

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

November 13, 2025

Meeting began at 6:00 PM and ended 7:51 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>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>Excused</u> |
| Tim Weidemann | <u>X</u> |
| Nancy Lam | <u>X</u> |

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Manna Jo Greene stated that she wanted to make (2) positive statements: 1- the work being done with the Circular Economy is exactly what is needed for the public and community and 2- the Recycling Oversight Committee (ROC) that has been revitalized is doing exactly what it is designed to do – she feels very encouraged by how respectful the diverse group of people in the Committee are with each other in listening to each other to do work that will ultimately get passed to Energy and Environment Committee. She then stated that she is disappointed with where they are going with the Zero Waste Implementation plan and is still confused as to why no progress can be made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (recording 12:07)

- James Gordon stated that one item on the agenda will be amended: Resolution No. 2666 Regarding approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement will be tabled for the next meeting because the Executive Director is awaiting a document from the Union representative

Mike Baden moved to approve the Agenda, as modified and Andrew Ghiorse seconded the motion. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of October 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (recording 13:31)

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting scheduled for December 11, 2025, at 5:15 PM
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2025, at 6:15 PM

PRESENTATION: (Recording 13:55-56:09)

- Leachate Loophole in the Clean Water Act presentation by Rebecca Martin, John Lipscomb and Jen Epstein on behalf of New York River Watch (FKA Hudson and Mohawk Rivers Leachate Collaborative). (Presentation ended at 6:49PM)

Rebecca Martin, Co-Founder and Project Manager (in person) and Jen Epstein, Co-Founder and Technical Director (via Teams) presented on NYS DEC onsite leachate treatment rulemaking. Their organization started off with focusing on Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, but have expanded to collect statewide data. They work with other community organizations with the focus and goal to protect the rivers and lakes, including drinking water. However, their campaign is focused on raising awareness on leachate landfill disposal and the impact it has on rivers and lakes and the community. In their presentation, they provided the history and scope of rulemaking as it pertains to leachate and raised the main concern that NYS DEC substantially modified its proposal for landfill leachate treatment policy between 2023 and 2025, without engaging in broad stakeholder engagement and without notifying the public of updates in the rule. Rebecca Martin stated that NYS DEC's initial proposal was to require that all leachate remain onsite, likely in solid form; DEC now proposes to issue permits for on or offsite leachate treatment facilities. This raises questions about what contaminants will be regulated and what limits apply? DEC has not specified which pollutants will be targeted. Although they agree with the DEC that leachate should be regulated, DEC has not been truly transparent. The NY River Watch's goal is to request fair engagement: to pause rule making and to extend the public comment period. She encouraged everyone at the meeting to visit the QR code or their website for their full report and for more information regarding the leachate issue.

Rebecca Martin stated that their goal is to alert municipalities to be aware of the rulemaking surrounding leachate disposal and to focus the engagement on the rule making, rather than expending money and time on reports and studies on solutions. She also noted that she attended last month's board meeting where engineers gave presentations regarding possible solutions for how UCRRA handles leachate, and she wanted to make sure that UCRRA was aware of the changes in the law, before the Agency invested any more time and money on leachate collection solutions and studies. Rebecca Martin continued to report that according to the foiled DEC slides they discovered the changes in the law excludes non-active landfills, which is important to note, since there are no active landfills in Ulster County. UC has 46 inactive landfills (4 of which leachate gets sent to Kingston- and all of these facilities discharges to the Hudson). So there remains a lot of unregulated disposal of leachate as the policy is written now.

Rebecca Martin concluded the presentation by informing the Board that after 4 attempts plus a coalition letter, they were finally able to get a meeting with DEC; there will be a stakeholder meeting on November 24, at 2:30pm via zoom, which she will moderate.

A Board Member asked whether the rule making is subject to seeker process; Rebecca Martin responded that she does not believe so. Another Board Member asked whether NY River Watch had a solution and if it is pre-treatment prior to leachate entering plants. Rebecca Martin responded that their organization's goal is to point out the issue, but they have not yet found a solution. The point is that before the law is published, the public has an opportunity to address the rule, so that DEC is not just communicating with the industry and that all stakeholders are engaged in making the rule. A board member asked if they have engaged with local political people and state legislature. Rebecca Martin stated that they have reached out to all the local and state legislative people and received a lot of support and press. The Executive Director asked a question about one of their slides: "reducing leachate from the source", especially as it relates to UC, which gets 3-6 mil tons of leachate a year, mostly due to rain. Jen Epstein stated that the slide's intention was more about taking a holistic look at leachate management and acknowledging that although active landfill generate far more leachate than inactive landfills, that it would be beneficial to get a broader perspective on how to deal with leachate problem as a whole and to look at all aspects not just a problematic byproduct of active landfill sites. The Board had a discussion on why it would be beneficial to support a campaign for a more transparent and engaging rule-making process with the DEC, as it aligns with the Agency's mission to protect the public health.

