

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

May 28, 2026

Meeting began at 6:00 PM and ended 7:00 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>Absent</u>
Donna Egan	<u>Absent</u>
Erica Brown	<u>X</u>
Mike Baden	<u>X</u>
Chris Hurlbert	<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>
Kevin Treutler	<u>Excused</u>

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mike Baden, Treasurer, filling in for James Gordon in conducting the meeting. After rollcall, he led the body to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Rissolo, chair of the Mid-Hudson section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), addressed the Board to share feedback from a site visit held on March 20th, hosted by UCRRA’s Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability and Marc Rider, Executive Director. Over 12 chemists and chemical engineers attended the event to learn about Ulster County’s waste management processes and future plans. The visit was highly successful, with 100% of participants responding positively to a post-event survey and giving high ratings. Attendees expressed strong interest in returning and volunteering for future events, whether as experts or general volunteers.

She concluded by providing her contact information and invited further questions about the ACS or the visit.

A Board member asked Michelle if she could provide a brief explanation of what the ACS is; Michelle explained that the ACS, founded 150 years ago in Manhattan, is now the largest scientific organization in the world, with over 250,000 members in the U.S. and 110,000 internationally. Originally focused on uniting chemists and chemical engineers, it has expanded to include physicists, biophysicists, medical technologists, and professionals engaged in environmental science, policy, and justice. The Mid-Hudson section covers Ulster, Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Pike (PA), and Sullivan Counties, with approximately 400 members and additional associate participants.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chris Hurlbert moved to approve the Agenda, and Erica Brown seconded the motion.

3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, EGAN).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ Minutes of April 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Chris Hurlbert made a motion to adopt the minutes as written and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, EGAN).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Regular Board Meeting (RBM) is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 6:00 PM

GENERAL REPORTS

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

- Chris Hurlbert, Chair to the Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) provided an update on the prior week's ZWC Meeting on May 21, 2026 at 5pm:
 - The committee received an update on diversion statistics year-to-date, which showed no major concerns. A key discussion topic was the mattress recycling program, which will be addressed in more detail later in the meeting.
 - The Committee's primary focus moving forward is the development of a preliminary zero waste implementation plan. To support this effort, the committee proposes bringing in four new members to help structure and build the plan over the remainder of the year, which will be discussed during the resolutions portion of today's meeting.
- Mike Baden shared a firsthand observation of a successful "Really, Really, Really Free Reuse Event" in the Village of New Paltz, coordinated with SUNY New Paltz. Students left behind items at the end of the semester, which were collected—three truckloads—and brought to Village Hall. This initiative, had been informally conducted in prior years, but was formalized this year with village involvement. Though coordination was somewhat last-minute, it is expected to improve in future years with better planning. The event exemplifies effective reuse and community engagement.

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

Angelina Brandt reported that April was a busy month for outreach.

- The recycling team hosted:
 - 3 facility tours
 - 6 workshops in partnership with local conservation groups, aging offices, and educational institutions
 - Participation in 6 Earth Day events in New Paltz, Ellenville, and Plattekill
 - Collaborations with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Additional efforts included:
 - Consultations with Women's Studio Workshop and New Paltz Climate Action Coalition on

- festival bin rentals
 - Supporting Ulster BOCES in developing an on-campus composting project for special education students
- Collectively, these programs reached 360 adults and 43 children through 19 hours of direct education. The household hazardous waste collection event on April 24th drew 277 attendees, marking a successful turnout.
- A highlight was at the New York State Association of Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR3) Organic Summit in Syracuse. She spoke on the agency's animal mortality composting program, which addresses the challenge of deer carcass management in New York.
- Key facts:
 - New York has a large deer population with limited natural predators
 - Over 111,000 miles of state highways, with 15,000+ managed by DOT
 - Estimated 75,000+ deer-vehicle collisions annually
 - DOT manages over 25,000 deer carcasses per year
 - The agency has composted over 366,000 pounds of deer carcasses since 2012, demonstrating that even difficult organic waste can be sustainably managed. Her presentation aimed to inspire other communities to adopt similar programs.
- Media and Outreach Performance:
 - In April, the agency ran a robust advertising campaign promoting:
 - Volunteer training
 - Compost Awareness Week
 - Bin sales (to be updated next month)
 - Results:
 - Over 10,000 website sessions
 - 379 unique chatbot interactions
 - Social media content reached over 60,000 views with 800 content interactions
 - Topics promoted included:
 - Safe disposal of medications
 - Sustainable Easter swaps
 - Paint recycling
 - Public space recycling
 - How to submit a recycling complaint
- A new partnership was established with La Voz Media, an all-Spanish publication, to expand outreach. Program photos and media samples were shared with the board.

