

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

**April 23, 2026**

**Meeting began at 6:00 PM and ended 7:21 PM**

**This meeting was held at the Agency’s Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY and was live streamed on Youtube.com @UCRRA5008.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members**

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| James Gordon   | <u>  X  </u> |
| Donna Egan     | <u>  X  </u> |
| Erica Brown    | <u>  X  </u> |
| Mike Baden     | <u>  X  </u> |
| Chris Hurlbert | <u>  X  </u> |

**Agency Staff**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Marc Rider      | <u>Excused</u> |
| Timothy DeGraff | <u>  X  </u>   |
| Angelina Brandt | <u>  X  </u>   |
| Tim Weidemann   | <u>  X  </u>   |
| Nancy Lam       | <u>  X  </u>   |
| Kevin Truetler  | <u>  X  </u>   |

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

After rollcall, the Chairperson led the body to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Members of the public that were present at the Regular Board Meeting (RBM): Former Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Claudia Joseph, Mike Berardi, Ulster County Legislator, and William (Bill) Kemble from the Daily Freeman.*

- **Manna Jo Greene** (Former Legislator)

She stated that given the delays with Global NRG, there could be an opportunity to advance the zero-waste implementation plan; to bring together key parties to complete the Zero waste implementation plan. Finally, she stated that she believes that there could be a good opportunity for a multi-stakeholder collaboration, citing Ulster County’s environmental values and the 19 transfer stations; she believes that collaboration could make Ulster County “unstoppable.”

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Donna Egan moved to approve the Agenda, and Erica Brown seconded the motion.  
5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes of March 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Erica Brown made a motion to adopt the minutes as written and it was seconded by Mike Baden.  
5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

*\*A suggestion was made by a Board member to attach larger presentations to the minutes, rather than imbedded in the minutes.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Next Scheduled Meetings:**

- Regular Board Meeting (RBM) is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 6:00 PM

### **PRESENTATION (7:59)**

Kevin Truetler, UCRRA Reuse Coordinator provided a presentation on Ulster County's Municipal Recycling Dropoff Centers (MRDCs). He provided his findings on the 19 transfer stations in Ulster County, highlighting inconsistencies, challenges and opportunities for improvements in the near future:

#### **Key Observations**

- Transfer stations vary widely in operations, staffing, funding, and services. The transfer stations function independently with minimal standardization. (e.g. no uniformity in hours, budgets, or accepted materials despite initial assumptions.)
- They can be community hubs for information and connection.
- Compiled a guide detailing hours, services, accepted materials, and alternatives, with help from Angelina Brandt's team.

#### **Operational and Structural Challenges**

- Funding Models for each transfer station differ by municipality: some tied to highway departments, others to supervisors or clerks—often lacking dedicated lines for recycling/reuse.
- Infrastructure Deficits: Many stations lack electricity, running water, or internet, hindering digital systems and progress towards modernization.
- Lack of standardized signage and wayfinding, causing public confusion.
- Communication gaps between UCRRA and transfer stations: no centralized platform (email, messaging apps).
- Long-tenured staff (10–15 years) hold institutional knowledge; generational transitions occurring—perhaps use leadership turnover as an opportunity to introduce new, standardized practices.
- UCRRA lacks regulatory authority over towns and cannot enforce mandates on town transfer stations.

#### **Proposed Standardization Efforts and Improvements**

- Unify identity and messaging across MRDCs.
- Standardize signage to improve public understanding and organizational cohesion.
- UCRRA provides tools and training, but adoption depends on transfer station staff initiative. Hopefully we will see improvements this year as they have been included in the new town contracts.
- Discussion on how to improve outreach:
  - Leave informational packets during site visits or pickups.
  - Install mailboxes at stations for two-way communication.
  - Build rapport with transfer station/town supervisor through personal connection.
  - Leverage involvement in groups like Rotary, youth groups, volunteer groups
  - Encourage towns to join Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Programs for grants and sustainability alignment.
  - Future Solid Waste Management Plan revisions could set minimum standards.

After the brief presentation, Kevin Truetler opened the floor for questions. The Board members and agency staff had a lively conversation, acknowledging the challenges and identifying some areas that could be improved with the MRDCs. The Board complimented Kevin's presentation, especially the photos he provided of each of the 19 transfer stations; the visuals clarified the issues that were identified during the presentation.

## GENERAL REPORTS (42:11)

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

Erica Brown, Recycling Oversight Committee (ROC) Liaison provided the rest of the board with an update regarding the ROC's most recent meeting on April 8, 2026 at 5PM:

- The committee held its third meeting; the meeting was a lively dialogue on waste reduction and connecting cultural infrastructure to systems change; different curiosities were raised.
- Learned about the Greenway project.
- Robert Friedlander, Recycling Compliance Officer, presented a hauler inspection form.
- Discussion on potential food waste composting expo supported by Chamber of Commerce outreach, aimed at increasing business participation, hauler/composter coordination, and public education.
- Progress on the zero-waste guidance document with the Zero Waste Committee- expected by June.
- Work continues on plastic law under development
- Ongoing conversation about terminology, particularly "food scraps" vs. "organics".
- Focus on strengthening community event infrastructure, including education and support
- A member of the public, **Claudia Joseph** raised a question about timeline for when to expect "Take it or Leave it Sheds." Tim Weidemann, Coordinator of Performance & Development, answered the question, stating that there isn't a timeline yet, due to the fact that the Agency did not get awarded grant money through the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program- the Agency applied again in partnership with the County and hopefully will receive the funding; should the Agency be successful, the roll out would be targeted for next year.
- Claudia Joseph also stated that the committee currently lacks a Recycling Coordinator representative; A Board Member responded that the town board can appoint this Coordinator position; that she can recommend a person to that position for the town board to consider.

### ➤ Recycling Program Update-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability (48:59)

Angelina Brandt reported the following outreach updates for March:

- 4 facility tours and 7 workshops at schools, libraries, community centers, and senior programs.
  - A tour hosted for the American Chemical Society's Hudson Valley chapter, showing interest in environmental education.
  - Collaboration with a local Eagle Scout to install a public recycling station in Berean Park (Town of Lloyd).
  - Reached 151 adults and 83 children through 22 hours of direct education.
  - March e-newsletter: 1,700 opens, 400+ unique clicks from 700 subscribers.
  - Social media campaigns (e.g., "March Madness") achieved 30,000+ views and 500 interactions.
  - Website received 8,000+ sessions and 232 chatbot conversations.
- The annual compost bin and rain barrel sale is open through May 8; pre-orders have exceeded initial quotas.
  - Spring programs returning in April:

- Weekly electronics recycling
- Bagged compost sales
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events
- Updated 2026 HHW flyer and Ulster County food scrap drop-off list distributed; currently 24 known drop-off locations.
- Kingston Organics:
  - Phase 2: Voluntary residential curbside collection (current)
  - Phase 3: Commercial collection planned in 1–2 years

After Angelina's report, she invited the Board to ask any questions or comments. A board member had a question about the food scrap drop-off- how does it work? Angelina explained that the residents drop off the food scraps, and then it gets taken off site to another facility where it gets turned into compost.

Another board member had a question about when the Agency visits schools- is it requested by the teacher, the school or someone else? Angelina responded that it varies: for some schools, it's a request by a teacher- sometimes an entire grade- and sometimes the entire school (the principal). Angelina said that no matter who the contact is, her team will always drop off a packet with the Business Office of the School so that the principal, administration and teachers alike are aware of what was presented to the kids. Her team also includes a letter for the kids to take home to inform their parents of what their child learned.

➤ **MSW Tonnage Report, Recycling Report, MRF Cost Center Analysis and the Treasurer's Report- Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance & Administration** (55:38)

Prior to Tim DeGraff's report, he reminded the Board to complete and submit the Financial Disclosure Forms that were printed for them.

Tim DeGraff provided the following updates:

**MSW Tonnage Report & Recycling**

- **MSW tonnage (Feb–Mar):** Slight rebound after cold-weather dip; three-month total met and slightly exceeded targets.
- **C&D waste:** Not flow-controlled; recent declines are likely due to weather.
- **Business operations:** Slower due to cold and snowy conditions; year-to-date MSW and C&D volumes down ~5%.
- **Recycling trends:** Most numbers are pretty consistent with Q1 of prior year:
  - OCC up 10% (linked to private hauler activity) compared to last year
  - Food waste down 44% compared to last quarter of last year
  - Tim stated he changed the format of the chart: he removed Single Stream Column, since they haven't done it since 2019- and added Mattresses:
    - Mattress diversion: 24.13 tons in Q1 (new reporting line)

**Material Recovery Facility (MRF)**

- OCC price back up: \$87.50/ton
- Bad news is that Agency is still holding onto Four full loads of plastic PET (\$0.04/ton)
- Total Monthly recyclables sales: \$68,025
- MRF residual cost: \$6,521 → Net revenue: \$61,504
- Total operating and personnel expenses: \$65,724 → Monthly net loss: \$4,220
- Year-to-date net loss: \$41,309, though January was particularly difficult.
- Break-even tipping fee: \$51.64/ton; rates are gradually increasing.

**Treasurer's Report**

Tim notes that the difference between the MRF Profit and Loss (P&L) and the Treasurer's Report is that the Treasurers' report includes scrap metal sales.

- Total recyclables and scrap metal sales: \$75,828
- Non-fiber and scrap metal: \$47,096
- Total monthly revenues: \$1,398,314
- MRF operations expenses: \$86,644
- Total monthly expenses: \$1,042,191 → Net operating loss: \$23,601- This is a usual number for February; February tends to be a rough month because the volume has always been down.
- Year-to-date deficit: \$2,756, a significant improvement over last year's \$66,839 at the same point.

Tim invited the Board to ask questions. One board member asked for clarification whether the cost of recycling for February would have been \$11- and if so would the reason for that be because the Agency sold a lot of items? Tim confirmed- directing to the MRF P&L Sheet.

Mike Baden made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the record and Chris Hurlbert seconded it. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates** (1:05:52)

Due to a family matter, Marc Rider had intended to join the meeting later after a family event. However the Board agreed it would be unnecessary for Marc Rider to join the meeting now, and thus Marc Rider was excused from the RBM. The Chair James Gordon proposed for the Board to read out loud some highlights from the Executive Director Report prepared by Marc Rider for the purpose of the meeting minutes.

Erica Brown read:

- Upcoming Events:
  - April 18: Earth Day tree and shrub giveaway
  - April 22: Circular economy panel and screening of *The Story of Stuff* in Saugerties
  - April 25: First HHW event in New Paltz; 286 residents registered (waitlist full)

James Gordon continued to summarize from the Executive Director's report:

- Stakeholder engagement:
  - Presentation to Gardiner Town Board on "Together Towards Zero" well-received
  - Upcoming presentation to Town of Wawarsing Board on May 7
  - Attended Organics Conference and April Town Supervisors meeting
- Compost status:
  - Out of bulk compost due to delayed DEC permits; as a result, lost primary food scrap supplier; Processing slowed; bulk compost expected in ~60 days
  - Bagged compost still available but very limited
- Great success in getting all the haulers permitted
- Global NRG project:
  - Considering phased approach to make it financially feasible. Possibly:
    - Phase 1: build mixed waste facility and Econward organics system and find out of state anaerobic solution-
    - Phase 2: add Regional anaerobic digestion (likely off-site)
  - Economics remain challenging; no final decision
  - Emphasis on transparent, collaborative planning within constraints

- RePOWER/ RIC: Site search ongoing

**RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS** (1:11:52)

- **Resolution #2674 Re: Adopting the “Circular Economy Strategic Plan for Ulster County” Prepared in Collaboration with Sustainable Hudson Valley (SHV) and Circularly**

Erica Brown made a motion to discuss Resolution #2674 and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert.

The Board then had a discussion regarding the Resolution; The Board is unanimously in favor of adopting the Circular Economy Strategic Plan; however, one Board member requested to change the language of the first “FURTHER RESOLVED” clause in the Resolution 2674, stating that the word “all” in “take **all** steps necessary” seems too broad and proposed to replace with the word “the”—in other words “take **the** steps necessary”. The rest of the Board members agree to this editorial change proposed by the Board Member.

A motion was made by Erica Brown to amend Resolution 2674, to update the first “FURTHER RESOLVED” clause as discussed and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2674, as amended; Resolution #2674 as amended was approved unanimously: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

**OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)**

The Board did not enter executive session as an executive session was not necessary for this meeting.

The Chair allowed a member of the public an opportunity to speak after the agenda items from the RBM were completed.

**Manna Jo Greene, Former Legislator**, raised a question on whether current permitted capacity needs to be increased if food waste diversion is maximized? A Response was provided that the site can handle up to 10,000 tons. Manna Jo Greene then followed with a statement that she would like to get involved with a food waste composting expo with the Chamber of Commerce and offered her help to anyone who would be involved with coordinating that.

One point raised by a board member in relation to Manna Jo Greene’s statement is to begin the application process for expansion of the permit now, as the permit process takes a while (~18 months). Another point is to focus on enforcement of the organics law and involving Robert Friedlander, Recycling Compliance Officer.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn April 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at **7:21 PM** was made by Erica Brown and it was seconded by Mike Baden. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 Absent.

May 28, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of April 23, 2026 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, Secretary.

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Gordon, Chair

DRAFT