

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

October 9, 2025

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

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

ROLL CALL

Board Members

James Gordon	<u>X</u>
Donna Egan	<u>Absent</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</u>
Robert Friedlander	<u>X</u>

Tim DeGraff left the meeting early after the Board's discussion and ruling on Resolutions Nos. 2662, 2663, and 2664.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT (Recording 5:16)

Present at the Regular Board Meeting were the following individuals from the public: Rebecca Martin, Claudia Joseph- *Recycling Oversight Committee (ROC)*, Poppy Cannon-Reese- *ROC*, Vince Mow- *ROC*, Manna Jo Greene- *Ulster County Legislature*, and William Kemble - *Daily Freeman*.

Manna Jo Greene stated that the Recycling Oversight Committee (ROC) has reconvened. She said the group is excellent and diverse and that some of the members are here today at the meeting to understand the workings of the Agency.

In response to that comment Marc Rider informed Manna Jo Greene that although the ROC reconvened, it is still the same Committee, which includes a member of the UCRRA Board, Erica Brown- with that said, neither Erica Brown nor Marc Rider, who sometimes attends the meetings was informed of the reconvening and therefore he asked that she inform the legislative clerk to make sure that Erica Brown and Marc Rider be notified should there be any future ROC meetings.

Poppy Cannon Reese- made a statement on behalf of the ROC. She stated that they had their first Repair Café event in Ellenville and will be holding a second one on 10/18/2025. She stated that they fixed 65 items (i.e. remote-control cars, play stations etc.); there were 35 people that attended; it was a great event.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS (Recording 8:24)

James Gordon as Chair of the Board authorized to push the discussion on (3) Resolutions to the front of the Agenda, so that an Agency staff is able to leave the meeting early due to a personal matter (child's birthday).

- **Resolution #2662 Re: Approving 2026 Final Agency Budget**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2662 and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Marc Rider stated that there were some changes from the Draft Agency Budget in August, which had already been forwarded to the Board for review. Tim DeGraff then provided the details regarding the changes stating that any changes were due to either a formula error or finally receiving actual numbers that were not available to him earlier (i.e. released pension contribution rate; health insurance rates)- thus it is important to note that there was no change in the tipping fee and no change in estimated volume. He stated that he budgeted a small surplus of \$18,419 with all of the changes and ended up with a small surplus budget of \$1,073. Mike Baden stated that he supports the budget but would like to reiterate his belief that the agency should consider hiring another compliance officer.

Resolution #2662 was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

- **Resolution #2663 Re: Approving the Fee Schedule for 2026 Tipping Fees and Other Changes**

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to discuss Resolution #2663 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

Marc Rider acknowledged and thanked the Directors for their work involved with preparing the fee schedule. The Tipping Fee and pull fee remains the same as previously submitted. The price for the municipalities did not increase which will encourage residents and people to use the town transfer stations.

Resolution #2663 was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

- **Resolution #2664 Re: Approving the 2026 Final Agency Capital Plan**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2664 and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance and Administration confirmed that the capital plan remains unchanged from what was previously submitted for the Board's review in August 2025.

Erica Brown made a motion to approve Resolution #2664. The Resolution was approved by the Board 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

Tim DeGraff left the meeting early after the Board's discussion and ruling on Resolutions Nos. 2662, 2663, and 2664.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (recording 18:00)

- Mike Baden requested to add an item to the executive session: "Litigation regarding the Agency"
- Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement update will also be discussed during the executive session

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of September 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting and it was seconded by Mike Baden. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 Absent (EGAN)

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (recording 22:03)

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting scheduled for November 13, 2025, at 5:15 PM
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025, at 6:15 PM

PRESENTATIONS: (Recording 22:16)

- Leachate Management Alternatives for Ulster and NP Landfills - Presentation by Todd DeJournett, Greg McCarron and Christine Stokes of SCS Engineers (6:35pm-6:55pm)

Greg McCarron and Christine Stokes were present at the meeting to give a presentation on the leachate management study that they conducted for the Agency. The leachate from the 2 LFs are collected in tanks and then transported on a regular basis to the Kingston Wastewater treatment plant, thus the goal is to see if there is an alternative solution.

- Study objectives: initially were to reduce costs and reduce Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), but later were revised to focus on PFAS and 1,4-dioxane (emerging contaminants in closed and active landfills, according to DEC) and to evaluate alternatives based on costs and GHG emissions and regulatory risk to long-term operational continuity
- 2 rounds of samplings by SCS- 1 by Kingston: results were that all were below estimated limits except PFOS in New Paltz leachate. He stated that it would be unlikely that Kingston would impose limits on UCRRA based on flow and concentration, however, active lobbying to reduce or eliminate discharge of leachate to surface water
- Listed about 5 different Treatment and Disposal Alternatives- stated that SCS prepared a detailed report regarding all the different treatments, which they have provided to UCRRA, but of the different treatments they recommend: Advanced Oxidation + Granular Activated Carbon
- SCS also looked into different disposal destinations: separate sewer connections etc.
 - They recommend: truck from NP to Ulster → advanced Oxidation + granular activated carbon at Ulster → discharge to Ulster Sewer connection
- Capital Cost: \$2.8M, (\$867k per year Operation & Maintenance cost)– it's very expensive

James Gordon asked SCS what the time frame would be if UCRRA implemented what SCS suggested. 1-2 months to get the GAC system installed.

Andrew Ghiorse asked a question about where the GAC structures get built; would UCRRA need to ask

permission from the town? Marc Rider responded that it would be built on UCRRA's current footprint of the landfill and it would have to be in coordination with the town.

Marc Rider wanted to highlight to the Board that UCRRA shouldn't wait for DEC or a mandate from the legislature, as PFAS and other contaminants are already going into the water and the Hudson River and thus UCRRA should begin looking for ways to implement some kind of solution whatever that may be and look for financing to tackle the issue.

Mike Baden had a question regarding what permit modifications would be necessary to build on top of the existing footprint and a question regarding where to get the funding, are there grants to apply to. Marc Rider responded that there are no grants; instead, there is a lawsuit against DuPont. UCRRA has met with their consultants who met with the SCS team. Since part of the lawsuit deals with the connection between wastewater treatment plant and with drinking water- thus it needs to be analyzed if there is a connection to qualify to be a part of the damages from the lawsuit.

James Gordon asked if building a GAC system now, and then a few years down the road, newer better technology gets discovered how expensive/easy would it be to pivot. Its hard to say, as all of the technology being discussed is new and emerging. Although it is worth noting that the operational and maintenance cost is what is expensive, thus should the Agency a few years down the line decide to install different technology the GAC system is relatively small and can be removed.

GENERAL REPORTS (Recording 45:27)

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

James Gordon, Chair provided the Board with an update regarding the Governance Committee Meeting which met on October 1, 2025, to discuss whether the Board should implement an attendance policy, at the request of a board member. He reported that after the meeting, it was decided by the Governance Committee to table the issue as it is not the right time to discuss an attendance policy, due to the fact that there may be changes being proposed to the Enacting Statute from the legislature (i.e. an increase in board members; how to remove board members).

➤ **Recycling Program Update-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability** (Recording 47:09)

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

- The month of September was focused on Hispanic Heritage Month:
 - On social media, the Agency's campaign focused on providing Spanish resources offered by the Recycling Outreach Team (ROT), including Spanish translation to all posts .
 - Events included: Sustainable Swaps- Apple Cider Vinegar Day 9/23; FAQ- Friday- Intl Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 9/29; Recycling Tip Tuesday – paper Recycling; Voter Registration Day 9/26- advocating for EPR
 - Radio ads: Reuse & Repair on Radio Woodstock – 30 sec; What Happens to Trash on Radio Woodstock – 30 secs and HHW Events message on Radio Kingston – 30 secs
 - Several presentations including: 9/8 Recycle Right Class for MRDC Operators, 9/10 Recycle Right for New Paltz-Gardiner Senior Club, 9/13 Recycle Right Sorting Game Saugerties Girl Scouts; 9/18 Working with Worms Town of Ulster Library

- Facility Tours on 9/8 for MRDC Operators
- Composting Tour for Ulster County Dept of Environment
- Events such as: 9/6 Kingston Farmers Market, 9/10 UC Chamber of Commerce Buy Local Expo, 9/20 Paper Shredding & E-Waste Event hosted by Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha
- Highlighted the new display made of repurposed cardboard – James Gordon complimented on the display and recommends showcasing it on the UCRRA Website.

Angelina invited the board to ask questions. Erica Brown asked what do most people call the Agency about? Angelina responded that it varies, many call to ask about how to recycle or get rid of a certain items (including textiles recycling); many calls regarding the toxic chemicals in household products, some call about upcoming UCRRA events, classes and programs, questions about electronics recycling programs, lots of compliments about UCRRA compost. Of note, people also use the chatbot on UCRRA's webpage. Marc Rider suggested that UCRRA can provide the board with what questions are trending based on the chatbot at the next meeting.

➤ **MSW Tonnage Report, Recycling Report, MRF Cost Center Analysis and the Treasurer's Report- Marc Rider, Executive Director** (Recording 54:00)

Executive Director Marc Rider on behalf of Timothy DeGraff, Director of Finance & Administration, provided the following update:

MSW Tonnage Report

August

TARGET TONS	TONNAGE IN	VARIANCE
MSW 10,023 tons	MSW 9,287 tons	MSW-736 tons less than targeted tons
C&D 3,341 tons	C&D 2,927 tons	C&D -414 tons less than targeted
Sludge 306 tons	Sludge 330 tons	Sludge 24 tons more than targeted

Year-to-date: MSW/CD total tonnage is 90,833 (-4,467 off target, which was 95,300)

Recycling Tonnage Report

Marc Rider stated that most of the volumes remained consistent- pointing out that pick up in City of Kingston: there are 3 pickups in July versus only 2 in August.

A member asked if there was a reason why the food waste dropped from 554.98 in July to 344.55 in August. Marc Rider said that one of UCRRA's customers decided to take their food waste to sell to pig farmers in PA. They are back though.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

- Total Sale of Recyclables for August was \$18,928
- Net revenue of \$11,467 for August
- Total Net Revenue as of 2025 is \$264,694

- Total personnel and operating expenses for the month was \$64,059 (high because August is a 3-payroll month)
- Net loss of \$52,592 for the month of August
- Total net loss of \$177,747 for 2025

Marc Rider noted the total cost analysis is not great but silver lining is that it is stable.

Treasurer's Report

- Total Revenues for August \$1,915,920
- Expense line items of note for August:
 - Personnel: \$475,948 for 3 payrolls
 - Facilities expense: \$36,118 for HHW Event
 - Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance expenses: \$35,569 for various supplies/ repairs for tractors, transfer station equipment and tanker
 - CLF monitoring & Maintenance: \$10,309
- Total Operating Expenses for August \$1,981,200
- Net operating Revenues for August -\$65,280
- Capital outlay costs \$196,146 – which includes deposit for EV rolloff trucks (\$160,000); balance for new tractor (\$19,230); New Paltz Landfill perimeter road (\$16,916)

Mike Baden made a motion to accept August Treasurer's Report and Erica Brown seconded it. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates (Recording 1:00:00)

Marc Rider provided his Executive Director Updates stating the following:

- **Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Town Supervisor Association Meeting in September: main topics discussed were the town contracts and the Agency's 2026 Budget. Town supervisors were relieved that there was no increase in tipping fees and pull charges for the transfer stations.
 - September 20, Saturday – Assemblymember Shrestha's paper shredding and e-waste collection event. UCRRA arranged for the Agency's e-waste contractor, ERI to provide their services; Marc Rider attended to staff UCRRA's outreach booth. Attendance grew from last year's event from 80 residents to 400. Event collected 7 tons of paper to be shredded and 3.5 tons of e-waste- note: this is the same amount of e-waste that UCRRA collects over 2 months of Saturday collections. Marc Rider stated that he will be developing a plan for this moving forward. The agency clearly needs to have this event again but in a different location (bigger location), because they had to turn people away.
- **REP0WER/RIC**

Marc Rider provided an update at the Zero Waste Committee Meeting earlier at 5:40 pm.

