon noted that he will be unable to attend the September 11, 2025 RBM and that Donna Egan will chair the September 11, 2025 RBM.

GENERAL REPORTS (Recording -13:03)

➤ **Committees and official meeting reports by Board Members**

None.

➤ **Recycling Program Update-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability** (Recording 13:04)

Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability, provided the following updates:

- Celebration of Plastic Free July- global movement to encourage people to use less plastic.
 - On social media, the Agency's plastic free July campaign was extensive, including Radio ads
 - Master Composter/Recycler volunteers facilitated some interviews with Beyond Plastics and "Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution" which are posted on website/blog
 - Participated on a Spanish radio show to talk about home composting (Angel Delgado, Operations Manager) led the interview in Spanish
 - Hosted facility tour: United States Composting Council & Compost Research Education Foundation's Compost Operators Training Course – guests from all over the country- UCRRA operations staff demonstrated new bagging machine for the tour
 - Hosted an information meeting for Town transfer station operators. They mention that people are appreciative of one-on-one personal attention. Some challenges they face in their

municipal programs:

- Main challenge is low staffing
- Plastic recycling is confusing and requires a lot of education
- Instructions are often ignored even though posted and large
- Ulster County Fair was successful – all hands-on deck between staff and volunteers
- Highlighted the “7R’s to Rethink Waste” flyer- very informative flyer that was handed out at events such as the UC Fair– printed in English and Spanish

Angelina invited the board to ask questions; no questions were asked.

➤ **MSW Tonnage Report, Recycling Report, MRF Cost Center Analysis and the Treasurer’s Report- Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance and Administration** (Recording 19:52)

Tim DeGraff provided the following update:

MSW Tonnage Report (Recording)

June

TARGET TONS	TONNAGE IN	VARIANCE
MSW 9,539 tons	MSW 8,826 tons	MSW-713 tons less than targeted tons
C&D 3,180 tons	C&D 3,346 tons	C&D 167
Sludge 344 tons	Sludge 250 tons	Sludge -94 tons less than targeted- unsure why high, usually number is lower

Year-to-date: total tonnage is 65,690 which is 3.4% off target (2,279), which is 67,999.

Recycling Tonnage Report (Recording 21:08)

Tim DeGraff stated that recycling tonnage is pretty consistent for June. He noted Food waste is roughly under 2,800, so the Agency will monitor, but hopefully Agency won’t have to monitor in a couple of months (referring to the permit).

MRF Cost Center Analysis (Recording 21:28)

Tim DeGraff stated it was a rough month in the MRF which he observed tends to happen when they only sell cardboard and mixed news. He did want to highlight that when making these monthly reports, the numbers need to be reviewed with context: for example the report includes expenses such as staff sorting at the line, but the staff is sorting mostly plastics—UCRRA does not derive revenue from plastics; however, we have months like in January and May where the sales of Recyclables/plastics is high.

- Total Sale of Recyclables for June was \$26,660
- Net revenue of \$15,766
- Net Income/Loss: loss of -\$40,147
- Year to Date Net Loss: -\$121,777

Recycling Market Trend Report (Recording 23:28)

Tim DeGraff pointed out that the last half of the graph for mixed news per ton flattens out, and the spike in glass per ton for March, but it also flattens out.

Treasurer's Report (Recording 24:22)

Tim DeGraff stated that regarding the line item note for revenue, UCRRA received MWRR money for skid steer and (5) glass containers (\$48,959) from 2019.

- Total Revenues for June \$1,953,361
- Expenses of note for June:
 - Clean up HHW Event: \$38,052
 - CLF Monitoring and Maintenance \$15,985- Ulster and NP needed pump installs; trash pump replacement (\$14,929), which is related to DEC compliance
- Total Operating Expenses for June \$1,787,929
- Net operating Revenues for June \$165,432
 - Note, new tractors (\$182,188) + New Paltz landfill perimeter road (\$16,906) thus there is a deficit of 33,662

Tim DeGraff stated that while tonnages are down in July, from a treasurer's report standpoint July was good.

Donna Egan made a motion to accept June's Treasurer Report and Mike Baden seconded it. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates (Recording 27:10)

Marc Rider provided his Executive Director Updates stating the following:

- **Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Town Supervisors Association meeting (July): Main topics discussed were: increased tipping fees and the cost of reuse and compost at the MRDCS. This came up because Agency asked for support for DEC Grant Application- Received 12 letters of support to submit with grant application
 - Energy and Environment Committee meeting (August): The contract came up for discussion- it appears no one is happy with the terms of the contract, thus the resolution was once again postponed
 - (2) "Town Hall" style meetings to present the future of solid waste:
 - Event in Ellenville was attended by over thirty people. James Gordon also attended that meeting. The conversation in Ellenville was mostly positive and productive.
 - Event in Shawangunk did not have any members of the public in attendance. The only attendees were Andrew Ghiorse, Kyle from the Wallkill Valley Times and Legislator Kevin Roberts.
 - Possibly shift the one in Saugerties to Kingston; Erica Brown offered to connect the Agency with Radio Kingston to assist in recording and posting on website
 - Possibly add Plattkill

- Board Members noted that the Agency needs to work on communication or spreading the word

- **Leachate Collection**

SCS will present their report to the Board in September.

- **REPOWER/RIC**

To be discussed in Executive session

- **County Contract**

To be discussed in Executive Session.

- **Permit Modifications**

On 7/15/2025 UCRAA received the Notice of Complete Application. This began a public notice period that ends 8/22/2025. The DEC then has 90 days to approve or deny the modification, Marc Rider believes it will happen sooner than the 90 days.

- **RFP for Diversion and Alternatives to Landfills**

The Evaluation Committee is meeting on August 25 to discuss 7 proposals. The Committee will select proposers for an initial interview; then Committee will recommend proposers to interview with the Board for a final decision. The Evaluation Committee's meeting is not open to the public; and due to a quorum issue, there cannot be a third board member. The Board will receive a summary of the Committee meeting.

A question was raised whether the RFP was included in the budget as an expense line. Marc Rider stated no because none of the projects will happen in 2026. The RFP requested funding through a feedstock agreement (per ton basis- operational cost).

Recycling Compliance Report, Robert Friedlander (Recording 41:00)

The Board agreed to review the report and ask questions at the October Board Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS (Recording 48:00)

- **Resolution #2651 Re: Approving the Service Agreement between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and Ulster County**

Marc Rider requested that the Board take no action on this resolution. UC sent back a redlined contract that was completely unfavorable to UCRRA. Further discussion will be needed.

- **Resolution #2654 Re: Authorizing and Approving Revisions to Agency Procurement Policy**

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

The Board had a discussion regarding the amended procurement policy, which has been updated to be in line with the modern era; questions were asked by the Board and answered by the executive director and director of finance and administration. Mike Baden requested to revise clause 13(c) to mirror 14(B) with regard to written notice be provided by email, facsimile etc.

Resolution #2654 was approved by the Board as modified. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Resolution #2659 Re: Authorization of Draft 2026 Agency Budget**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2659 and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Marc Rider requested the Board to amend the resolution to include a Resolve to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed budget on September 11, 2025 at 6PM.

Resolution #2659 was approved by the Board as amended. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Resolution #2660 Re: Approving Draft Capital Plan**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2660 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

The Board members acknowledged they had a discussion during the Budget Workshop.

Resolution #2660 was approved by the Board. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Resolution #2661 Re: Tipping Fee 2026 Fee Schedule**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2661 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

The Board members acknowledged they had a discussion during the Budget Workshop.

Resolution #2661 was approved by the Board. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (Recording 1:02:17)

- Updating County Code 304, Solid Waste, Recycling

Mike Baden stated he made some minor edits to County Code 304 and circulated them to Marc Rider and the Board. The Board members discussed and agreed that the Executive Director will have a preliminary meeting with the members of the Board (in October) to discuss the code, as well as with the other Directors and the Recycling Compliance Officer; the amendments and recommendations will be reviewed by the Agency Counsel and then voted on by the Board; once finalized, the Agency can then forward to the Energy and Environment Committee. There was a consensus among the Board members that they would not submit amendments until the members were satisfied with the amendments, and acknowledged that this will take some time.

NEW BUSINESS (Recording 1:10:00)

- **Town Contract Renewals Updates**

- Marc Rider stated that he had not started negotiating the town contracts; however, the towns are aware that we will be adding a clause to require that they use best efforts at diverting food waste and reusable goods. Ideally the towns partner with UCRRA to do so. Marc Rider

also stated we will not reach our goal of diverting 100% organics by 2030.

- **Mattress Recycling**

- Marc Rider stated that we received quotes from Renewable Recyclables and Casella Waste System- RR was lower, thus we will move forward with Renewable Recyclables. Assuming the permit modification goes accordingly, predicting January 2026 start date for Town of Ulster.

- **Goals update**

- Last month Executive Director and Coordinator of Organizational Performance and Development had already provided an update and therefore there is not really another update from last month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mike Baden made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session at **8:36 PM** for the purpose of discussing a real estate transaction and seeking legal advice on a contract matter, and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Mike Baden made a motion to come out of Executive Session at **9:32 PM** and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board returned out of Executive Session at **9:32 PM**. No action was taken at the Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn August 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at **9:32 PM** was made by Erica Brown and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

September 11, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of August 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting was made by Mike Baden, seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, BROWN).

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

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

Signatures:

James Gordon, Chair