

09ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
April 09, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present	E. Bough Martin, C. Dunham, L. Hradil, N. Jankowski, M. Jennings, V. Mangan, B. Page, G. Popps, B. Sekarore, J. Wood, D. Daley, J. Driscoll, B. Stacer
Board Members Absent:	A. Rodriguez
Also Present:	M. Cirino, M. Mokrzycki, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, C. Albunio, D. Haas, T. Palmer
Guests:	D. Quackenbush – new Board member (not yet sworn in)

The April 09, 2025, Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

C. Dunham acknowledges that D. Quackenbush is present. He has not yet been sworn in, but is the newest Board member, representing Van Buren.

Roll was taken. Quorum is present.

Each Board member and OCRRA staff introduced themselves.

D. Daley motioned and B. Page seconded to move the March 12, 2025, Board meeting minutes.

Roll was called and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

K. Spillane presented the Executive Director report.

- Earth Day is fast approaching.
- OCRRA is preparing for the Spring outage at Reworld.
- Outlined concerns that the WTF is very full and had to start bypassing waste from Transfer
- Costs for bypass will potentially exceed the entire 2025 budgeted amount for outside haulers
- Further discussion on the impact of the outage on Transfer Operations will be discussed at the Recycling& Operations Committee
- **Engineering:**
 - Tonight the Board will be reconsidering the resolution approving the final design for the Ley Creek project that was tabled last month.
 - Throughput continues to be an issue.
- **Transfer and Compost:**
 - Many new pieces of equipment have been received.
 - D. Haas and A. Semabia continue working to formulate a plan to address the upcoming WTE outage in April and the cold iron outage.
 - B. Cole and the compost team have been working to get ready for the start of the season at Jamesville and the addition of the Saturday hours at Amboy.
 - D. Haas has now taken over the direct supervision of the Compost Manager, providing guidance and orientation.

- **Recycling:**
 - L. Piering, P. Bell, K. Lawton and with help from T. Palmer, and B. Cole, spent the early part of March preparing for the Home and Garden show.
 - The entire recycling team is deep into Earth Day preparations.
 - In mid-March B. Height joined the OCRRA team as our new Recycling Operations Manager.
- **Public Information:**
 - The Public Information Officer, along with the Recycling team spent a significant part of the month prepping for the Home & Garden Show.
 - T. Palmer has also spent a great deal of time reviewing the searchable database for rewrites and adding visuals while also finalizing the contract for the Amazon Alexa to be added as an additional search tool.
 - Earth Day promotions continue.
 - The Annual report has been finalized.
 - T. Palmer has been working with the MOST on their upcoming exhibit to ensure that they have the information they need on recycling and food waste diversion.
- **Engagement, Outreach and New Opportunities:**
 - K. Lawton has prepared a letter to be presented to our legislators in support of a bill, A. 4641 / S. 73, which is an amendment to the NYS Rechargeable Battery Law. The amendment would fix a major concern with the current law which is the exclusion of e-mobility batteries from the law.

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

- This report reflects February data.
- Tipping revenues were approximately 9% lower than budgeted.
- The electricity rate was 6.4c/kWh.
- The Agency began the year with \$21.8M in cash reserves.
- At the end of February, the Agency had \$15.5M of operation cash and \$5.1M of Board Designated Cash for a total of \$20.6M.
- The Agency has paid the MRF \$ 112,567 for residential recycling.
- The Agency has collected \$45,000 from the haulers for residential recycling.

There was a brief discussion regarding cash flow.

D. Daley motioned and B. Page seconded to approve the Treasurer Report.

Roll was taken and the report was accepted.

The **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** report was presented by C. Dunham.

- There was an error in the attendance listing. R. Czerwiak will correct that.
- The committee gave an annual review of OCRRA's Corporate Governance Principles.
- The committee discussed a resolution authorizing virtual Board member attendance.

The **RECYCLING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** report was presented by L. Hradil

- The committee discussed the Annual Recycling Report for 2024.
- C. Albuino updated the committee on scheduled maintenance at the WTEF and the impact on Transfer Operations.
- T. Palmer updated the committee with new technology through the use of the Alexa app.

- K. Lawton updated the committee on a memorandum urging the extension to the NYS Mercury

Thermostat Collection Act and to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to rechargeable battery recycling.

The Board will reconsider a resolution that was tabled in March.

There was a brief discussion on the cold iron outage.

Resolution#2500 – Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Cornerstone Engineering and Geology for the Final Design of the Ley Creek Transfer Station was moved by D. Daley and seconded by M. Jennings.

C. Albunio explained the importance of the resolution and to the timeline of the Ley Creek project.

C. Albunio mentioned that the DEC has made comments on the permit application and the comments were benign but helpful to move forward.

The Board discussed funding.

The Board discussed the timeframe.

The Board discussed projected costs in just the Transfer Station part of the project.

The Board discussed the possibility of external investments to this project.

The resolution was adopted 13 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Board members that had arrived late introduced themselves to D. Quackenbush.
Staff Updates :

M Cirino

- ABO information on our website has been updated.

C. Albunio

- OCRRA's WTE Engineer contract with HDR will expire this June.

D. Haas

- Has been working with C. Albunio to track waste amounts from the WTEF – waste amounts for March were higher than February.

V. Magnan asked if the Agency had eliminated cash from the system.

M. Mokrzycki responded that there is no plan in the near future to completely eliminate cash from the OCRRA system. OCRRA does accept cash, checks or cards as payment.

The Board discussed wait times at RCR and how OCRRA has changed entrance traffic flow in an attempt to relieve wait times.

T. Palmer

- Amazon Alexa is in the works! There will be a searchable database for residents to access information on recycling and disposal in Onondaga County.
- An app creator is working on this for no cost.

R. Czerwiak

- All Board Evaluation forms and Financial disclosure forms are due.

D. Daley added that he has just got back from the NYS Organics Summit and was impressed with the event and what was offered and that OCRRA had sponsored three employees to attend.

There was a brief discussion on food waste and the requirements for waste reduction and composting.

V. Mangan moved, and J. Driscoll seconded to adjourn the meeting.

A unanimous 'aye' voice vote was recorded.

The Board adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak