

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
January 08, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present	E. Bough Martin, D. Daley, J. Driscoll, C. Dunham, L. Hradil, M. Jennings, V. Magnan, B. Page, G. Popp, A. Rodriguez, B. Sekarore, B. Stacer, J. Wood, N. Zaccaria
Board Members Absent:	N. Jankowski,
Also Present:	M. Mokrzycki, K. Lawton, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, C. Albunio, J. Gascon, D. Haas, T. Palmer, B. Cole, M. Fortin
Guests:	

The January 08, 2025 Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll was taken. Quorum is present.

The new Board members, B. Sekarore, J. Wood and B. Stacer introduced themselves.

K. Spillane introduced B. Cole, the new Compost Manager, Organics Supervisor for OCRRA.

D. Daley motioned and G. Popp seconded to move the October 09, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

Roll was called and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

K. Spillane presented the Executive Director report.

- K. Spillane reflected on the past three years. Focusing on the Strategic Plan.
- Engineering:
 - C. Albunio has been working with Cornerstone to develop a proposal for the final design of the main transfer facility for Ley Creek.
 - C. Albunio has also been reviewing the proposed agreement from Reworld for the potential deferral in the maintenance of the turbine at the WTE facility from 2025 to 2026.
 - A kick-off meeting for the demolition of Ley Creek was completed.
 - There was a scheduled update meeting with all parties on the landfill feasibility study for the Wastebeds.
- Transfer and Compost:
 - Both the Transfer Director and Assistant Transfer Director have been continuing to deal with the bypass of waste from transfer to lessen the impact of waste at the WTE facility.
 - They have also begun to eliminate the flat rate for our commercial customers and weigh all items across the scale.
 - A new system has been implemented at RCR to weigh all vehicles.
- Recycling:
 - The recycling Department continues to balance various tasks formerly managed by our Recycling Operations Manager.
 - The Recycling Director oversaw the second bi-annual MRF audit of 2024.
 - Work continues to complete the Annual Recycling Report which is due to the NYSDEC by the end of March 2025.
 - The Recycling department attended the NYS Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3)

conference in November.

- The Agency is working to hire someone to fill the role of the Recycling Operations Manager.
- Public Information:
 - The winter newsletter has been wrapped up.
 - A large-scale e-mail blast went out to dozens of zip codes that already have recycling carts, to remind them of the recycling rules and encourage them to download or print our recycling guides.
 - There was also a television segment with props to review shipping and packaging material reminders to get ahead of the shopping season.
- Engagement, Outreach and New Opportunities:
 - The Executive Director was in Long Island to meet with several communities that also have a WTE facility for their primary method of waste disposal and to recruit them in membership with Onondaga County in a new Waste to Energy Coalition.
 - EPA announced that they are delaying the MACT floor ruling for setting the new emission standard until December 20, 2024.
 - M. Mokrzycki and K. Spillane have met with the Town Supervisor of the Town of Salina to discuss the grant that OCRRA is submitting for part of the cost of construction of Ley Creek.

There was a brief discussion regarding credit cards usage.

There was a brief discussion regarding filling vacant positions at OCRRA.

K. Spillane reminded the Board that there will be a brief meeting with counsel after the adjournment of this meeting.

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

- This report reflects data from October 2024.
- Tipping volumes rebounded from September.
- The electricity rate was 2.4c/kWh.
- The Agency began the year with \$21.9M in cash reserves.
- At the end of October, the Agency had \$15.6M of operating cash.
- The Agency had \$5.1M of Board designated cash.
- The Agency has paid the MRF \$420,323.
- The Agency has billed haulers approximately \$820,000 in residential recycling fees.

There was no further discussion.

G. Popp motioned and E. Bough Martin seconded to approve the Treasurer Report.

Roll was taken and the report was accepted.

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

- The committee discussed the change to flat rate at RCR.
- The committee moved a resolution for food de-packaging.
- The committee was updated on OCRRA's 2026 Strategic Plan.

Resolution #2479 – Resolution Authorizing Contract for Food Depackaging Services was moved by D. Daley and seconded by G. Popp.

There was an amendment made to the Resolved clause of the resolution to reflect the term of service.

The resolution, as amended was adopted 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

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

- The committee moved a resolution to elect Agency Officers for 2025.
- The committee moved a resolution adopting salary adjustments for non-represented employees.
- The committee moved a resolution for the Agency's Workers Compensation renewal.
- The committee was updated on the 2026 Strategic Plan with an Executive Summary and the committee moved a resolution adopting the 2026 Strategic Plan.

Resolution #2480 – Resolution Adopting Salary Adjustments for Non-Represented Employees for Year 2025 was moved by B. Page and seconded by G. Popps.

There was a brief discussion on which employees were covered by the Union and which were non-represented staff.

The resolution was adopted 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Resolution #2481 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Purchase a Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy for the Agency for a One (1) Year Period was moved B. Page and seconded by G. Popps.

There was a brief discussion regarding OCRRA's experience rating.

The resolution was adopted 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Resolution #2482 – Resolution Accepting the OCRRA 2026 Strategic Plan was moved by B/ Page and seconded by E. Bough Martin.

B. Page reminded the new Board members to please ask questions regarding the Strategic Plan.

The resolution was adopted 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Resolution #2483 – Resolution Electing OCRRA Officers for 2025 was moved by B. Page and seconded by G. Popps.

B. Page thanked those that volunteer to fill open positions and encouraged others to volunteer in the future.

Results:

Chair – C. Dunham 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Vice Chair – D. Daley 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Treasurer – M. Jennings 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Secretary – R. Czerwiak 14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Staff Updates :

D. Haas:

- Working on implementing new flat rate.
- Working on bypass of waste as the planned outages occur in January.

C. Albunio:

- A lot of changes have taken place at Reworld.
- There was a lot of unplanned downtime at the WTE Facility this year and OCRRA is working to help prevent those issues in 2025.
- OCRRA will be working with the Recycling and Operations committee to determine what will be the best way to maneuver through any challenges that come up in 2025.

B. Page asked about the pit levels.

C. Albunio responded that the pits were at good levels for this time of year.

T. Palmer

- Camillus has given OCRRA a larger space to place the recycling guide.
- Over 40 media appearances have been completed this year.
- The winter Newsletter is out.

K. Lawton

- There has been a lot of changes with the battery recycling and updates to our program .
- A number of grants are in process.

M. Fortin

- OCRRA has a small to moderate staff at the end of 2024.
- OCRRA lost about 10% through resignation and retirement but was able to refill many of these same positions throughout the year.
- Positions are being filled as they become available.

R. Czerwiak

- End of year documents will be sent out in the next few weeks.

G. Popps moved, and E. Bough Martin seconded to adjourn the meeting.

A unanimous 'aye' voice vote was recorded.

The Board adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak