

**ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY**  
**May 10, 2023 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Board Members Present</b>	<b>B. Page, A. Bianchetti, D. Daley, J. Driscoll, C. Dunham, E. Gilligan, N. Jankowski, D. Lawless, J. McMahon, N. Zaccaria, L. Klosowski (via ZOOM)</b>
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	<b>L. Colon-Torres, S. Pasquale, R. Raman</b>
<b>Also Present:</b>	<b>M. Cirino, M. Mokrzycki, K. Lawton, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, C. Alburnio, J. Gascon, T. Palmer</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	

The May 10, 2023, Board meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Roll was taken. Quorum is present. L. Klosowski is attending via ZOOM, but he does not count towards the quorum and will not participate.

E. Gilligan moved and J. Driscoll seconded the approval of the April Board minutes.

Roll was called and the minutes were approved as submitted.

K. Spillane presented the Executive Director’s report.

- Earth Day was a great success. Approximately 100,000 lbs. of trash was collected.
- This past month the focus has been on completing projects at RCR.
  - The floor in building 3.
  - Improvements to the load out area in building 2.
- Efforts continue to be made in order to close on the property at Ley Creek.

Engineering Updates:

- Renewal of the Amboy compost permit is complete.
- The Optimization project work has been completed.
- Improvements in the floor drain for building 3 have been completed, prior to pouring the new topping.
- Moving forward – the Agency Engineer is working with Cornerstone for the Ley Creek Permitting Design.
- The Executive Director pointed out the success of using all of the available 2019 Bond funds and pointed out to the Board that this was primarily due to the diligent efforts of Cristina Alburnio. She worked hard to ensure that the transfer station rebuild was completed on time and under budget. Cristina then spearheaded efforts to use those left over funds to make additional improvements to the buildings, in the process making them more usable and durable.

Transfer Updates:

- With the Transfer Director position vacant, the Executive Director has been fulfilling those duties.
- New roll-off boxes have been obtained.
- The annual training for transfer is complete.
- Hauling times have been monitored to determine efficiency and goals have been set for drivers.
- Moving forward – second shift changes will be implemented to provide better coverage of daily activities during regular working hours in an effort to reduce overtime.

#### Recycling Updates:

- The State Solid Waste Management Plan has been reviewed by staff, Board and other partners to encourage comment submission to the NYSDEC by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Earth Day Litter Clean up was very successful.
- Annual recycling numbers have been received and reviewed. Historical data collected by M. Bianchetti were provided.
- Moving forward – The focus will be on continuing to meet with municipalities to help them consider the transition to carts.
  - The Agency is issuing another RFQ for alkaline battery recycling.
  - The Agency is preparing a grant submission to the Pollution Prevention Institute, focused on educating large businesses/restaurants in Onondaga County about the benefits of food scrap composting.

#### Public Information Updates:

- A video recapping the NYS Organics Summit tour of the Amboy Compost Site was shot and edited for use on social platforms.
- A second video was completed showcasing efforts to work with two community groups to solve problems facing the Food Bank of CNY. Transportation to de-package food to Utica and then hauling the food waste back to our compost site is not efficient. ARC of Onondaga will be utilized to solve this issue, creating jobs and saving on emissions from transport.
- Earth Day communications included a 30-minute interview with Cumulus Media that resulted in a full week of coverage for OCRRA.
- Moving forward the PIO will have to devote much of her time to preparing the summer newsletter, website upgrades with PHG and promoting OCRRA's compost/mulch as Mother's Day and gardening/landscaping is gearing up.

#### Outreach Updates:

- The U.S. EPA establishes emission standards for solid waste combustors and has created a minimum of those standards based on the maximum available technology or MACT.
- The EPA has announced that in March they were going to change the emission standards and significantly reduce NOx emissions.
- The Executive Director, by invitation, attended a meeting with EPA to discuss these changes and the potential detrimental financial impact of these changes to the Agency.

A discussion on the new standards followed.

A. Bianchetti asked for clarification on the term SOTS.

K. Spillane responded that SOTS – Southern Onondaga Trash System – is a collection of municipalities that have gathered together to collect trash.

K. Spillane also pointed out the new conference room and training space and hoped that the Board was pleased with the results of the office upgrades procured with the extension of the lease. He credited Mike Mokrzycki and Maureen Nosik for their work on making sure that the project moved forward, and especially Mike's efforts to see the improvements were complete, including the new furniture.

The **TREASURER'S** report was presented by M. Mokrzycki.

This report reflects March 2023 data.

- Tipping fees were slightly ahead of budget.
- Weather patterns have affected electricity rates. The March rate was 1.5c/kWh.
- Recycling costs continued to be elevated.
- The Agency's cash balance at the end of March was \$23.1M. Of that amount, approximately \$11M is

invested directly in US Treasury Bills.

- The Agency began the year with \$23.6M in cash reserves.

There was a brief discussion on electricity rates.

C. Dunham moved and A. Bianchetti seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Roll was called and the report was unanimously approved.

The **RECYCLING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** – report was presented by E. Gilligan.

- The committee met on April 19, 2023.
  - The committee discussed the NYS Solid Waste Management Plan and OCRRA's response to it. A resolution will be presented today regarding approval of those comments.
  - The committee discussed the Annual Recycling Report.
  - The committee discussed the purchase of a new Crambo Shredder for the compost site.
  - The committee discussed a resolution for the repair of the TANA shredder at RCR.
  - The committee discussed a resolution for the repairs to the 2016 Kenworth T880 tractors on truck #41 and #42.
  - C. Alunio gave an update on the Amboy Compost Wastewater Conveyance System and upcoming engineering projects related to the Ley Creek survey, demolition, and Geological Investigation.

**Resolution #2389 – Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency Board Resolution Urging New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to Consider the Impacts of the Draft Solid Waste Plan on Solid Waste Management in New York State** was moved by E. Gilligan and seconded by N. Zaccaria.

There was a brief discussion.

A friendly amendment will be made to grammatical errors in the resolution.

The resolution, with amendment, was adopted 9 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**Resolution #2390 – Resolution Authorizing the Repair of the Electric TANA Shredder at Rock Cut Road** was moved by E. Gilligan and seconded by J. Driscoll.

There was a brief discussion.

A friendly amendment will be made to include a 5% contingency clause.

The resolution, with amendment, was adopted 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain.

**Resolution #2391 – Resolution Authorizing Repairs to the 2016 Kenworth Y880 Tractor Trucks #41 and #42** was moved by E. Gilligan and seconded by D. Daley.

There was a brief discussion.

A friendly amendment will be made to include a 5% contingency clause.

The resolution, with amendment, was adopted 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain.

The **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** – update was presented by L. Klosowski.

- The committee discussed a resolution suspending the Agency’s COVID-19 response plan and workplace protocols.
- The committee discussed a resolution authorizing virtual Board member attendance.
- M. Mokrzycki presented the OCRRA 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report.
- The committee discussed a resolution to issue SEQRA notice of intent to serve as Lead Agency for the Ley Creek Project.

**Resolution #2392 – Resolution Suspending Agency’s Temporary COVID-19 Response Plan and Workplace Protocols** was moved by C. Dunham and seconded by J. McMahon.

E. Gilligan asked for clarification on sick pay. She believes that OCRRA should encourage employees to stay home if they have been diagnosed with COVID, without using sick time.

There was a brief discussion on sick time and sick pay.

M. Mokrzycki added that if a represented employee was required to quarantine, by a doctor due to COVID they would not have to use sick pay.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> the pandemic will be lifted in NYS.

D. Daley noted two typos in the resolution.

The resolution was adopted 8 ayes, 1 nays, 0 abstain.

**Resolution #2393 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Issue SEQRA Notice of Intent to Serve as Lead Agency for OCRRA’s Ley Creek Transfer Station Permit Renewal Application and Reconstruction of the Ley Creek Facility** was moved by C. Dunham and seconded by D. Lawless.

There was no further discussion.

The resolution was adopted 9 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstains.

B. Page presented a resolution that was tabled at the last Administration committee meeting. The resolution is to allow virtual Board members.

J. Gascon explained the requirements for virtual attendance.

1. The public is invited to attend the in-person Board/committee meeting.
2. There must be a quorum of Board members present for the in-person meeting where the public is invited to attend.
3. The members of the Board shall be physically present unless such member is unable to be physically present due to extraordinary circumstances.
4. The member attending virtually must be heard, seen and identified in the video conference.
5. The minutes of the meeting must be made available to the public.
6. Public notice for the meeting must inform the public that video conferencing will be used and a link for the public to participate in the same way as the Board members must be provided.
7. The meeting must be recorded and a link to the video conferencing must be posted to the Agency website within five (5) business days of the meeting and said link shall remain available for a minimum for five (5) business days thereafter.
8. The Agency must maintain its official website.

9. Members of the public must be allowed to view the meeting and participate in the proceedings of the meeting via videoconference in real time.

D. Daley asked if the Agency was capable of recording and posting video/audio of meetings.

K. Spillane responded that the Agency was capable of these requirements.

There was further discussion.

B. Page expressed concern for who would decide what would constitute an extraordinary circumstance for a Board member to attend virtually.

D. Daley asked if staff could participate virtually under current circumstances.

J. Gascon responded that Open Meetings Law only pertains to the Board members. Yes, staff can participate virtually without the passing of a resolution.

The Board unanimously decided, by show of hands, to table the resolution and to revisit this item in the future.

T. Palmer updated:

- The Mayor's Adopt-a-Block 2023 kickoff – clean up is tomorrow at 11:00am at the Northeast Community Center.

K. Lawton updated:

- L. Piering continues to meet with local municipalities regarding the switchover to carts.
- M. Bianchetti continues working on OCRRA's Solid Waste Management Plan updates.

M. Cirino updated:

- Board ABO training that is required every three years will begin soon.

C. Alburnio updated:

- All compost facilities are up to date with permitting.
- Building code compliance has been completed. There are some items to address, and they are underway.

M. Mokrzycki updated:

- Office renovations are complete. This is the first meeting in the new Board room. There are a few appliances and audio pieces to be added soon.

C. Dunham moved and J. McMahon seconded to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 5:20pm.

A unanimous aye voice vote was recorded.

The Board adjourned Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak