

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

September 11, 2025

Meeting began at 6:15 PM and ended 7:13 PM

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

ROLL CALL (recording 19:37)

Board Members

Agency Staff

James Gordon	<u>Absent</u>
Donna Egan	<u>X</u>
Andrew Ghiorse	<u>X</u>
Erica Brown	<u>Absent</u>
Mike Baden	<u>X</u>

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

Donna Egan as Vice Chair commenced the RBM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT (Recording 20:16-26:40)

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

Poppy Cannon Reese- stated that a couple of legislators reached out to her regarding the \$60 million bonding cap in the Service Agreement between UCRRA and Ulster County. She stated that there were concerns that a \$60 million bonding cap would mean that the Agency may revisit landfill testing or that the landfill project would come back sooner. However, she stated she had a discussion with the Agency’s Executive Director and concluded that there is no cause for concern and that the contract as it stands is what is necessary for the Agency. She stated that she will communicate and pass along this message by e-mail.

Manna Jo Greene stated that she agreed with what Poppy Cannon Reese had stated. She also stated that there was healthy negotiation at the last Energy & Environment Committee Meeting, where people really listened to each other. She stated that the changes were confirmed with the legislative attorney and that the changes work for the legislature and the agency. She believes that the bonding cap is nowhere near the amount that would be needed for a landfill project.

She further stated that she just attended the Association of Counties, where she heard the best presentation on NYS Waste Diversion Plans from DEC. She suggests doing a hybrid presentation and to record the presentation so that people who are unable to attend can also gain from the information; she’d like UCRRA to co-sponsor the presentation with DEC for outreach. She will reach out to the Supervisors Association and the Climate Smart Committee, etc. She learned a lot of interesting things including: a county in western NY has been incorporating in their contracts clauses that deal with recycling solar panels, specifically, requiring developers to recycle the solar panels down the road when said panels are no longer useful. Finally, she asked

for an update on the Zero Waste Implementation Plan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (recording 27:00)

- Donna Egan stated that at Erica Brown's request: to add "discussion regarding board members' attendance requirement policy" under New Business of the Agenda.

Mike Baden moved to approve the Agenda as modified and Andrew Ghiorse seconded the motion. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, BROWN).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (recording 28:00)

- Minutes of August 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Mike Baden made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 Absent (GORDON, BROWN).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting scheduled for October 9, 2025, at 5:15 PM
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025, at 6:15 PM

GENERAL REPORTS (Recording 28:22)

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

None.

- **Recycling Program Update-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability** (Recording 28:32)

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

- The month of August was focused on summertime sustainability tips.
 - On social media, the Agency's campaign was extensive: "Renters Recycle Responsibly; Recycling Compliance Series, Rosendale Street Fest and Green the Scene, which was a success; National Watermelon Day (compost the rind); National Farmers Market Week (reduce packaging and use a food scrap drop off, shop local); National Thrift Shop Day-back to school for college students; Aug. 23 HHW Event and Aug 18 Composting for Kids in Ellenville.
 - Presentation on 8/8/2025 Recycle Right for New Paltz Beyond Plastics group
 - Provided facility tours on 8/6 for Ulster County Climate Corps Interns, 8/8 for New Paltz Beyond Plastics Group and 8/12 for Laughing Fox Farm
 - Good attendance at the UCRRA HHW Collection Event
 - The rest of the Ulster County Fair was successful
 - In September the focus will be "Festival Recycling"

Angelina invited the board to ask questions. Mike Baden asked a question regarding the Recycling’s Outreach Team’s (ROT) outreach to residents since recycling can be confusing for even people with the best intentions. Angelina responded that social media is a very important tool in providing the public with knowledge, the momentum and awareness regarding recycling. She believes that a lot of people are generally engaged, interested and invested in learning more about recycling as supported by a lot of people calling in to ask the Agency how to recycle certain items; and also people stopping by at booths or at public speaking events. She stated that more events like that to spread awareness and information, and also a website with good resources will increase engagement and improve the public’s understanding of recycling.

Mike Baden suggested ROT presenting to young children, i.e. school-aged kids. Angelina responded that UCRRA actively collaborates and does a lot of outreach with schools, including presentations for at least 12 schools. UCRRA has ongoing relationship with certain schools, where UCRRA will come and do a program or presentation.

➤ **MSW Tonnage Report, Recycling Report, MRF Cost Center Analysis and the Treasurer’s Report- Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance and Administration** (Recording 36:58)

Tim DeGraff provided the following update:

MSW Tonnage Report

July

TARGET TONS	TONNAGE IN	VARIANCE
MSW 10,475 tons	MSW 9,838 tons	MSW-637 tons less than targeted tons
C&D 3,492 tons	C&D 3,091 tons	C&D -401 tons less than targeted
Sludge 251 tons	Sludge 287 tons	Sludge 36 tons more than targeted

Year-to-date: MSW/CD total tonnage is 78,619 (-3,317 off target, which was 81,936)

Recycling Tonnage Report

Tim DeGraff pointed out that the commingle had a lot to do with the City of Kingston. They alternate days but had 1 extra day which skewed the number more than normal.

He also noted that a private hauler had brought the agency a little less (cardboard) than usual, thus the number went down compared to June.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

Tim DeGraff noted that the line item, Aluminum which represents UBC (universal beverage cans) was high in July: the sale was \$20,998, compared to the monthly average of \$5,092

- Total Sale of Recyclables for July was \$51,590
- Net revenue of \$39,175 for the month
- No real item of note on the expense side:
 - Total personnel and operating expenses for the month was \$42,553
 - Net loss of \$3,378 for the month of July
 - Total net loss of \$125,155 for 2025

- Reminder: Net Loss means we could charge \$47.37 to break even

Treasurer's Report

Tim DeGraff stated that regarding the line-item note for revenue, UCRRA received a high sale of Recyclable: \$61,149, namely due to the UCB/Aluminum:

- Total Revenues for July \$2,043,041
- Expenses of note for July:
 - Personnel: \$353,207 (addition of 2 administrative staff)
 - Recycling Education: \$13,786 which encompasses reusable travel utensil kits (\$3,650); recycling/backyard composting guide (\$2,481); reusable bottles (\$2,837)
- Total Operating Expenses for July \$1,864,651
- Net operating Revenues for July \$178,390
- Capital outlay costs for perimeter road work and DEC compliance work being done at the New Paltz Landfill (\$10,956) – screener rental

Tim DeGraff stated that July's report looks good compared to last month.

Mike Baden made a motion to accept July's Treasurer Report and Andrew Ghiorse seconded it. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDO, BROWN).

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates (Recording 43:12)

Marc Rider provided his Executive Director Updates stating the following:

- **Stakeholder Meetings**
 - No Town Supervisor Association meeting in August
 - September Energy and Environment Meeting: resolution to approve the contract was passed
 - September 10 Ways and Means Meeting: resolution to approve the contract was also passed
 - September 16 the resolution will go to the Legislature

- **Leachate Collection**

SCS will present their report to the Board in October, since 2 Board members are absent today.

- **REPOWER/RIC**

Marc Rider and Tim Weidemann (Coordinator of Organizational Performance & Development) meet weekly with Sustainable Hudson Valley and Circularly to plan stakeholder's forum on circular economy and the RePOWER Project. They interviewed 4 qualified candidates for the position; will need to make a decision soon; this coordinator will help with the RFP and finding a new location. With respect to location of facility space, the owners of 1155 have decided to move forward with a different party because the terms of the other party was more preferable to them.

A question was raised by a board member whether it is responsible or reasonable to hire for the position if the agency does not have a facility yet. Marc Rider stated that it would still be reasonable to hire because there is more than enough work to be done and also, we do not want to get into a situation where the Agency secures a location and then does not have a coordinator to manage the operation. The agency will

ensure that the person being hired will know that the Agency has not yet secured a location, and will be made aware of the status of the project so that the potential hire can make an informed decision.

- **County Contract**

The Contract has been passed by Energy & Environment and Ways & Means Committees. Now it will go to the floor for the Legislature this Tuesday.

- **Collective Bargaining**

Teamsters 445 has gone through some restructuring. A new Business Agent has been assigned to the Agency's unit. He is working with the employees to put their proposal together for a new contract. Marc Rider will receive the contract most likely next week. Marc Rider, Tim DeGraff, and Charlie Whittaker will meet with them next Friday. Marc Rider will provide a status update regarding that.

- **Permit Modifications**

The public notice period ended around 8/22/2025. The DEC now has 90 days (~11/20/25) to approve or deny the modification. Marc Rider requested from the mattress recycling companies (2) to provide refreshed proposals.

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

The RFP Evaluation Committee met and narrowed the proposals down to 5 to give presentations. The presentations will take place in October, with the goal of some number of companies presenting to the Board in November and decision being made at the December Board meeting. Marc Rider requested the companies to hold their prices until December.

- **Update regarding 304 Changes**

Per August meeting, the Agency will work on providing an initial draft for the Board to review in October. Marc Rider also informed the Board that it is unlikely Ulster County renewed the contract with the independent Administrative Hearing Officer, which affects how the Agency can issue notice of violation and collect fines.

- **Update regarding Zero Waste Implementation**

No new updates, other than Marc Rider has seen some proposals in emails and noticed them to be much higher than what was budgeted for the project. Marc Rider notes that there still doesn't seem to be a lot of coordination, however it was an RFQ and not an RFP, and thus there is not a committee to be invited to. It appears they are working on a Zero Waste Policy and not an Implementation Plan.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS (Recording 48:00)

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

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to discuss the resolution and it was seconded by Mike Baden.

- Energy & Environment Committee and Ways & Means Committees have voted to approve the contract
- The Ulster County Legislature will vote on the contract on Tues 9/16/2025

- Agency Counsel informed the Board that she has reviewed the contract and confirmed that it aligns with what the parties have negotiated:
 - Definition of Bonds on Page 5 has been updated - Bonding cap from \$40 mil to \$60 mil
 - Clause 2.05 Intent to Bond updated language – in summary the updated clause says that if the Agency needs to bond over \$60 mil, the agency would have to submit a resolution with a letter and proof to the County for approval; the County has 30 days to approve or at their next scheduled meeting. The only concern there would be if they do not meet or postpone the resolution for whatever reason; it would be on the Agency to then have to resubmit the proposed resolution.
 - Agency agreed to remove the mutual indemnification clause, since ultimately it is the Agency that is doing all the operating
- Further discussion regarding the new bonding cap: it is unlikely that the Agency will even need to bond over \$60 million in 5 years (i.e. Agency has a 10- year capital project that is only 40 mil); furthermore, the contract is for 5 years and so the Agency can renegotiate in 5 years. Marc Rider and the Agency Counsel are supportive of the new contract.

Ultimately, because the Board did not get a chance to review the final copy of the contract that was approved by E&E and W&M Committees (Marc Rider was only sent a copy at 3pm this afternoon), the Board agreed to take no action on Resolution #2651, to allow time to review the contract and ask any questions to Agency Counsel if needed. The Board will rule on the Resolution at the next meeting with the full board.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (Recording 1:09)

- 2026 Agency Budget

A public hearing was held today on September 11, 2025 at 6PM, prior to the Regular Board Meeting. Vice Chair Donna Egan commenced the hearing. There were no comments regarding the 2026 Agency Budget from the members of the public at the hearing. Mike Baden moved to conclude the hearing at 6:14pm and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, BROWN).

The Board then had an opportunity to discuss the 2026 Agency Budget during the Regular Board Meeting. Only one comment was made by a board member who asked about whether there is room in the budget for hiring another compliance officer to alleviate enforcement for the Agency. The Executive Director noted that the proposed budget can be slightly amended during the year, if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS (Recording 1:11:00)

- **Board Member's Attendance Policy**
 - Donna Egan requested changes to the by-laws regarding attendance for board members. She stated that due to the inefficiencies caused by members' absences, it would be prudent to establish a board member attendance policy in UCRRA's by-laws. She stated that she has a letter from the ABO on how the Board can go about this request. A question was asked about who has the authority to remove a member from the Board, is it only the Legislature?
 - A motion to recommend an attendance policy to the Governance Committee by November 1, 2025, was made by Mike Baden and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 0

opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, BROWN).

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

It was not necessary for the Board to go into executive session this month.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn September 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at **7:13 PM** was made by Mike Baden and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 Absent (GORDON, BROWN).

October 9, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of September 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting was made by Andrew Ghiorse, seconded by Mike Baden. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

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

Signatures:



James Gordon, Chair