ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 2026
Meeting began at 6:00 PM and ended 7:25 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	Excused	Angelina Brandt	x
Mike Baden	X	Tim Weidemann	X
Chris Hurlbert	Excused	Nancy Lam	Remote

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Present from the public: Poppy Cannon Reese, Claudia Joseph, Manna Jo Greene, Mike Berardi)

Claudia Joseph, Committee Member of Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) expressed appreciation for the work of Chris Hurlbert, Chair ZWC and Marc Rider, Executive Director, in supporting the ZWC. She believes the work that they are doing is good work and that her experience has been positive.

Manna Jo Greene, Committee Member of ZWC emphasized the importance of continuing the Zero Waste Committee's work through completion of the implementation plan, and noted that there was a consensus among the ZWC to continue the Committee's work. She highlighted the value of the initiative cards the Committee has been working on and also integrating committee expertise with the consultants hired for the county's solid waste management plan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Marc Rider, Executive Director requested to add resolution (# 2693) to the agenda, as he shared with the Board last night documents to review regarding said resolution.

Mike Baden moved to accept the Agenda as amended, Donna Egan seconded the motion. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT). The Agenda, as amended was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes September 24, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (RBM) Minutes
- Minutes September 24, 2026 Public Hearing Minutes
- Minutes July 9, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Mike Baden motioned to accept all 3 minutes as written and it was Seconded by James Gordon. A vote was taken, 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT). September 24, RBM Minutes, September

24, 2026 Public Hearing Minutes, and July 9, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes were all accepted as written.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2026 at 5:00PM at the UCRRA Office
- Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the UCRRA Office

GENERAL REPORTS

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

- *Mike Baden, Chair to the Audit Committee (AC) reported the following:*

The AC met and reviewed a proposal from EFPR, the agency's current external auditor. EFPR was noted to be both more thorough and less expensive than other auditors from the previous cycle. Committee members and Staff expressed satisfaction with their performance. The Committee recommends to the Board to approve the retention of EFPR for another 3 year term.

- *Chris Hurlbert, Chair to the Zero Waste Committee (ZWC)* was absent due to an excused personal/medical emergency and therefore did not provide an update.

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

Angelina Brandt provided the following Recycling Program update for the month of September:

- Five community events and one workshop were conducted in September in partnership with Hudson Valley Seed Co., Gardiner Public Library, Kingston Farmer's Market, Saugerties and Weekend of Walkill; Professional development day at Kingston H.S. (workshop was led).
    - Educational outreach reached 167 adults and 43 children across 18 hours of direct engagement.
- Festival sustainability practices: Doubled bin rentals loaned out compared to previous year
- A private event successfully utilized a full set of reusables with on-site dishwashing, demonstrating scalable sustainable event practices.
- MRDC Spotlight social media series is rolling out information about all town transfer stations alphabetically, with content also repurposed into flyers for towns to distribute.
- A new flyer for new homeowners and real estate agencies was developed to guide residents on proper disposal of moving-related waste (e.g., cardboard, film plastic) and end-of-occupancy items (e.g., chemicals, electronics, furniture).
    - The flyer was shared with real estate agencies, accompanied by outreach efforts to embed it in local campaigns.
- Volunteer-Led Composting Initiative:
    - Barbara, a Master Composter and Master Recycler volunteer, launched Taking the Temperature on Composting, a replicable model involving:
        - Community surveys distributed via tabling, flyers, and social media.
        - Data collection to inform advocacy, including drafting letters to town supervisors and public officials.
        - Training volunteers in civic engagement.
        - The survey remains open through October 30, 2026, and has already received over

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20 responses.
- A second volunteer project will launch next week; involves a new vermicomposting class, where participants will receive a worm bin to take home, building on existing composting education with hands-on tools.
- The Board Chair commends the good work Angelina and the Recycling Outreach Team

- ***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

- September tonnage exceeded MSW budget by 662 tons but was under C&D budget by 432 tons.
- Year-to-date, MSW tonnage is only 2.3% over budget at 130,368 tons, with projections indicating a final total around 131,000–132,000 tons—a marked improvement from previous periods.
- The agency is currently over budget in MSW by 1,684 tons and C&D by 4,052 tons cumulatively.
- Nothing of note tonnage wise regarding recycling
- Marc Rider noted that the report for October will be much different due to issues with OCC Baler:
  - The OCC (old corrugated cardboard) baler is currently out of service, requiring five business days for repairs
  - Repairs are being bid, and the unit will be non-operational for several weeks.
  - In the interim, OCC is being shipped loose in trailers, reducing material value.
  - The baler is on the capital replacement plan, though the current unit has performance issues, including imbalance and degraded conveyor belts.
- Questions arose over fluctuations in C&D tonnage, with possible causes including market demand, economic conditions, or coding inconsistencies at transfer stations. Training of floor staff has improved accuracy.

MRF

- Tipping Fees and Financials
  - August tipping fees totaled $1,213.
  - Total sales and recycling revenues in August were ~$45,000.
  - Net revenue for the month was ~$31 million.
  - Total revenues: $2,305,077
  - Total expenses: $2,005,163
  - Capital outlay: $130,105, attributed to the OCC baler replacement part.
- Question arose regarding seasonality and market trends:
  - Fiber markets typically rise in spring and dip around the holidays due to shifts in demand and the relative cost of virgin pulp vs. recycled materials.
  - While seasonality plays a role, broader market dynamics remain variable.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Baden made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the record and Donna Egan seconded it. A vote was taken, 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT). Treasurer's Report was accepted for the record.

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Marc Rider noted a few additions to the Recycling Compliance Officer's report:

- Recycling Compliance Officer will conduct training sessions on November 9, 2026, at two locations: Marlboro Community Center: 10:00–12:00 a.m. and UCRRA Office: 4:00–6:00 p.m.
- Sessions are closed to the public and intended for transfer station operators, town supervisors, and board members.
- During winter months, focus will shift indoors to inspect hauler loads and compliance, as fieldwork becomes more difficult.
- Applications for annual permits are open from November 1 to December 30.

Executive Director, Marc Rider Updates

- Greensheen paint recycling event
    - Held at Walkill High School on October 10, drawing over 200 participants and deemed a success; future partnership with the Greensheen is recommended
- Bulk compost – the Board had a discussion regarding the Bulk Compost.
    - 80 tons of compost remain available after recent screening of 40 tons.
    - Total waste received to date: 1,952 tons, on pace to reach the 2,500-ton target, using a third of capacity.
    - A discussion occurred on whether to immediately reduce food waste tipping fees to $0 or wait until the planned January 1, 2027 date.
    - The $20/ton fee was projected to generate $12,000 annually (600 tons × $20), a minor budget item.
    - The board ultimately agreed the symbolic value of eliminating the fee outweighs the revenue loss, supporting a soft rollout with a press release to announce the change as a positive step toward zero waste.
    - Mike Baden motioned to amend fee schedule for food waste to $0 starting Nov 2, 2026; Donna Egan seconded the motion. A vote was taken: 3 Y, 0 N, 2 A (BROWN, HURLBERT)
- Mattress recycling resumed:
    - Current mattress recycling rate is around 25%, though contamination remains a major barrier.
    - A continued discussion on challenges: accepted mattresses must be free of visible contamination
        - Wet mattresses are not considered contaminated unless mold or other contaminants are present.
    - Best practice: towns should place mattresses on top of loads to avoid moisture and mixing. Suggestion for better education/ training/ communication to towns.
- Global NRG- first meeting with Lab of Rockies
    - They discussed focus on waste composition not just what the Stony Brook Study shows, BTU Characteristics based on USDA and EPA information/data.
- A Board member had a question regarding ReP0wer/ RIC:
    - The 2027 legislative budget no longer includes $1 million previously allocated for UCRRA initiatives; should UCRRA be asking a legislator/or committee to add this back into their budget since they are having public hearings on budget right now?
    - Executive Director responded that we can ask, however its not guaranteed/not necessarily going to be successful; The board member agreed it is critical to pursue re-funding through legislative channels.
    - After discussion, the board agreed to asking as a strategy; the Energy and Environment Committee was suggested as a potential avenue.

RESOLUTIONS

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

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

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; including clarification regarding leachate project description (i.e. design of appropriate system). It was reiterated that all of the projects specified still need final approval by the Board; furthermore some of the projects may be moot or modified pending exterior reasons (i.e DEC policy changes).

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2686; 1 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT).

- **Resolution # 2689 Procurement of Audit Services**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2689 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

The Board did not have any comments for discussion regarding the Resolution;

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2689; 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT); The Resolution was approved.

- **Resolution # 2690 Approving 2027 Final Agency Budget**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2690 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; a board member wanted it noted for the record that the private haulers ($150) are charged differently than the municipal haulers ($135), which is unfair. It was noted that this will be the second year that there will be the difference.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2690; 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT); The Resolution was approved.

- **Resolution # 2691 Approving the Fee Schedule For 2027 Tipping Fees and Other Charges**

Donna Egan made a motion to discuss Resolution #2691 and it was seconded by Mike Baden.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution; a question regarding how tires were disposed of. The staff answered and provided several ways tires were disposed/recycled (i.e. Casings for bulk tires)

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2691; 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT); The Resolution was approved.

- **Resolution # 2692 Approving the 2026 Final Agency Capital Plan**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2692 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution, including a question regarding status of EV Trucks, and replacements of balers.

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A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2692; 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT); The Resolution was approved.

- **Resolution # 2693 Authorizing an Amendment of Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Resolutions No. 1969 and No. 2318 regarding the Fuel Surcharge**

Mike Baden made a motion to discuss Resolution #2693 and it was seconded by Donna Egan.

Marc Rider provided context: he and Tim DeGraff Director of Finance and Administration discussed the issue with fuel charge because it was brought up during public comment; there is a trend that there may be $126,000 surplus regarding fuel charge (he relies on an index). They feel it is fair point for haulers to raise this concern. They are proposing a 10% cap as a solution for now, due to the current trend and Agency policy. The Board had a discussion regarding the Resolution.

A vote was then taken to approve Resolution #2693; 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT); The Resolution was approved.

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ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn October 22, 2026 Regular Board Meeting at 7:25 PM was made by Mike Baden and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (BROWN, HURLBERT)

November 12, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of October 22, 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