

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2026

Meeting began at 6:10 PM and ended 8:47 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>X</u>
Timothy DeGraff	<u>Excused</u>
Angelina Brandt	<u>Excused</u>
Tim Weidemann	<u>X</u>
Nancy Lam	<u>X</u>
Robert Friedlander	<u>X</u>

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manna Jo Greene stated that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to create a Zero Waste Implementation Plan. She noted that the document that MSW Consulting (hired by Ulster County) created although provided information about the history, it did not provide a detailed roadmap that would adequately assist in the implementation of the LSWMP. She expressed concerns that resources were used for the guidance document, but nonetheless, she is glad that there is at least a process in place.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

James Gordon, Chair stated that he would like to add under "New Business" a discussion about:

- Fee schedule
- The Agency's budget

Mike Baden moved to accept the Agenda with the new additions proposed by the Chair, and Chris Hurlbert seconded the motion. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. The Agenda, as amended was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes August 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

The Chair asked if the Board had any comments regarding the draft minutes; A board member stated she would like to reiterate her request to use the word "target" instead of "budget" in the MSW Tonnage Report & Recycling.¹ There were no actual amendments made to the minutes.

Chris Hurlbert made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mike Baden. A vote was taken: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. The August 27, 2026 RBM Minutes were approved as written.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

¹ She likely meant to say that the Agency should use the word "Budget" instead of "target" not vice versa, per the August Meeting Minutes.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) Meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2026 at 5:00PM at the UCRRA Office
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the UCRRA Office

A Board Member asked the Executive Director clarifying questions regarding committees: has the Finance Committee (FC) historically/ever met to review the proposed budget of the Agency? Is it possible to do so in the future?

Marc Rider stated that the FC does not usually meet for the purpose of reviewing the budget, as it is not in the FC's charter, although it's possible the budget may have come up during discussions during FC meetings; another board member provided context that on one year, the FC had met more than a couple times during the year, which allowed for the FC to have discussions on the draft budget, but which were mostly educational in nature.

Should the Board want the FC to conduct a review of the proposed Budget in the future, the board can authorize that; it was also suggested that the Board can consider holding special full-board meeting for budget and finance discussions to ensure inclusivity and compliance.

It was also noted that the Audit Committee and Governance Committee still need to meet before the end of the year.

Recycling Compliance Officer Report and Update (6:19PM)

Robert Friedlander, Recycling Compliance Officer, provided his quarterly update stating the following highlights:

- Transfer Station Inspections: Conducted monthly; includes engagement with hauler drivers to identify contamination sources from stores, apartments, and compactors. Building relationships to prevent violations.
- Gas Station Compliance: Shifted strategy from mailing compliance letters to in-person visits with a new compliance letter and 30-day notice; reinspection planned. He'll report back next time whether this strategy is more effective.
- Sojourner Truth State Park: implementing their recycling/waste management plan for the following summer (since Lake Sophia/swimming area is closed for the season). The park has installed new recycling stations at the John Street entrance and the Pavilion. Due to unexpected high visitor volume this summer, the "pack-in, pack-out" policy failed. The park hopes to be better prepared next season. Composting bins are under discussion, especially with planned food trucks; the park will consult its Office of Sustainability.

Robert Friedlander then answered a few questions from the Board:

- MRDC Visits: Conducted twice yearly, with plans for quarterly engagement (together with the Recycling Outreach Team) and the mandatory annual operator meeting (possibly in late November); he's teaming with the Recycling Outreach Team to think of a strategy and goals to help increase success and engagement with town MRDCs.
 - He stated that there was initial resistance when he first conducted visits, since there wasn't a strong relationship between the towns and the compliance officer prior to him; he stated that

now there is more of a working relationship as he tries to focus his informal “drop-in” visits on education and being a resource for the town MRDCs, rather than punitive/compliance inspections. He shares his findings/ reports to Marc, who in turn communicates with the town supervisor, if necessary.

- Summer Camp Contamination: Investigation found contamination lower than expected. Strategy for next year includes early outreach in January/February and using Department of Health records to secure contact lists.
- First Administrative Hearing: Involved 4 violations by a single respondent (same truck license plate); Robert Friedlander observed the same truck collecting waste but not arriving at the facility within the 72-hour legal window at least on 4 separate occasions. On the date of the hearing, respondents brought evidence that showed they brought the waste on a different truck; the parties were able to negotiate a settlement and thus did not proceed into a formal hearing.

GENERAL REPORTS (6:39PM)

➤ Committees and official meeting reports by Board Members

- *Chris Hurlbert, Chair to the Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) reported:* at the last meeting, there were new discussions that focused on hub and spoke model and also a pilot program that one committee member was promoting; currently the ZWC has narrowed down to 20 initiatives (cards) – next meeting the plan is to really clarify these initiatives to bring forth actual recommendations to the Board; making overall good progress.

