

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on November 18, 2019 at 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

The proceedings were convened at 5:00pm.

The following Board members were present: Chair Fred Wadnola, Vice Chair Katherine Beinkafner, Treasurer Charles Landi, Member JoAnne Myers, and Member Lisa Mitten.

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director Tim Rose, Controller Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Safety Charlie Whittaker, Recycling Coordinator Angelina Peone, Recycling Educator Melinda France, and Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker.

From the public: Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman, Ulster County Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Glenn Gidaly from Barton & Loguidice, Town of New Paltz Supervisor Neil Bettez, Town of New Paltz volunteer Carol Lee, Town of New Paltz Board Member Marty Irwin, and Mark Swyka and John Guiliano of Cornerstone Environmental.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melinda France introduced participants from their America Recycles Day upcycled ornament project. The project was open to children ages 5-18, and required that participants not purchase any new supplies. There were four total participants in the project, and three of them were present. The participants showed their completed ornaments to the Board and explained the materials they used.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Fred Wadnola thanked Charles Landi for the work he did determining how much money the Agency could save on transportation costs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

Charles Landi pointed out the MRF Cost Center Analysis from the October minutes. He stated that in the future he will be paying more attention to this section because it draws attention to the recycling problem the Agency is facing.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Wadnola stated that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on December 23, 2019 at 12:00pm.

GENERAL REPORTS

Tim Rose presented the MSW, Recycling Tonnage, Recycling Market, and Leachate Collection reports:

MSW

	October 2019		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	11,981 tons	12,829 tons	848 tons
Sludge	291 tons	323 tons	32 tons

Recycling Tonnage

	October 2019	October 2018
Commingle	126.21 tons	46.66 tons
Glass	53.43 tons	55.17 tons
Mixed News	95.44 tons	103.98 tons
Kingston City Mix	73.13 tons	N/A
Single Stream	0 tons	574.05 tons
OCC	180.30 tons	129.32 tons
Food Waste	416.46 tons	408.09 tons

Recycling Market Report

The Recycling Market Report shows the price the Agency was offered for each commodity. NR means no response.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the October 2019 Recycling Market Report. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

Leachate Collection

	October 2019	October 2018
Ulster	42,000 tons	245,000 tons
New Paltz	35,000 tons	164,500 tons

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Outreach/Education

- RecycleRightNY message this month is "Recycle Plastic Bottles & Jugs".

- Print Advertising: America Recycles Day November 15 / Recycle Plastic Bottles & Jugs / UCRRA Recycling Outreach Team
- Radio Advertising: America Recycles Day
 - “America Recycles Day is November 15. Do your part and encourage those around you to recycle right. Recycling conserves natural resources and slows environmental pollution. This message brought to you by the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. U-C-R-R-A-DOT-ORG”

Community Engagement Events

- 11/13 Tour – Organic Unity Farm
- 11/13 Rethinking Our Waste presentation at Saugerties Public Library
- 11/18 America Recycles Day Youth Program
- 11/20 Tour – student research paper
- 11/21 Winter Expo at New Paltz St. Joseph Church

October 2019 Electronics Recycling Program

- 348 residents
- 6 non-profits
- 11 businesses
- 1 government entity

Administration

- Developing new Compost Program Supplies for the Ulster County Municipal Composting Expansion Grant Project

Miscellaneous Meetings

- 11/04 – 11/06 NYSAR3 Annual Recycling Conference: Refresh Recycling
- 11/06 – NYSAR3 Single Use Plastics Committee Meeting
- 11/13 – UCRRA Website Development Meeting
- 11/15 – TOUR NYSASWM facility
- 11/18 – Food Scraps Recycling Law: Compost Manufacturers & Municipalities Stakeholder Meeting – NYS DEC Albany
- 11/26 Conference Call with NYSAR3 Organics Conference Committee
- December Preview
 - 12/5 – Tour for Marist Students
 - 12/6 – Presentation at the Woodstock Elementary School
 - 12/11 – Hudson Valley Regional Council Meeting in Newburgh
 - 12/9, 12/14 – Zero Waste USA Workshops

Fred Wadnola asked Angelina Peone for an annual overview of the electronics recycling program.

Angelina Peone responded that she does do an annual report and will make that available to the Board.

Charles Landi asked for the status of the compost bagging operation.

Angelina Peone replied that the compost bags are in production, and bagging will start in the spring. She provided a sample of the bag label.

Angelina Peone informed the Board that the Agency is re-doing the website completely to make it more modern and more efficient. She added that the staff is being very thoughtful about the information that will be on the new website so that it will be easy for people to find information.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

There were no financial reports this month due to the change of meeting date.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution No. 2491 RE: Approving Agreement with Marshall & Sterling Health, Dental, and Vison Plans for Employee Health Care Insurance

Tim Rose explained that the plan is basically the same for this coming year, with a 6.22% increase in cost to the Agency. He added that the increase was budgeted for.

JoAnne Myers mentioned that the deductible is very high.

Tim DeGraff explained that the Agency pays the employee's deductibles through an HRA, ultimately saving the Agency money due to lower premiums and the fact that many employees do not use up that much of their deductible.

Charles Landi asked about union negotiations for healthcare costs, and if the contribution was going to stay at 20%.

Tim Rose stated that that is part of the Union contract, which is up for negotiation next year.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2491 RE: Approving Agreement with Marshall & Sterling Health, Dental, and Vison Plans for Employee Health Care Insurance. Moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

OLD BUSINESS

Charlie Whittaker stated that the Lowboy trailer was received.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed New Paltz Landfill Solar Project Presentation by Town of New Paltz Officials

Carol Lee introduced herself as a volunteer working on behalf of the Town of New Paltz on this project. Marty Irwin introduced himself as a Board Member for the Town of New Paltz.

Carol Lee explained that the Town of New Paltz owns a 189 acre parcel that contains the closed landfill, which UCRRA has helped manage of the years. She continued that the EPA did a study a few years ago to identify landfills that would be a suitable for a solar array, and New Paltz closed landfill was chosen as one of them. The Town of New Paltz with support from NYSERDA then put together an RFP to find an engineering firm to work on the project. They have since chosen a company called Sol Systems, and are in the process of signing a lease with them.

Carol Lee stated that the Town of New Paltz is seeking approval from the Agency as well as the DEC, since they have an agreement together.

She stated that the municipality and residents should be able to take advantage of the electricity generated.

Charles Landi voiced his concern that the Agency pays the bill for the electricity used by the leachate pumps at the landfill, and he thinks that the Agency should be able to use electricity generated from the solar array.

Lisa Mitten asked if the solar array is tied to the grid.

Carol Lee replied that it will be.

Carol Lee stated that this project will cost the Agency nothing, and that Sol Systems will be responsible for mowing and all other activities inside their fence line.

Carol Lee asked the Agency for a resolution showing support for the project, like the one that was created for the solar array at the Town of Ulster Landfill.

Tim Rose told the Board that the DEC will be looking for such a resolution before they move forward because the Agency holds the permit.

JoAnne Myers asked about the timeline.

Carol Lee responded that they are hoping to sign the lease with Sol Systems by the end of this year, and then they have a two year window to get everything in line to begin construction.

Kenneth Gilligan said he would like to see the lease when it's ready.

Tim Rose explained the shared services agreement for the mowing of the closed landfills.

Kenneth Gilligan explained the differences between this situation and the one with the Town of Ulster Landfill.

Neil Bettez said this solar array will provide electricity to about 1/3 of the population of New Paltz. He stated that about half of the solar panels will be on the ten acre cap, and some trees will be cleared.

Marty Irwin showed the Board a map of the landfill.

Neil Bettez said that the solar array will not be visible from Route 32 or the Thruway.

Katherine Beinkafner asked if the panels will be tracking.

Marty Irwin responded that they are stationary panels.

Katherine Beinkafner voiced her concern about tree removal.

Carol Lee responded that the people working on the project looked very carefully at the entire property, and eliminated areas that they felt were the most important in terms of biodiversity, and limited the solar company to only 20 acres. She continued that they have done walkthroughs with multiple ecologists to make sure they were choosing the right location. The area chosen is a second-growth forest that was previously farmland, and is the best choice compared to other areas considered.

Neil Bettez added that Sol Systems is also willing to work with the Town of New Paltz to make the landscape at the array pollinator friendly, among other environmental considerations such as wildlife friendly fencing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session an employee review/contract negotiations.

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:10pm.

There was no vote to close Executive Session.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2490 RE: Reappointment of Agency Attorney for Additional Two Years. Moved by JoAnne Myers and seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

CLOSING

Fred Wadnola motioned to adjourn the November 18, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

December 23, 2019

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the November 18, 2019 Regular Board Meeting was made by Fred Wadnola, moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Katherine Beinkafner. 5 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 absent. Absent: N/A

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant. Meetings are recorded and available upon request.

Signatures:

Fred Wadnola, Chair

Ken Gilligan, Secretary

Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant