

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

May 14, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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| Board Members Present | E. Bough Martin, D. Daley, C. Dunham, L. Hradil, M. Jennings, B. Page, G. Popps, D. Quackenbush, J. Wood |
| Board Members Absent: | J. Driscoll, N. Jankowski, V. Mangan, A. Rodriguez, B. Sekarore, B. Stacer |
| Also Present: | M. Cirino, M. Mokrzycki, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, C. Albunio, D. Haas, T. Palmer, K. Lawton |
| Guests: | S. Morgan – Private Hauler, |

The May 14, 2025, Board meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

Roll was taken. Quorum is present.

A member of the public is present, S. Morgan from Morgan Rubbish and Dependable Disposal.

- S. Morgan is here today to express his concerns with the shut down of the WTE facility and RCR transfer station last week.
- There has been substantial loss of income.
- Employees have submitted resignation.
- From his perspective, there was no plan in place to efficiently deal with this situation.
- S. Morgan mentioned repairs to the tipping floor.

K. Spillane responded:

- OCRRA shares S. Morgan's frustration with Reworld.
- This shutdown was unprecedented.

B. Page stated that this situation should be used as an example as to why the reconstruction of Ley Creek is so important.

C. Dunham added that this is not a hypothetical anymore – “what would happen if the WTE facility was shut down? It's happened. We need a plan now.”

S. Morgan asked if OCRRA had a contingency plan that included partnering with other area landfills to accept waste should this happen again, and why they were unable to do so now.

K. Spillane explained that OCRRA does have a contract with Seneca Meadows and High Acres for emergency handling of up to 250,000 tons of MSW annualized. However, flow control restricts private/municipal haulers from sending this waste to these facilities directly and it needs to be transferred which then necessitates the need for additional transfer capacity such as Ley Creek.

Further, within 30 hours OCRRA was able to switch operations, and OCRRA took in over 900 tons with no issue or delay to any of the MSW haulers. Then, within two days, the WTE facility was back up and running and the transfer station was open and available for their regular commercial haulers and residents.

C. Dunham introduced Hanah Ehreneich. She is a former OCRRA Board member. She is running for Syracuse Common Councilor. H. Ehreneich is concerned with waste sustainability and is a proponent of flow control.

There was a brief discussion about flow control law.

B. Page motioned and G. Popps seconded to move the April 09, 2025, Board meeting minutes.

Roll was called and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

K. Spillane will be deferring his report to M. Mokrzycki. K. Spillane reiterated that M. Mokrzycki, D. Haas, Cristina Alburio and all staff worked together and did a tremendous job during the outage to ensure that no waste was left on the streets.

M. Mokrzycki presented an update regarding the shutdown.

- Haulers did a great job, even though they were frustrated, working through the process.
- The facility was in a cold iron outage which means that all three boilers were shut down while maintenance was done, but one of the parts that was being replaced failed, which required the entire facility to be shut down, and then the second replacement part failed as well.
- The entire tipping floor became overwhelmed and was full and the facility had to be shut down to all users because they were unable to process any waste.
- The first day of closure, OCRRA cleared the tipping floor of several hundreds of tons of material at the Waste to Energy facility and also cleared out the largest building at Rock Cut Transfer in anticipation of using transfer temporarily during the outage.
- Over 1400 tons of material was moved from the WTE facility tipping floor.
- Over 900 tons of material was moved from RCR.
- When the WTE facility resumed operation OCRRA was very concerned that pent up need from the community would overwhelm the facility, and OCRRA staff were at the WTE facility on the first two days of the resumption of operations directing traffic and rerouting customers to the Transfer Station when the WTE facility line would slow down or wait times increased.
- Now that OCRRA has experienced this, OCRRA will give 'next steps' to the Board in the near future.
- Preliminary April numbers:
 - MSW for the month was approximately 12% lower than the previous year. That is approximately \$300,000 in revenue.
 - Landfill costs were up approximately \$200,000.
 - Approximately \$80,000 loss in contract hauling was spent during this shutdown.
 - Approximately \$80,000 loss in electric revenue.

There was a brief discussion on the part that had failed.

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

- This report reflects March results.
- Tipping revenues were in line with budgeted expectations.
- The electricity rate was 3.4c/kWh.
- Repair and maintenance costs continue to be challenging.
- The Agency began the year with \$21.8M in cash reserves.
- The end of March, the Agency had \$16.9M of operating cash and \$5.1M of Board designated cash for a total of \$22M.
- The Agency has billed the haulers \$166,000 for residential recycling.
- The Agency has paid the MRF \$174,538 for residential recycling.

G. Popp motioned and L. Hradil seconded to approve the Treasurer Report.

Roll was taken and the report was accepted.

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

- The committee discussed a resolution approving a one-year extension with the WTE consultant Engineer, HDR.
- The committee discussed a resolution authorizing a contract for private hauling services.
- The committee discussed the RCR/WTE facility shutdown.

Resolution#2501 – Resolution Authorizing the executive Director to Execute a One Year Contract Extension for Consulting Engineer Services for the WTE Facility was moved by L. Hradil and seconded by D. Daley.

B. Page asked that the term be specified in the resolved clause.

That edit will be made.

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

Resolution #2502 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Contract for Private Hauling Services was moved by L. Hradil and seconded by D. Daley.

B. Page mentioned that the resolution mentions an attached chart that is not included in this packet.

The chart will be distributed to the Board and attached to the resolution.

There was a brief discussion on the bids received.

There was a discussion on utilizing emergency hauling during another possible shutdown.

There was a discussion on the prospect of Ley Creek and how that design will really help in another emergency situation like this.

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

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

- B. Page was absent at this meeting – he was listed as present
- The committee discussed the waste disposal interruption that had occurred last week.
- The committee paused for a meeting with Counsel.
- The committee reviewed the Annual Procurement Policy.
- The committee reviewed the 1st Quarter Investment Report.

C. Dunham asked if any staff members had any updates.

K. Lawton:

- The Recycling team has been meeting with a consulting firm to discuss EPR and packaging.
- The first of two MRF audits has been completed in early May.

T. Palmer:

- OCRRA is working on a compost revamp. Resources on how to compost at home and other information is available.

The Board meeting was adjourned and a meeting with Counsel followed after the meeting.

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

A unanimous 'aye' voice vote was recorded.

The Board adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak