

**ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY**  
**June 11, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Board Members Present</b>	<b>E. Bough Martin, C. Dunham, L. Hradil, M. Jennings, V. Mangan, B. Page, D. Quackenbush, A. Rodriguez, J. Wood</b>
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	<b>D. Daley, G. Popps, B. Sekarore, B. Stacer</b>
<b>Also Present:</b>	<b>M. Cirino, M. Mokrzycki, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, C. Albunio, D. Haas, T. Palmer, K. Lawton</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	

The June 11, 2025, Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll was taken. Quorum is present.

K. Spillane presented the Executive Director’s report.

- Operations at the WTEF continue to be challenging.
- A settlement regarding the flue insurance claim has been reached.

**Engineering:**

- The Director of Engineering has been addressing concerns that OCRRA has had at the WTEF.
- Final design on Ley Creek continue.
- Renewal of the Site 31 permit and the feasibility study at the Wastebeds are moving forward.

**Transfer and Compost:**

- During the month of May OCRRA’s Transfer Director was able to maintain the two main building at RCR despite the inundation of waste and the required transfer of waste away from the WTEF.
- Transfer has also received additional equipment this past month, including five new trailers.
- The first compost inspection has been completed since last fall. Both Jamesville and Amboy passed and the NYDEC representative said that the sites looked exceptional in comparison to last year.

**Recycling:**

- In May, the Recycling Director, Recycling Operations Manager, and Recycling Specialist attended the Federation of NY Solid Waste Association Conference in Bolton Landing, NY.
- B. Height, Recycling Manager, has suggested areas of safety improvement and is working in collaboration with staff to implement them.
- The Recycling Director has been working behind the scenes to advocate for EPR for Packaging and Paper Products through involvement with the NY Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) as secretary for the state-wide organization; reaching out to legislatures to convey the dire need for EPR for packaging/sharing our trash crisis and financial need for recycling support that EPR would bring.

**Public Information:**

- The Public Information Officer worked on and debuted a new DIY compost page.
- T. Palmer also completed the final stages of the summer newsletter for print in May.
- There is a new May giveaway campaign that has increased social media follows significantly, roughly quadrupling our Instagram followers in a few weeks.

### **Engagement, Outreach and New Opportunities:**

- The Executive Director traveled to Albany at the end of May, representing both OCRRA and as President of the NY Waste to Energy Coalition. He met with 10 members of both the Assembly and Senate.

There was a brief discussion on compost volumes and increased sales.

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

- This report reflects April results.
- Tipping volumes for April were lower than budgeted.
- The electricity rate was 3.2c/kWh in March.
- Landfill costs were significant.
- The Agency began the year with \$21.8M in cash reserves.
- At the end of April the Agency had \$15.3M of operating cash and \$5.1M of Board designated cash for a total of \$20.4M.
- The Agency has billed haulers approximately \$255,000 in residential recycling tipping fees.
- The Agency has paid the MRF \$238,622 in residential recycling tipping fees.

L. Hradil motioned and V. Mangan 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 the WM/RA audit results. K. Lawton gave a brief on the subject.
- The committee discussed a resolution for private hauling services. D. Haas gave a brief on the subject.

There was a brief discussion on recycling markets and plastics.

L. Hradil asked if D. Haas had the individual cost breakdown for each hauler.

**Resolution#2503 – Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Contract for Private Hauling Services** as moved by L. Hradil and seconded by J. Wood.

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

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

- The committee discussed a resolution to contract for appraisal services for the WTEF. M. Mokrzycki gave a brief on the subject.
- The committee discussed a resolution to settle insurance claim for the 2023 flue failure.
- The committee discussed a resolution to change the Agency's Civil Service Roster.
- The committee discussed a resolution for disposal of asbestos containing material from Ley Creek. C. Albunio gave a brief of the subject.
- The committee was updated on new Employee Handbook updates.
- The committee reviewed the small contracts report.
- The committee entered Executive Session to discuss Agency Legal Services.

**Resolution #2504 – Resolution Authorizing Agency's Executive Director to Enter into a Contract for**

**Appraisal Services** was moved by B. Page and seconded by E. Bough Martin.

There was no further discussion.

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

**Resolution #2505 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Settle Insurance Claim Related to 2023 Flue Failure** was moved by B. Page and seconded by E. Bough Martin.

There was a brief discussion regarding the settlement.

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

**Resolution #2506 – Resolution Authorizing Change to the Agency’s Civil Service Roster** was moved by B. Page and seconded by E. Bough Martin.

There was no further discussion.

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

**Resolution #2507 – Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Asbestos Containing Material From Ley Creek Demolition** was moved by B. Page and seconded by L. Hradil.

There was no further discussion.

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

The Board minutes from May were moved by B. Page seconded by V. Mangan.

Roll was taken and the minutes were approved.

K. Lawton updated the Board on EPR for packaging, noting that S1464 has passed the Senate and is awaiting consideration in the Assembly. She encouraged attendees to visit the QR code in the report to locate their NYS Assemblymember and use the template letter to request they support the bill before the session ends next week.

.M. Mokrzycki reminded the Board the ‘Budget Season’ is around the corner. There will be workshops available to any Board member who would like to attend.

T. Palmer updated the Board on all social media/radio/you tube posts and how those platforms are doing with the community. Palmer says she focused more attention than usual on social media in spring with hopes of seeing if the extra time resulted in a notable difference. In April, the Facebook page got more than a million views, two to four times the normal level. She believes it is a combination of regular posts about Earth Day, many featuring cleanup crews, the temporary Rock Cut Road closure and updates about Ley Creek on the heels of our media day – in which about a dozen stories appeared in local media outlets.

Palmer says she later visited multiple groups during the Earth Day Litter Cleanup to show OCRRA’s presence and support. She created a video thanking them and announcing the results.

There was a contest in May that quadrupled followers on Instagram, a newer platform for OCRRA that needed a boost. Facebook, a more established platform for OCRRA, also grew by a few hundred followers. Normally, the platform may get a follower every other day or so because it already has a good base of followers. There is one more contest in June that continues to bring new followers. It strategically requires

them to open our recycling rules to get an entry.

Palmer also reviewed the latest newsletter, which has a spread about DIY composting that she says has a QR code leading back to a new DIY composting web page on OCRRA.org that was designed to educate people about food waste and inspire them to compost in their own backyards. Palmer said if the Board's desire for a compost specialist is reached, they would be able to make the page their own.

L. Hradil asked about partnering with municipalities for social media. Palmer said OCRRA gets a lot of shares from local municipalities looking for educational content to share on their pages.

V. Mangan asked about popularity of social media videos. Palmer said video is her background and she'd love to do more videos but cannot do it as much as she'd like without the addition of a communications specialist because of her current workload beyond social media.

M. Cirino is working on record retention requirements and old office files.

Kevin closed with a reminder that OCRRA will be having their annual Appreciation BBQ in August. OCRRA Board members and family as well as OCRRA staff are welcome to attend!

A. Rodriguez moved, and L. Hradil 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