GENERAL REPORTS (Recording 56:54)

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

None to report.

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

Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability was at a conference and therefore not present at the November Board Meeting. Marc Rider, Executive Director, provided the following updates on her behalf:

- The month of October was focused on eco-friendly tips for Halloween:
 - The Agency's campaign focused on electronics recycling as a way to promote the drop off season ending on November 22, 2025
 - Social Media: Recycling Compliance Series focusing on apartments and multifamily dwellings- "Renters Recycle Responsibly"; Sustainable Swaps for Halloween costumes; Put Your Garden Beds to Bed with compost
 - Radio announcement for: electronics Recycling (electronics are accepted for free every Saturday April through November 8am-2pm at the main office in Kingston); Recyclopedia – A to Z resource on UCRRA website to help public find out what can and cannot be recycled
 - Agency held 3 presentations and 3 Facility tours in October as well as 4 events like Trunk or Treat 10/08; Reuse, Recycle Drop-off event 10/12 in Marlborough; Gardiner Repair Café 10/26 and UCRRA HHW Collection Event 10/26

A Board member asked what are bin rentals? Marc Rider responded that UCRRA offers regular waste, recycling and food/composting bin rentals at festivals or events. Another member made a comment that she noticed that in the past, electronic collection happened all year instead of just between April through November. She stated that she thinks UCRRA should consider doing the collection all year round. Marc Rider explained that the number of people dropping off electronics in the winter significantly decreases, and this arrangement was before he was executive director.

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

Timothy DeGraff, Director of Finance & Administration, provided the following update:

MSW Tonnage Report

September

| TARGET TONS | TONNAGE IN | VARIANCE |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| MSW 9,172 tons | MSW 9,005 tons | MSW-167 tons less than targeted tons |
| C&D 3,057 tons | C&D 2,526 tons | C&D -531 tons less than targeted |
| Sludge 303 tons | Sludge 278 tons | Sludge -25 tons less than targeted |

Year-to-date: MSW/CD total tonnage is 102,364 (-5,165 off target, which was 107,529)
Continues to trend in similar direction seen throughout the year.

Recycling Tonnage Report

Tim DeGraff stated that he noticed an error in the chart he provided (green sheet) under the OCC volume- the actual number is \$174.91 – so year to date is \$1446.06. He stated he will provide a corrected report at the next meeting. He noted that organics went up in the month of September as compared to August.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

- Total Sale of Recyclables for September was \$58,843
- Total Sale of Recyclables \$393,913
- Monthly Average sale of recyclables 2022-2024: \$45,029
- Total Net Revenue as of 2025 is \$311,246
- Total personnel and operating expenses for the month was \$37,473
- Total net loss of \$168,668 for 2025

Treasurer's Report

- Total Revenues for September \$1,893,821
- Expense line items of note: Misc Revenues: \$56,749 – trade in of old excavator (\$45,000)
- Total Operating Expenses for September: \$1,664,883
- Operating revenues line item of note: Capital Outlay: \$319,000 (2) new excavators

Tim DeGraff further stated that after consideration and speaking with some colleagues, he will reclassify an item that shouldn't be an expense, which he will fix for next month, which means there will not be a deficit.

Mike Baden made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Erica Brown seconded it. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

Recycling Compliance Report

James Gordon noted that a November 2025 Recycling Compliance Report was prepared by Robert Friedlander, UCRRA Recycling Compliance Officer and confirmed that the members of the board had an opportunity to review the report. A member asked for an update on meeting with Quick Check. Marc Rider provided a status update that since Quick Check's corporate headquarters is based in Arkansas, Robert Freidlander and Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel is still waiting to hear back from Quick Check's attorney.

Another member commented on how successful Robert Friedlander's compliance work is being executed at the Stewarts he visited. Marc Rider stated that Robert Friedlander plans to target liquor stores next.

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates

Marc Rider provided his Executive Director Updates stating the following:

- **Stakeholder Meetings**
 - October Town Supervisor's Association Meeting- Briefly updated the supervisors on status of the Town contracts and RePOWER project.
 - NYSACC on October 24th - Marc Rider moderated a session about Organics- It was a good conference; he attended other sessions related to Circular Economy. Tim Weidemann gave a presentation on RePOWER
- **No Heat in Administrative Building**
 - HVAC units have been close to end of life for a couple years. The last two winters the Agency called upon Ashley Mechanical to put a band aid on the current units to help get through the winter
 - Instead of going out to bid, Marc Rider decided to send the documents to five companies as an emergency procurement. Two companies declined providing a quote.
 - Marc Rider is still waiting on two of the companies. The first quote received is for \$146,000 from Fox Cooling and Heating. This is significantly higher than the engineer's estimates.
 - The quote is to replace the package units with a heat pump and propane backup. If the other quotes come in this high, we may have to replace the units with in-kind units.
- **REP0WER/RIC**
 - It was a very successful launch of the Ulster County Circular Economy Strategy
 - SHV, Circularly and Tim Weidemann all gave presentations and spoke to a group of about 50 stakeholders
 - He reported that the Agency is still looking for a site
 - The RFP will be finalized by Board meeting and will go out the next day
- **Collective Bargaining**
 - Marc Rider stated he is still waiting on a document from the union and therefore the Resolution regarding the CBA will need to be postponed to December.
 - Once he receives the document, Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel will work on drafting a contract
- **RFP for Diversion and Alternatives to Landfills**
 - The Evaluation Committee has chosen three companies to present their proposals to the Board.
 - Until a company is chosen, all proposals are to be kept strictly confidential. It is only after the RFP award, and all proposers have an opportunity to redact proprietary information and trade secrets that the proposals become public information.
 - The presentations of the three selected companies will take place during an executive session

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS (Recording 1:23:19)

- **Resolution #2665 Re: Authorizing and Approving Town Contracts 2026-2030**

Marc Rider informed the Board that the new town contracts are very similar to the prior contracts with the exception of 3 main amendments: (1) Town's obligation to divert reusable materials and organics; (2) requiring electronic billing and (3) Town's obligation to complete MRDC's trainings

A Board Member asked if any of the town supervisors signed and returned the contract or had any comments regarding the contracts. Marc Rider stated that as of this date, he received one signed contract, but has not received any comments regarding the contracts. Another Board member made an editorial remark on Schedule of the contract, however the comment was not significant to update the contract; Marc Rider noted that it could be something they can update in the future but confirmed that there is no conflicting terms in the contract.

Andrew Ghiorse made a motion to approve Resolution #2665 and it was seconded by Mike Baden. Resolution #2665 was approved by the Board. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

- **Resolution #2667 Re: Approving the Mattress & Textile Recycling Program Agreement between UCRRA and Renewable Recycling Inc.**

Marc Rider stated he is satisfied with the agreement they've made with Renewable Recycling Inc. He believes they will be good partners. He also noted that Schedule B has changed since providing the Board with a packet and that he has printed out the new Addendum Schedule B at tonight's meeting.

A Board Member asked if the Schedule is what UCRRA is charging customers or if it is what RRI is charging UCRRA. Marc Rider answered that the schedule is for what RRI is charging UCRRA. A Board Member noted that the new Schedule B contained a typo regarding the term of the contract- the contract is for a 5-year term. Marc Rider stated that he will request a correct version of Schedule B from RRI, but since the resolution is to approve the contract or in its same form and substance, the Board can proceed to approve the resolution.

Donna Egan made a motion to approve Resolution #2667 and it was seconded by Mike Baden. Resolution #2667 was approved by the Board. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (Recording 1:31:40)

- Goals- *Tim Weidemann, Coordinator of Performance & Development*
 - In the Solid Waste Management Plan there is a schedule of tasks and activities that the Directors of the Agency will undertake; The agency is currently going through the 2024 tasks, which will be provided in the biennial report in October 2026
 - Tim Weidemann explained that it should be a parallel process to look back at the first quarter of the previous year, but since the Agency is new to this, they are catching up, so the hope is that during the first quarter of next year, they will be doing both: update on tasks and activities from the solid waste management plan and an evaluation of the goals from 2025; The two should align
 - A member asked about when the Board will get to see a depiction of the results of the Director's Goals and the completed tasks and activities from the solid waste management plan, because it would be helpful to see what areas need to be worked on or if goals need to be aligned. Tim Weidemann responded, first quarter of next year, and will provide a visual or

presentation regarding that, if that can be helpful

- A member made a comment that the Agency's goals should align with the Zero Waste Implementation Plan and questions why they are not the same goals- and feels that the Agency should be making the plan
- County Code 304 Second Round- *Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel*
 - Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel provided an update on UCRRA's proposed amendments to UC Code 304.
 - Since the last board meeting, she stated she was able to continue working on the amendments that were discussed. She provided some examples of amendments that she made from her notes. She stated that her next step is to coordinate with Angelina Brandt, Robert Friedlander and Marc Rider later this month or early next month to get further feedback
 - There was a discussion that the amendments should be brought to the Recycling Oversight Committee to review before bringing it to Energy and Environment Committee and then Laws Committee
- Mattress Recycling
 - Marc Rider provided an update with regard to the site/storage facility of the mattress recycling. He received a quote on a partial steel roof structure that would last 35-45 years and is waiting for quotes from other companies

NEW BUSINESS

- Diversion RFP – Marc Rider stated that this update was provided during the “Executive Director Updates” portion of the meeting. He noted that all of the board members should have received an electronic version of the proposals. James Gordon further stated that after the choosing process is completed, the materials will be available for the public with proprietary information redacted. Marc Rider stated that he hopes a decision will be reached in January 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

- The Board did not enter into executive session at this meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn November 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at **7:51 PM** was made by Mike Baden and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 Absent.

December 11, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of November 13, 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