➤ Recycling Program Update- Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability (6:40PM)

Marc Rider, Executive Director, provided the Recycling Program update on behalf of Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability, who was out/excused. He stated that Angelina provided her monthly report for the Board in their packets, and then specifically highlighted the Ulster County Fair for the month of August:

- This was a down year number-wise in terms of outreach with regard to the Ulster County Fair; Marc also stated that in his opinion UCRRA’s attendance at the Fair had a low outreach impact—however attending the Fair took up significant agency resources including: staff /Recycling Outreach Team’s time, other resources and money.
 - Contributing factors to why the Fair hasn’t been as successful as the Agency hoped/or as impactful compared to the past: most people that attend the Fair are not from Ulster County; the Fair prices have gone up and do not include the rides; the Fair has changed these past couple years (i.e. no more Climate Row etc.)
- **MSW Tonnage Report, Recycling Report, MRF Cost Center Analysis and the Treasurer’s Report- Tim DeGraff, Director of Finance & Administration**

Marc Rider, Executive Director also reported the MSW tonnage report on behalf of Tim DeGraff because he was out/excused. He provided the following updates:

MSW Tonnage Report & Recycling (6:50pm)

For August:

- **MSW Tonnage:** Through August, 88,000 tons processed, near the 91,000-ton budget. August spike linked partially due to New Paltz facility floor repairs, but mostly due to the Dutchess County waste-to-energy plant outages.
- **Recycling Tonnage:** Down overall, primarily due to food waste drop to 1,700 tons (vs. 5,000-ton target). Loss tied to Organics redirecting out-of-county waste to animal feed, which is higher on the Zero Waste Hierarchy.
 - **Mattress Recycling:** resumed collections; Training improved compliance, though moldy mattresses are being landfilled. Recycling rates are monitored via trailer weights and site checks.
- **MRF Cost Center Analysis (as of July):** Break-even rate of \$62.47/ton. Revenue boosted by 21,000 lbs of aluminum sales. PET bales are withheld due to low prices (3–4 cents/lb); holding for 7–8 cents/lb. Broker used for sales.

Treasurer's Report (7:03pm)

- **Revenue:** July revenue of \$2,232,694; YTD revenue \$13,472,809, up \$846,000 from 2025.
 - sold more aluminum
- **Expenses:** Personnel costs \$493,000 in July (3 payrolls in July); YTD: \$2.79M; composting repairs \$23,000; landfill monitoring \$7,000. YTD expenses: \$12,480,696, up \$492,000 from last year.
 - Repairs on equipment
- **Net:** July surplus \$187,000; YTD \$992,000. **Capital outlay:** \$36,000; \$850,000 remaining. **Current surplus:** \$955,364 (before \$600,000 grant).
- Modest year-end surplus expected despite capital spending. August shows continued strong performance (~\$200,000/month).
- **MWRR Grant:** \$600,000 expected in early October for past compost expansion costs from 2022. Potential use: new wood grinder (\$800,000–\$1M), though not currently in capital plan.

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

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates (7:10-7:17pm)

- UCRRA submitted the Biennial Update to DEC; now in a 60-day comment period.
- Collaborating with Ulster County on a Community Climate Action Plan focused on organic waste diversion, transfer station improvements, C&D debris, circular economy initiatives (e.g., refrigerant management), post landfill management. The county is leading the plan in-house with a consultant; they received a grant a while back to work on this plan. Shared GHG reduction goal: 85% by 2050, discussion on targets of 40, 60, 90.
- October 8 – kick off with Lab of the Rockies
- Hudson Valley Regional Council- presentation coming up in November at big event
- NYSAR3 conference in November- presentation on REP0wer project
- E-waste/paper shredding event saw ~50% lower attendance from prior year (5 pallets vs. 10).
- Paint recycling event with GreenSheen (funded by PaintCare) scheduled for October 10 at Wallkill High School, open to all counties. GreenSheen leads logistics

A Board Member asked a clarifying question about the Zero Waste Policy Guidance Document:

Marc Rider explained that the draft Zero Waste Policy Guidance Document was shared with the Zero

Waste Committee for feedback due by Friday. It will be presented at the October 7 committee meeting chaired by Chris Hewitt, followed by public comment, before going to the full legislature for adoption. The document is guidance, not binding.

RESOLUTIONS (7:21PM)

- **Resolution # 2686 Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of ten (10) new forty (40) cubic yard roll-off containers**

Marc Rider first explained that these roll-off containers are used to collect recycling and MSW at the town MRDCs. UCRRA drops off the containers and then picks them on UCRRA's roll-off trucks, which is how UCRRA hauls waste. There is a replacement plan. This is part of 2026 Capital Plan.

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2686 and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; one board member asked if the agency chose this vendor off a state-bid list and asked if there was an attempt to put it out to bid or look at other options. Marc Rider clarified/ confirmed that this was chosen off of the Sourcewell contract; it was argued that this bypasses competitive bid process, due to cost-effectiveness; although the board can choose to add a dedicated procurement staff member to the budget, it would cost ~\$100k/year and most probably would not save the Agency money. This is why these state-bid lists are made available to smaller agencies, as UCRRA does not have the purchasing staff to send out someone to bid for every project. Another board member pointed out that with an item such as roll-off containers—relying on Sourcewell or state-bid list is probably the best price/most affordable price.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2686; the Resolution was approved: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

- **Resolution # 2687 Authorizing and Approving First Amendment to New Paltz Transfer Station agreement extending agreement through end of calendar year**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2687 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; the amendment is essentially a three-month extension (September to December) of the existing 10-year contract with the New Paltz transfer station, which expires at the end of the month (September). This allows parties to finalize a new 10-year agreement and lease and also align it with the calendar year. Goal: replace New Paltz's graduated tonnage-based host benefit with a flat-rate payment (CPI-adjusted) for budget predictability and increased support. The full agreement (lease + benefits) requires separate board approval later

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

- **Resolution # 2688 Authorizing and Approving 2027-2031 Capital Project Plan**

Erica Brown made a motion to discuss Resolution # 2688 and it was seconded by Mike Baden.

Tim Weidemann and Marc Rider provided a brief presentation on the Capital Project Plan. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the plan.

Donna Egan moved to table the resolution till next month and take no action on the resolution, so that the Board can have an opportunity to discuss some of the specific projects in more detail/ get provided a refresher from agency staff and to review and look over the budget. Mike Baden seconded the motion.

A vote was taken to table the resolution: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. The Resolution was tabled for the next meeting.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (8:01pm)

- Electronics Recycling- Board Member Donna Egan

Donna Egan raised her concern that the electronic recycling program should be a year-round program provided by the Agency.

The Board had a discussion regarding pros and cons of having year-round recycling program; the current seasonal e-waste program is from April–November; with one-off events in January and February/or March. Donna Egan advocated for year-round access citing zero waste goals. Marc Rider reiterated what other staff had explained to the Board as the reason why year-round collection has not worked in the past: staffing, safety, and compliance risks (e.g., cold weather, environmental concerns, illegal dumping of non-acceptable e-waste items). Unattended drop-off trials failed, leading to unofficial complaints by the DEC. Also it was raised that UC residents have other local/better e-waste program options during the months the Agency does not offer drop offs. Staff noted no evidence of increased landfill disposal during off-seasons. A suggestion was proposed that perhaps UCRRA could partner with hubs.

Most of the Board tended to agree with the staff's analysis that at this time, it does not make sense to have a year-round program, as the seasonal program works for the Agency.

NEW BUSINESS (8:25pm)

- Fee Schedule – the board had a discussion regarding increasing the tarp fee.

Mike Baden motioned to amend the draft fee schedule to increase the tarp fee to \$15; Erica Brown Seconded the motion.

A vote was taken to amend the draft fee schedule to increase the tarp fee to \$15: 5 voted Yes, 0 voted no, 0 absent. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Budget discussion – raise for Executive Director

The Chair proposed to the rest of the board to raise the salary of the executive director, specifically to provide a 3% raise (CPI 3.5%) to the ED, who has not had a raise since he was hired 2 years ago. Although not performance based, Marc Rider, Executive Director had a favorable performance review in January of this year.

The Chair motioned to discuss his proposal; Mike Baden seconded the motion. The Board had a discussion regarding the salary and raise for the Executive Director. No action was taken; the Board will continue their discussion at next meeting, after agency staff provides additional information and data regarding salary increases for administrative staff.

- Discussion regarding Global NRG

The Executive Director requested the Board provide him with a consensus on which options of the 4 Global NRG plans did the Board think was best.

The Board entered executive session for the purpose of contract discussion involving Global NRG. Erica Brown motioned to enter executive session at 8:30pm and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert.

Erica Brown motioned to get out of Executive Session at 8:36 and it was seconded by Mike Baden. No decisions were made during executive session.

The Board continued to have their discussion regarding Global NRG:

- The board evaluated four diversion options with Global NRG, reaching consensus on Option D (diversion-only, 150,000-ton capacity):
- Key wins: Global NRG covers residual disposal (~35,000 tons/yr); county retains first refusal on organics/byproducts.
 - PFOA levels from Global NRG's Spain facility comparable to safe Vermont compost.
- Next steps: Lab of the Rockies' report to hopefully provide deeper analysis, with kickoff on October 8 and completion by November/December.
- No binding commitment made; just to look deeper into the option

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn September 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 8:47 PM was made by Mike Baden and it was seconded by Chris Hurlbert. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

October 22, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of September 24, 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