The Board had no further questions for Angelina.

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

Tim DeGraff provided the following updates:

MSW Tonnage Report & Recycling

For April:

- MSW (non-source separated waste): Only fell short of target by 105 tons

- C&D (construction and demolition): Exceeded target by 103 tons
- Thus overall, he thought the Agency did pretty well.

The target split is 76% MSW / 24% C&D, but actuals fluctuate seasonally. Year-to-date, the Agency is 1,464 tons short of target, or 3.6% below goal (Consistent with March).

On-site sorting at the transfer station (by unit, not weight) includes tires, mattresses, Freon, cardboard, scrap metal, and e-waste. The recovery rate on the floor has improved from <0.5% five years ago to 1% recently, which is considered good performance. Tim gave credit to the Agency's workers on the line-safety is always a consideration for the workers when pulling out items.

Regarding recycling tonnages, most numbers are still consistent:

Food Waste and Compost

- Food waste tonnage (Jan–Apr): 969 tons, a 46% decrease from the same period last year
- Primary hauler has significantly reduced deliveries
- If trend continues, annual food waste could be around 2,900 tons, impacting compost availability and sales for the next season

Recycling and Revenue

- Wood chips: 445 tons ground for the Village of Saugerties
- Glass: Began sending to a new vendor in March at \$40/ton (down from higher costs with previous vendor)- although he noted the number on the chart represents 4 months worth of selling glass, thus won't necessarily see that high number with each following month.
- Net revenue for April: \$8,069
- Personnel and operating expenses: \$58,630
- Net loss for April: \$50,561
- Year-to-date net loss: \$91,870
- Recyclables sold: 271 tons at \$73.26/ton average

Market Trends

- PET bottles: Prices have slightly improved, with a recent quote of 1 cent per pound (paid), but remain low due to cheap virgin material and increased imports
- Historically, PET demand and prices rise in summer- thus Agency is holding on for a little longer

Treasurer's Report (March)

- Compost pre-sales: \$27,694 (due to bulk sales pickup in early April)
- Total revenue: \$1,908,042
- Fuel costs: Increased by \$110,261 due to volume and price spikes
- Recycling disposal costs: Up \$15,167, driven by mattress and glass recycling
- Net operating surplus: Reported, but not specified in detail

Fuel surcharge revenue increased to \$113,000, helping offset higher fuel costs.

Tim invited the Board to ask questions. The Board did not have any further questions.

Erica Brown made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the record and Chris Hurlbert seconded it.

3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, EGAN).

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates

- **Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Attended Legislature’s Energy and Environment Committee (May 6)
 - Met with Town Supervisors (May 19) to discuss TIOLI sheds, and the RePower Project
 - Soliciting early adopters for TIOLI sheds with the ReUse Coordinator, Kevin Treutler
- **Compost Bulk Sales Policy-** Bulk compost sales were suspended in early April due to low inventory. Piles are now nearing the 60-day mark and can be screened. Proposal to amend current Bulk Sale Policy to be discussed during Resolutions section of meeting; Bagged compost remains available.
- **Global NRG Projects**
 - Two tracks under evaluation:
 - Anaerobic digester
 - Build out a 50,000-ton compost facility (significantly cheaper)
 - EconWorld’s material in Spain meets NY heavy metal standards; PFAS/PFOA tests pending. The compost would be a soil amendment, not backfill, and could help mitigate climate change effects but no rebuild banks.
- **Repower Project**
 - A potential site in Saugerties was evaluated but deemed inadequate—it would function more as a thrift store than a full reuse center.
 - The team prefers to wait for a site that supports workshops and repair cafes- not just a thrift store
- **Biennial Update**
 - Angelina Brandt is leading the biennial update, a retrospective report on 2024–2025 performance and minor adjustments to the 2026+ implementation schedule
 - It will be shared with the board by August for editorial recommendations
 - Submission to DEC is due by October 1.
- **Mattress Recycling**
 - Issues arose after switching from box trucks to trailers: mattresses sat too long and arrived moldy.
 - The program is paused pending logistics improvements.
 - The board may be asked to increase the mattress fee in the 2027 budget, as recycling is currently more expensive than landfilling. The current fee is \$10 per unit, with a \$20 minimum for mixed loads.
- **Administrative Law Judge Vacancy**
 - A candidate was selected in February, but contact has lapsed for two months despite repeated attempts by Marc Rider, Executive Director and also the County.
 - A potential replacement (a former Supreme Court justice) is interested but finds county rates too low. The position requires an attorney, preferably with mediation or judicial experience.
- **Recycling Compliance Officer**
 - Suggestion to invite Rober Friedlander, RCO to attend June RBM (quarterly attendance). A Board member requested for Robert Friedlander to perhaps review campgrounds and seasonal businesses, which may be significant recycling violators.

RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

- **Resolution #2675 Re: Approving Amendments to UCRRA's Composting Sale Policy**

Chris Hurlbert made a motion to discuss Resolution #2675 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; the current Composting Sale Policy dates back to 2022. The only changes the Executive Director is proposing to change are the limits/amount of bulk compost people/entities are allowed to purchase:

- Per purchase limit: Reduced from 25 tons to 5 tons
- Daily load limit: Reduced from 50 tons to 10 tons, with a maximum of two loads per day

The proposed policy changes aim to ensure fair access. This responds to concerns that commercial entities were buying large quantities at \$40/ton and reselling for \$80+/ton, limiting availability for local farmers and gardeners-- the limits aim to prioritize local use. A question was raised on whether UCRRA can restrict/regulate resellers of the bulk compost. The executive director pointed out that blanket restrictions can affect farmers negatively as well, although Agency Counsel will look into the legality of restrictions. Another suggestion was raised about giving discounts to farmers. The Board is simultaneously interested in protecting the local gardeners/farmers, and providing good product to the residents, while also being mindful of the cost.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2675; the Resolution was approved: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, EGAN).

- **Resolution #2676 Re: Affirming Appointment of Zero Waste Community Member**

Chris Hurlbert made a motion to discuss Resolution #2676 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution, including the ZWC's proposal to add 4 community members to the Committee instead of 3.

A motion was made by Chris Hurlbert to amend Resolution 2676, to update the language of the Resolution: the 5th Whereas Clause- to state that the Board will be adding 4 additional community members instead of 3, as discussed, and to remove TBA 1, 2, 3 and replace with the names:

- 1) Claudia Joseph,
- 2) Manna Jo Greene,
- 3) Rebecca Martin and
- 4) Shabazz Jackson.

The motion to amend was seconded by Erica Brown. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, EGAN).

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2676, as amended; Resolution #2676 as amended was approved: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (GORDON, EGAN).

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.

Mike Baden 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 one concern regarding waste diversion at the Ulster County Fair. She suggested renewed communication with the Agriculture Society to improve composting and recycling. She also asked a question regarding the Agency’s composting permit expansion. Marc Rider explained that the site is permitted for 7,500 tons/year but is currently below 5,000 tons. DEC will not approve expansion to 10,000 tons without demonstrating need.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn May 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at **7:00 PM** was made by Mike Baden and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 Absent (GORDON, EGAN).

June 25, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of May 28, 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