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

The RFP Evaluation Committee already conducted one round of presentations on October 6, 2025 (2 presenters) and scheduled another round (3 presenters) for October 15, 2025. The Committee will

recommend the companies that will move on to the final round to be interviewed by the Board in November, with the goal of deciding on the operator in December.

Recycling Compliance Officer Updates, Robert Friedlander (Recording 43:12)

Robert Friedlander, Recycling Compliance Officer provided a brief report regarding his compliance work for the month of October.

- UC Code 304: He stated that he worked closely with Agency Counsel Nancy Lam on proposed amendments to UC Code 304. He stated he made suggestions that would strengthen, clarify and or make the law more enforceable, based on his experience in the field when dealing with haulers or owners of property. Some recommendations he made involved issues with enforcement on “big generators” (i.e. multi-family dwellings with 5 units or more and businesses with 10 or more employees); increasing the fines; ability to red tape dumpsters.
- Warning Letter: He stated he worked with Marc Rider and Nancy Lam in drafting a letter to permitted haulers
- Stewart’s: he stated that worked with Stewart’s management for several months to get a recycling plan implemented- every Stewart’s in UC has a recycling bin at the gas pumps and entrance of stores as a result of his work
- Mobil in Gardiner has also implemented recycling at the gas pumps
- In process: Quick Check Management
- He informed the Board about 7 properties that are now in compliance with the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling law
- He stated that he conducted inspections at the New Paltz facility and documented evidence of contamination. A truck with a compactor from New Paltz college came in with 60% cardboard. He is currently waiting for response from New Paltz College.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS (Recording 1:20:47)

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

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to discuss Resolution #2651 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

Mike Baden asked if it was necessary to have the contract. Marc Rider stated that ultimately, the contract is an insurance policy because of the net service fee clause. Furthermore, the increased \$60 million cap makes him feel fine to sign the contract. Other than that, the contract itself does not really do anything for the Agency, but the parties have come to an acceptable agreement.

Resolution #2651 was approved by the Board. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (Recording 1:09)

- County Code 304 First Proposed Amendments- *Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel*
Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel provided an update on UCRRA’s proposed amendments to UC Code 304.
 - She first provided a brief overview of County Code 304: it is composed of 4 parts, Article !,

II, III, and IV, with IV adopted as late as 2019. Article II Recycling was amended in its entirety in 2010 and Article III Solid Waste was amended in its entirety in 2012.

- Section 304-11(A) establishes the rules and procedures for amending the Code
- After discussion with Marc Rider, Angelina Brandt and Robert Friedlander, there appeared to be about 5 categories of amendments:
 1. Definitions
 2. Issue with Recycling Reporting (Section 304-15, 304-21)
 3. Confusion/ need for clarification with Recycling Plans (Section 304-14)
 4. Enforcement with respect to Haulers in Art II and Art III
 5. Penalties/Fines
- Of note, this is just the first iteration of changes- the Agency and the Board will continue this discussion a few more times until they are satisfied with which amendments to propose to the legislature. Instead of piece meal changes, it made more sense to come up with all of the proposed changes to recommend to legislature since it will need to be voted on and a public hearing will need to be made each time changes are to be made.
- Goals (Recording: 1:34:37)
 - Because “Goals” is an item requested by Vice Chair Donna Egan, who is absent at today’s meeting, Chair James Gordon recommends to table to discussion to next meeting.
- Mattress Recycling
 - Marc Rider stated that one company had sent him a refreshed proposal; the other has not yet, thus he will wait another week for the other company – given that its been a year since he was provided with both of their proposals, he felt it was fair to request a refresh. Once the agency chooses the company to go with, Agency counsel will review the contract and the goal is by January 1, 2026 Town of Ulster transfer station can start mattress recycling.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary) (recording 1:39:00)

- Mike Baden made a motion at **7:52 PM** for the Board to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation issue with the Agency and the CBA negotiation, and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).
- The Board entered Executive Session at **7:59 PM**. No actions were taken during Executive Session.
- Mike Baden made a motion to come out of Executive Session and it was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse at **8:18 PM**. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn October 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at **8:18 PM** was made by Erica Brown and seconded by Mike Baden. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 Absent (EGAN).

November 13, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of October 9, 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