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ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
September 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present	B. Page, M. Jennings, D. Daley (Vice Chair), J. Driscoll, L. Rhadil, E. Bough Martin, A. Rodriguez, G. Popps, N. Zaccaria
Board Members Absent:	C. Dunham (Chair), N. Jankowski, D. Lawless, V. Mangan, R. Raman
Also Present:	M. Cirino, M. Mokrzycki, K. Lawton, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, J. Gascon, C. Alunio, D. Haas, M. Ballard Fortin
Guests:	

The September 11, 2024, Board meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

Roll was taken. Quorum is present. With the absence of Board Chair C. Dunham, Board Vice Chair D. Daley will conduct the meeting.

New Board member A. Rodriguez introduced herself and each of the Board members and staff introduced themselves.

B. Page motioned and G. Popps seconded to move the July 17th and August 14th Board meeting minutes.

Roll was called and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

K. Spillane presented the Executive Director report.

Engineering:

- Throughput issues continue. OCRRA has worked with Reworld, but the haulers are very frustrated with the long wait times and impact on their finances due to overtime.
- The permit renewal for Site 31 has begun.
- The Board will be considering a resolution accepting the conceptual site development plan for Ley Creek today.

Transfer and Compost:

- D. Haas has been working to resolve the waste disposal issues that have resulted from the throughput problem at the WTEF.
- D. Haas, A. Semabia and M. Bianchetti have been working together to address a recent Notice of Violation received for both compost sites.

Recycling:

- The recycling team and Public Information Officer continue to meet with the City of Syracuse team members to maximize outreach and education on recycling rules as the fall recycling cart roll out approaches.
- OCRRA has conducted an in-person training session for all CityLine employees to provide them with a digital reference guide that focuses answers to the FAQs they received pertaining to trash/recycling.
- In August, the recycling team said good-bye to the summer interns. They were a pleasure to work

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with and provided some more needed support this season.

Public Information:

- Work on the multilingual page of the OCRRA website has been finalized.
- The Recycling Guide is currently being converted into other languages.
- Promotions for the Mercury Thermometer & Vape collection Event including finalizing digital ads are in circulation.
- A long-form video, explaining how plastics needs to be sorted by shape at the curb has been completed.

Engagement, Outreach and New Opportunities:

- The Agency has met again with the County Executive's team regarding Ley Creek and their possible financial support for our project.
- Engagement with local communities in New York that have WTEF has met to discuss the upcoming changes to emission standards in New York and the country.

A brief discussion regarding the new recycling carts followed.

The **TREASURER REPORT** was presented by M. Mokrzycki.

- This report reflects data from July 2024.
- Tipping fees have rebounded.
- The electricity rate was 2.8c/kWh.
- Expenses, including landfilling and maintenance costs, continue to exceed planned amounts.
- The Agency began the year at \$21.9M in cash reserves.
- At the end of July, the Agency had \$15.7M of operating cash and \$5.1M of Board Designated Cash – for a total of \$20.8M.
- The Agency has paid the MRF \$288,657.
- The Agency has collected \$534,371 in recycling tipping fees.

There was no further discussion.

The **RECYCLING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** report was presented by D. Daley

Resolution #2454 – Resolution Amending Resolution 2428 of January 2024 Authorizing Executive Director to Contract for Private Hauling Services was moved by D. Daley and seconded by G. Poppo.

B. Page asked if this increase would be enough to accommodate demand.

D. Haas explained that it was hard to be certain, but this amount should take us through the end of the year.

A. Rodriguez asked if there was an alternative use for the ash that is produced as a byproduct from the WTEF.

C. Albanio added that NYS was considering an alternative use but that much testing would still need to be done.

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

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Resolution #2455 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Enter into Contract for Existing Ley Creek Transfer Station Demolition and Site Restoration was moved by D. Daley and seconded by G. Poppo.

The was a brief discussion regarding the bids that had been submitted.

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

Resolution #2456 – Resolution Authorizing Agency’s Executive Director to Enter into Contract for Purchase of Prepaid Fluorescent Bulb Shipping Boxes/Recycling Services – 2024 was moved as amended by D. Daley and seconded by G. Poppo.

The language in the resolved clause is unclear and will be amended to reflect the total number of boxes needed to complete the current calendar year.

The resolution, as amended was adopted 9 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Resolution #2457 – Resolution Authorizing Agency’s Executive Director to Enter into Contract for Purchase of Prepaid Fluorescent Bulb Shipping Boxes / Recycling Services – 2025 was moved by D. Daley and seconded by L Rhadil.

B. Page asked if the Agency should purchase more in bulk while the prices are low.

K. Lawton responded that we should not buy more than we are anticipating on using.

Resolution #2458 – Resolution Authorizing Agency’s Executive Director to Enter into Contract for Collection and Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste and Toxins was moved by D. Daley and seconded by G. Poppo.

B. Page asked for clarity on the price increase from 2025 and 2026.

K. Lawton responded that the price increase is 10% and the total cost incurred by OCRRA is 50% grant eligible from the NYSDEC.

K. Lawton also mentioned that the Agency pays Miller Environmental per carload and therefore requires that each community resident bring more than one item in for disposal/recycling.

The resolution was adopted 9 aye, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Resolution #2459 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Contract with Barton & Loguidice Engineers for Permit Renewal of Site 31 Landfill Site was moved by D. Daley and seconded by M. Jennings.

B. Page asked if all bids that are submitted be made accessible to the Board.

C. Albunio responded with an explanation/breakdown of the bids received regarding this resolution.

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

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N. Zaccaria abstained – she is a resident and appointee of Van Buren.

The **LEY CREEK PLANNING ADHOC COMMITTEE** report was presented by B. Page.

- The committee discussed a resolution accepting the Cornerstone conceptual design and preliminary feasibility report for Ley creek.
- The committee was updated on Ley Creek – next steps.
- The committee was updated on Strategic Planning.

Before B. Page presents the resolution, he mentioned that the report was not included in the Board packet for today and the Board was not made aware of its existence on the Board Portal and therefore he is uncomfortable asking Board members that are not on the Ley Creek Adhoc committee to vote on proposed resolution without having read the report or have the full information to support the resolution.

Resolution #2460 – Resolution Accepting AND Approving the Cornerstone Conceptual Design & Preliminary Feasibility Report the Additional Property at Ley Creek – was introduced and a discussion followed.

B. Page suggested that he is inclined to table the resolution until the Board members can review the report.

D. Daley reminded the Board that this vote is to simply accept the preliminary report on design and feasibility study. This is not final and is subject to refinement and comment and has no financial commitment to it. This resolution does not give consent to any final phases or future development costs.

Each Board member gave their opinion on whether the resolution should be tabled or voted on.

C. Albunio spoke about the next steps in the project once the feasibility study was accepted

K. Spillane reminded the Board that each committee is designed to review, discuss, approve or deny agenda items before they are presented to the full Board for approval and that the full Board relies on the recommendations from the committees to make decisions on resolutions put forward from that committee. The Board briefs, that accompany all resolutions, are written to give those Board members not on a committee the information that was considered to bring the resolution forward for their consideration.

B. Page moved and A. Rodriguez seconded to table the resolution.

2 ayes, 7 nays, 0 abstain.

The resolution to table the Resolution failed.

The Board will now vote on approval of the resolution as originally presented.

The resolution was moved and seconded.

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

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The **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** report was presented by B. Page.

- The committee discussed OCRRA's Draft 2025 Budget.
- The committee was presented with the next step in Strategic Planning.
- The committee discussed small contracts.

M. Cirino:

- Ethics training will be held for all new Board members.
- Vendor review audit is nearly complete.

T. Palmer:

- New video being released regarding recycling plastics by shape.
- B. Page is featured in the OCRRA Newsletter.

K. Lawton:

- The Department of Energy – OCRRA has applied for a grant to help with our battery program.
- The Mercury and Vape take-back event is this weekend.

G. Pops moved, and J. Driscoll seconded to adjourn the meeting.

A unanimous 'aye' voice vote was recorded.

The Board adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak