

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2009**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on January 20, 2009 at 999 Flatbush Avenue, Town of Ulster, NY.

Roll Call for the Regular Board Meeting was at 4:35 pm.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Michelle Rodden, Treasurer Don DeBrosky, Member Steven Noble and Member Katherine Beinkafner. Vice Chairman Fred Wadnola was absent.

Also present were: Michael Bemis, Executive Director; Charles Whittaker, Materials Recovery Facility and Transportation Manager; Michelle Leggett, Recycling Coordinator; Timothy DeGraff, CPA, Agency Controller; and Counsel and Secretary Stephen Wing.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment was received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the December 16, 2008 Regular Board Meeting were approved as corrected . Four in favor one absent (Wadnola). 11/18/09 1 absent –Wadnola 6th paragraph Mike Bemis and Michelle Rodden instead of “Mike” and “Michelle”. Also correct for next paragraph.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Monthly Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 4:30pm.

GENERAL REPORTS

Mike Bemis described the press articles in the Times Herald Record and the Freeman on recycling and the Poughkeepsie Journal on DCRRA’s Net Service Fee. Steve Noble discussed that on behalf of the City of Kingston, he completed a grant request to pay for recycling bins.

Mike Bemis presented the general reports.

The Board received and reviewed the MSW Tonnage Report, the Recycling Tonnage Report and the Leachate Collection Report for January thru December, 2008. MSW Tonnage was approximately 130,000 tons for the year. We were behind by 7.8% as against our budget and a minor amount behind the tons received in 2007.

Mike Bemis reported that the Agency received 18,300 tons of all recyclables, 600 tons behind 2007. Steve Noble requested a report of waste and recyclables received from the municipalities.

The Leachate Collection Report shows a 2008 amount of 3,037,000 gallons, a 16% increase over the prior year. The total collected at the Ulster and New Paltz landfills in December was 357,000 gallons. The test results from Smith Labs on the quality of leachate generated at the landfills will be received by the Agency in the immediate future. A small landfill slide occurred in December at the Ulster Landfill and was temporarily mitigated. Future repairs will be required. Sterling Environmental is the consultant and they will provide recommendations in the spring.

Michelle Leggett notified the Board Members that she was scheduling a hazardous waste day for April 18 of this year. Transfer station data is being collected for the annual report to the NYSDEC. A new addition on the website allows members of the public to order stickers for their bins. Michelle Leggett presented new posters to the Board. She has conducted inspections of the school recycling programs and is working with the County government to update their programs.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tim DeGraff, who stated that operating revenues and expenses were down. The world economy has had an adverse impact on interest yields. Sale of recyclables declined dramatically in 2008. He will present the year-end report at the February meeting.

Resolution No. 2118 – Re: Authorizing, Approving and ratifying Further Amendment to Agreement with Santaro Development, LLC for Transportation and Disposal of Solid Waste;

Resolution moved by Micelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky

Steve Wing stated that this resolution and Resolutions 2119 and 2120 were amendments to existing agreements with three long haul companies which would bring their relationship with the Agency up to date. Santaro hauls waste to High Acres and Seneca Meadows, so updated pricing was put in the amendment, the agreement was extended to 12/31/09 and the number of mandatory trips was reduced to one per day. Longhorn's agreement was amended to extend it to 12/31/09 and to increase the price during 2009 as per the established rate. Finally, Sunshine's agreement was amended to include the 2009 increased hauling fee for deliveries to High Acres, which was not part of their existing agreement.

Vote: 4 in favor none opposed. 1 absent (Wadnola).

Resolution No. 2119 – Re: Authorizing, Approving and ratifying Further Amendment to Agreement with Longhorn Trucking Co., Inc. for Transportation and Disposal of Solid Waste;

Resolution moved by Michelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky. Vote: 4 in favor none opposed. 1 absent (Wadnola)

See explanation above.

Resolution No. 2120 – Re: Authorizing, Approving and ratifying Further Amendment to Agreement with Sunshine Bulk Commodities, Inc. for Transportation and Disposal of Solid Waste;

See explanation above.

Resolution moved by Michelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky. Vote: 4 in favor none opposed. 1 absent (Wadnola)

Resolution No. 2121 – Re: Payment of Requisition No.88 – Engineering Services- 2006 Construction Fund;

Resolution moved by Michelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky

This resolution is to pay Brinnier and Larios engineers for work previously authorized for Ulster Transfer Station improvements.

Vote: 4 in favor none opposed. 1 Absent (Wadnola).

Resolution No. 2122 – Re: Payment of Requisition No.89 – Leachate System Improvements-Bond Redemption and Improvement Fund;

Resolution moved by Michelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky.

This resolution authorizes payment of a portion of the fee of Dvirka and Bartilucci Engineers for work on the landfill leachate project. They are waiting to hear from us before they perform any further services.

Vote: 4 in favor none opposed. 1 absent (Wadnola)

Resolution No. 2123 – Re: Procurement of Landscape Architect Services;

Resolution moved by Michelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky.

This resolution authorizes the retention of a landscape architect firm for the screening work along the Ulster site's northern boundary. The Agency obtained proposals from three firms. The detail of its analysis was presented to the Board.

The Board discussed the proposals. MS4 responsibilities issues were raised. Hudson Pacific's proposal was accepted, with the caveat that the Agency presents a full discussion of their proposal and contract for Board review at its next meeting.

Vote 4 in favor none opposed. 1 absent (Wadnola).

Board Notification – Review of 2008 Overtime and Maintenance Expense Improvements;

The Agency was successful in reducing overtime for the third year in a row.

The Board discussed the situation with New Paltz closure on Saturdays in the winter. A reply came in from New Paltz opposing the closure. The letter was discussed. Agency staff was advised to respond to the letter, address the errors in the letter, and close the station on Saturdays January 1st through as previously planned.

The 2008 maintenance expense improvements were discussed by Mike Bemis. The Agency saved \$50,000 in budgeted expenses. Equipment and repair costs have been reduced for the third year in a row. Good equipment well maintained and safely driven reduces the cost of maintenance.

Board Notification - Implementation of Flex Spending Account;

Tim DeGraff advised that the agency has implemented a Flex spending plan which benefits employees by allowing them to spend pre-tax money for certain health care related expenses. The Agency saves a small amount of money also. 8 employees have signed up. This was a suggestion by Michelle Rodden. This benefit program is part of an Ulster County government program.

Board Notification – Review of 5-year Capital Plan;

The Agency must have a five year plan every year. This plan will be presented for vote by the Board at the next meeting. The proposed plan was reviewed by Mike Bemis. Steve Noble asked if staff had considered other recycling equipment, and asked what the sources of money for the capital plan would be.

Sources of funding for the Capital Plan are the Capital Fund, remaining funds in past bond issues, future bond issues, and the Bond Redemption and Improvement Fund. It is difficult to fund an equipment replacement out of the operating budget in the current economic times.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Board Discussion – Safety Performance Ratings:

Mike Bemis presented the Safety Performance Ratings card – no lost time or injuries were reported to OSHA for 2008. The newly formed Safety Committee should help continue this very positive trend.

Board Notification – Communications from Recycling Oversight Committee:

Katherine Beinkafner stated that no meetings were held recently. Steve Noble chaired the last meeting that was held. Steve responded to the e-mail from a committee member, by saying that he did not think that the Board’s function was to change the law but to see that people were complying with the law, so that the recycling rate would increase. People are having a difficult time getting to meetings.

Board Notification – Overview of Flow Control Law; Recent Developments:

Steve Wing presented an update on flow control. No significant actions have occurred. The conclusion of the Board was to keep a close watch on the status of flow control in the region before taking any further action.

ADJOURN

MOTION to Adjourn the January 20, 2009 meeting at 6:51 pm was approved unanimously.

The above transcribed Minutes of the January 20, 2009 Board Meeting were **APPROVED** by the Board
Vote: Aye _____ 4 _____ Nay _____ 0 _____ Abstain _____ 1 _____ (Wadnola)
Date: _____ February 17, 2009 _____