ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2026
Meeting began at 6:00 PM and ended 8:35 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		Agency Staff	
James Gordon	X	Marc Rider	X
Donna Egan	X	Timothy DeGraff	X
Erica Brown	X	Angelina Brandt	X
Mike Baden	X	Tim Weidemann	X
Chris Hurlbert	X	Nancy Lam	X
		Kevin Treutler	Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

John La Mela, representing a local family-run C&D transfer station, hauler and roll-off services, expressed his concern of the rhetoric UCRRA used when reviewing tonnage reports at last month's meeting: specifically, he interpreted UCRRA's reaction towards low tonnage numbers to needing mandated flow control for C&D waste in Ulster County – rather than attributing low tonnage numbers to high interest rates or weather conditions. He believes UCRRA should address the high tipping fees (UCRRA's $167.38 per ton MSW tipping fee, including fuel surcharge, which is uncompetitive compared to regional options at $130–140 per ton). He warned that mandating C&D waste flow would harm small businesses and increase consumer prices, thereby hurting the local economy. He highlighted accountability issues, including discrepancies between commercial and municipal tipping fees, increased trucking emissions, and conflict between waste reduction goals and "take-or-pay" contracts. He ended his comment by saying that he believes this issue is fixable, and called for mutual accountability and emphasized the need for UCRRA and the private sector to regain trust and work together as partners and not competitors, as the private haulers/sector generates a large percentage of UCRRA's revenue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Donna Egan moved to approve the Agenda, and Mike Baden seconded the motion. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. The Agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes July 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Donna Egan made a motion to discuss the minutes and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert.

A board member made a comment and recommendation for the future to use the word "budget" instead of "target" in the MSW Tonnage Report & Recycling. There were no actual amendments made to the minutes.

A vote was taken: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. The July 23, 2026 RBM Minutes were adopted as written.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) Meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2026 at 5:00PM
- Public Hearing on 2027 Draft Agency Budget for September 24, 2026 at 6:00PM
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2026, at 6:10 PM or immediately after Public Hearing on 2027 Draft Agency Budget

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Marc Rider, Executive Director and Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance and Administration led the budget workshop for the Board to discuss the Agency's (1) draft 2027 budget, (2) draft Capital Plan 2027, and (3) draft 2027 fee schedule:

Discussion regarding 2027 draft budget: the draft budget is based on six months of data and treated as a forecast, not a tax levy. Key financial highlights include:

- Projecting 102,000 tons of MSW and 27,400 tons of C&D, with a 23% projected decrease in C&D tonnage due to pricing. No increase in tipping fees for MSW or C&D debris.
- A $2 increase in the biosolids (sludge) tipping fee to $152/ton, matching disposal costs paid to Denali.
- Elimination of the food waste tipping fee, reduced from $20 to $0/ton, to incentivize organics diversion.
- Total projected revenues: ~$24,000,000 (+~$411,000 from prior year), with total operating expenditures: ~$23,000,000
- Capital outlay: $855,000 (reclassified into operating costs to avoid bonding); down $40,000 from prior year.
- Budgeted surplus of $50,132. Projected budget surplus retained due to uncertainty in future costs like pensions and insurance.
- Compost revenues estimated to decrease due to decrease in food waste volume; forecasts based on conservative predictions and data.
- Grants will be relied upon for the RePOWER project due to a lost $1 million county commitment.
- The surplus reflects unspent capital, with only $35,000 spent of $895,000 budgeted and $502,000 unspent from the RIC.
- Due to number of rising costs, town pull charges- asking for extra $5 in 2027 (town pull charges have not changed since 2023).
- Negotiations with transport (MBI, Colucci) and disposal (SMI) services; extending for a year; all solid waste will go to Seneca Meadows except for 5,000 tons to go to Greenridge
- New Paltz Transfer Station Agreement is due to expire; Agency will be negotiating new community host benefit cost with the town of NP.

A board member asked a few questions, including a question regarding the cost to dispose of fluorescent light bulbs. Fluorescent bulb disposal is charged at $6 per bulb, in addition to the $20 min scale charge, raising concerns about how it is cost prohibitive to dispose of fluorescent bulbs properly, which disincentivizes UC sidents from properly disposing of the bulbs. The board member's main concern is the rate payer and believes if the fee is too high, it will likely prevent residents from disposing certain items environmentally appropriately.

Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability provided additional context as to why the Agency's fee schedules are structured in such a way, stating that due to the Agency's permit with the DEC, as a commercial large waste facility, and with the Agency's vehicle policy, there is an inherent disincentive for residents or small passenger cars with a small load, to use the Agency's facility to dispose of one bag of garbage or one specialty item that would require special handling. In those scenarios, Agency staff routinely direct residents to town transfer stations, or with regard to specific items of disposal, to HHW events (i.e. free lightbulb recycling at HHW), or other local programs with lower fees.

Discussion regarding 2027 Draft Capital Plan: Tim DeGraff notes the following highlights from the Capital Plan:

- equipment replacements: a tractor, dump trailer, backup tanker for sludge hauls, 10x30-yard and 10x35-yard roll-off containers/boxes, and a skid steer loader in 2027. MRF baler replacements have been delayed/pushed back to 2028-2029 due to uncertainty around Global NRG's mixed waste processing facility.
- Upgrades to network servers at Ulster and New Paltz, with cloud backup. Replacement of skid steer loader and belts at the MRF.
- Final item on capital plan is skid steer in 2028 for composting facility- anything related to recycling or composting, Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability will submit for capital and operative MWRR grants which are not competitive.
- About ~ $37,000 already spent on capital projects by mid-year, including NP floor repairs and belt replacements.
- EV trucks delayed from August 2026 to January 2027 due to supply chain and tariff issues; typical lead times are 18–24 months. A $160,000 deposit was paid for two EV trucks.

Discussion regarding 2027 Draft Fee Schedule: A board member had concerns regarding some items on the draft fee schedule including the cost of (1) disposing fluorescent light bulbs (conversation from earlier), (2) recycling mattresses and (3) the tarp fee.

- Mattress Recycling: Staff training scheduled to restart the program; Proposed increase in handling fee from $10 to $20 per unit to cover $19–20 recycling cost. A Board member noted that the high cost may deter people from actually recycling the mattress. However, Tim DeGraff and Marc Rider both noted that the extra cost is due to the extra operational/logistical/labor expense for UCRRA staff to handle the mattresses. Landfills like Seneca Meadows charge $50–$60 for mattresses
- Tarp Fee: a board member noted that the $5/un-tarped load fee is an ineffective deterrent for residents coming in with un-tarped loads, which is a huge safety concern. It was noted that there was an increase from 4,490 to 4,887 in un-tarped loads. UCRRA staff are frequently put in situations where users/residents are confrontational with regard to the tarp fee.
- The Fee Schedule is just a draft and the final fee schedule will be considered by the Board in November.

The Chair and other board members commended Tim DeGraff and agency staff for putting together a clear and understandable budget workshop that included a responsible budget considering the difficult financial times we are in.

PRESENTATION (7:14PM)

- 2026 Goals Presented by Tim Weidemann, Coordinator of Performance & Development. He stated

the following key highlights:

- Continued to work with directors, including with Angelina Brandt's leadership on the biennial update, which allows opportunity for them to review progress on the 2024 and 2025 implementation plan from the Local Solid Waste Management Plan LSWMP
- With working with all of the directors, ~95% Completion on updates from all of the goals that were stated in the original solid waste management plan and then updated in the Agency's last 2 biennial updates
- Biennial update is due in October- hope is to provide the Board with a final update to review before October (Marc Rider noted this is not something that needs to be approved by board through resolution, however it would be good for the Board to review it).
- There will be a pre-meeting with DEC in third week of September
- He will be reviewing with Directors updates for 2026 through 2029 – end of the 10-year planning period.

GENERAL REPORTS (7:20PM)

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

- *James Gordon, Chair reported*: he and Marc Rider, Executive Director, met with the County Executive last week. Marc Rider presented the budget; and James Gordon presented the fact that the Agency has always ran a tight ship and appreciates whatever assistance it can get from the county; despite this however, it was made clear to the Chair and ED that the Agency will not receive any financial commitment from the County, although they were not provided a clear reason why the Agency will not be receiving any assistance.
- *Chris Hurlbert, Chair to the Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) reported:* the committee had good discussion and engagement from the members at the last meeting; discussed 14 waste reduction initiatives (mostly grounded in the town MRDCs), that can be brought into the fold and recommended to the Board's discussion and planning for the LSWMP.
- *Erica Brown, Liaison to the Recycling Oversight Committee (ROC)* reported: it was a good meeting; the Chair of ROC lead the group to review the 2021–2024 Stonybrook waste characterization report; focused on glass waste. She and the chair of ROC will put together their notes to hopefully pass along at the October meeting.

➢ ***Recycling Program Update*-Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability** (7:26PM)

Angelina Brandt reported the following for the month of July.

UCRRA continues robust outreach through workshops, site visits, and community events. In July, the team conducted 4 workshops, 2 facility tours, and participated in 2 events, reaching 119 adults and 112 children. Partner organizations included Radio Kingston, Rosendale Street Festival, and Highland Seniors Club. Site visit consultations—offering free audits to businesses, schools, and institutions—remain a high-impact outreach tool, despite requiring 10–15 hours per visit. Clients include Orpheum Movie Theater, RVW Lighting, Bearsville Center, and Hutton Brick Yards. A community spotlight video on the Rosendale Street Festival is in development. Personalized engagement has led to measurable waste reduction and cost savings. Follow-up implementation reviews were suggested to assess long-term impact. A board member congratulated Angelina and her team for the HHW event; he provided feedback regarding using Eventbrite.

➢ ***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 July:

- MSW: 10,045 tons- under target by 38 tons
- C&D: 2,422 continues to decrease month after month- under target by 762 tons
- Sludge materials: 293 tons 15 tons over target
- YTD 75,655 tons, under budget by 3,143, almost 3,000 of that relates to C&D, which is why the agency made the adjustment to its budgeted C&D tons (~4%)
- Leaves the agency: expecting around 130,000 tons for the year

Recycling Tonnage Report: Commodities for July:

- Agency did some grinding for the town of Shawangunk- woodchips 199.54 tons
- Everything else stayed pretty consistent

MRF Cost center analysis for June:

- June tipping fees (line item that was added last month): agency had to charge gate rate for the contamination related recycling service fees: $1,109
- Only sold 275 tons of recyclables, most of which was fiber
- Total revenues $21,174
- MRF residual T&D and glass recycling costs total: $10,028
- Net revenue on commodities: $11,146
- Total personnel and operating expenses $39,569- which is nothing out of the ordinary.
- Net loss $28,423
- Y-T-D Net loss is $162,024

Recycling report:

- Slight uptick on fiber

Treasurer's Report (May)

Tim DeGraff stated:

- Total Revenue: $ 2,200,202 for June
- Total expenses: $30,618 for June
- Net operating revenue: $ 261,501 for June
- Monthly surplus: $261,501
- Y-T-D surplus: $768,091
- Line item of note, June HHW event $56,549 expense

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 (7:39-7:54pm)

Stakeholder Meetings

- August 5: Attended Beyond Plastics Working group. The discussion centered around restaurants and food waste. What was working and what needed improvements. This included the Skip the Straw Law, and compliance and enforcement of that law. There were also recommendations around bans related to clamshells and black plastics.
- August 5: Presented the draft Agency Budget to the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee. Overall, the committee was supportive of the budget, and appreciated that the draft did not include an increase in tipping fees around MSW and C&D Debris.

Sensitivity Training- he completed the Cornell Center for Health Equity Racial Allyship Training.

Flow Control Violations- For the September hearing there will be 1 respondent and 4 flow control violations. The notice of violation has been sent.

Compost- Agency resumed bulk compost sales. Sold 270 tons between July and August. Currently have approximately 141 tons remaining. Once that is gone, will be sold out for at least a month while new material is curing. Projected to receive 2500 tons of food waste by the end of this year.

Mattress Recycling- The contractor's training was rescheduled for Friday, August 28th, and will resume recycling mattresses the following week.

Global NRG- At the September RBM the Board will need to provide Executive Director guidance on which option the Agency should proceed with. The 40 hours of technical assistance from National Lab of the Rockies will then be used to study the feasibility of the project, help identify funding sources and, recommend contract terms.

REP0WER/RIC- Currently no site for hub and still need to look at funding options; Kevin Treutler, Reuse coordinator, and Executive Director met with the Town of Gardiner on placement of the TIOLI shed and plan. Gardiner needs to replace the trailer where their staff member works out of; will pay the difference of the Shed the Agency would like to implement- so it is a mutually beneficial arrangement. Kevin Treutler is also working through documents (standard operating procedures and best practices) for town transfer station operators.

Floor Repair at NP Transfer station – repair which is required periodically by the DEC was completed; agency hired engineer to complete this in 2024 at the Ulster Transfer Station; both times were in-house labor by agency staff- cost: $50,000 including concrete and labor. (had the agency contracted this out, could have costs $250,000). (This statement by Marc Rider was added after Resolution discussion*)

RESOLUTIONS (7:54PM)

- **Resolution # 2679 Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a Caterpillar Skid Steer Loader**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2679 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; although one board member had concerns over price and lack of comparative analysis, the majority of the board felt that the agency staff had done their due diligence and believed that the equipment that the agency staff is recommending is justified by durability and long-term value.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2679; the Resolution was approved: 4 in favor, 1 opposed (EGAN), 0 absent.

- **Resolution # 2680 Authorizing and Approving First Amendment to Disposal Agreement between Agency and Seneca Meadows Inc.**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2680 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; the amendment is to extend the disposal agreement with SMI by a year till Dec 31, 2027, set at 3% increase in rate: $53/ton (from expected 5%) for 2027. Seneca Meadows is where the majority of our waste goes – except 5,000 tons that will be delivered to Green Ridge. SMI has a potential permit expansion is pending DEC review.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2680; the Resolution was approved: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

- **Resolution # 2681 Authorizing and Approving First Amendment to Transportation Agreement between UCRRA and Mr. Bult's Inc. (MBI)**

Erica Brown made a motion to discuss Resolution #2681 and it was seconded by Mike Baden.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; MBI Transport agreement amended to extend for a year with no rate increase for 2027; MBI will transport an additional 15,000 tons due to reduced use of Green Ridge, offsetting the lack of a rate hike.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2681; the Resolution was approved: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

- **Resolution # 2682 Authorizing and Approving First Amendment to Transportation Agreement between UCRRA and Colucci Trucking, LLC**

Donna Egan made a motion to discuss Resolution #2682 and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; amendment to extend contract with Colucci Trucking for a year: Rate increased by $0.75/ton for transport from New Paltz to Seneca Meadows, contributing to a $0.17/ton increase in blended transportation costs. Green Ridge will no longer receive UCRRA waste starting next year due to unwillingness to lower rates. Limited use (5,000 tons) may continue via self-transport when MBI is unavailable. Both MBI and Seneca Meadows will require rebidding in May/June 2027 due to contract expirations.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2682; the Resolution was approved: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

- **Resolution # 2683 Authorizing and Approving Draft 2027 Agency Budget**

Chris Hurlbert made a motion to discuss Resolution #2683 and it was seconded by Mike Baden.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; A public hearing is noticed for September regarding the proposed draft agency budget for 2027- Public comments to be collected after the public hearing; Submit final 2027 budget and capital plan at October board meeting after public hearing.

vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2683; the Resolution was approved: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

- **Resolution # 2684 Authorizing and Approving Draft Agency Capital Plan 2027**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2684 and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; Again, after public hearing on the proposed draft Capital Plan in September, the board will vote for the final capital plan in October.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2684; the Resolution was approved: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

- **Resolution # 2685 Authorizing and Approving Tipping Fee 2027**

Donna Egan made a motion to discuss Resolution #2685 and it was seconded by Erica Brown.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; Agency staff will do research on the tarp fee prior to approving the tipping fee schedule in October.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2685; the Resolution was approved: 4 in favor, 1 opposed (EGAN), 0 absent.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (8:15pm)

- Mattress Recycling- Donna Egan added this item to discuss with the rest of the Board and with Executive Director to help clarify what exactly the Agency is doing to implement the program.
  - It was explained that people bring mattresses to Agency facility; pay a surcharge; if the mattress is not contaminated, it goes to the recycling contractor. If it gets rejected it goes back into the waste stream.
  - A discussion was had with not utilizing the collection of network that the agency potentially has (hub and spoke), which can effect how successfully mattresses and other specialty items are being captured and disposed/recycled.

NEW BUSINESS (8:25pm)

MRDC Communication and engagement: a board member raised concerns about insufficient outreach to town transfer station operators, citing that a specific operator had not been visited in nearly a year. Agency Staff, including Executive Director and Director of Sustainability cited resource and scheduling challenges, but reiterate that agency staff will conduct at least annual visits and often provide the transfer station with updated literature and do try to come with "swag" bags; that for the most part there is cooperation and a good relationship with the Towns. The agency always welcomes the town transfer station to request materials from the Agency. The board member believes that there could always be room for better relationship building and better communication.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

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

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn August 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 8:35 PM was made by Erica Brown and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

September 24, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of August 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting was made by Chris Hurlbert, seconded by Mike Baden. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

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

Signatures:

James Gordon, Chair