

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

September 24, 2026

Public Hearing began at 6:00 PM and ended 6:07 PM

This public hearing was held at the Agency's Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY and 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>
Tim Weidemann	<u> X </u>
Nancy Lam	<u> X </u>

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chair of the Board led the Board and Public to recite the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public hearing was held regarding the 2027 Agency Budget. The Agency provided an opportunity for members of the public to offer comments on the proposed 2027 Agency Budget which was presented and discussed during the last Regular Board Meeting held on August 27, 2026. The Chair James Gordon commenced the hearing and reminded the public they are limited to 3-4 minutes per comment.

2 members of the public spoke:

John La Mela Jr., stated the following: he operates a family-run hauling service and transfer station in Ulster County (70 years of service). He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak regarding the proposed budget. He welcomed the news that the tipping fee would remain unchanged in 2027, but stressed that the Board's current budget decisions will affect 2028 rates; he urged the board to consider long-term price stability when finalizing the budget. He noted a 50% increase in costs over two years, creating uncertainty for his business and customers. It is his opinion that disposal costs are directly tied to decisions made by the Board, (\$167 per ton inclusive of fuel—far above the \$135–140 per ton charged by five other local transfer stations). He argued that high Agency fees force haulers to raise prices, effectively making them the face of a "stealth tax" on residents.

Manna Jo Greene raised concerns about the absence of a clear implementation plan in the "Guidance document" prepared by the consulting company, MSW Consulting hired by Ulster County. Marc Rider spoke to clarify that this hearing was for comments regarding the 2027 budget and that any other concerns can be raised during the Regular Board Meeting. Thus, she noted that her comment relates to the budget, since the guidance document lacks a detailed budget roadmap—information on timing, funding sources, and cost allocation—this absence, she argued, prevents/undermines the ability to inform the Agency's budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the September 24, 2026 public hearing at **6:07 PM** was made by Chris Hurlbert and seconded by Mike Baden. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 Absent.

October 22, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of September 24, 2026 Public Hearing 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