

**ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY**  
**February 14, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Board Members Present</b>	<b>B. Page, A. Bianchetti, L. Colon-Torres, D. Daley, J. Driscoll, C. Dunham, E. Gilligan, N. Jankowski, D. Lawless</b>
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	<b>J. McMahon, G. Popps, N. Zaccaria, R. Raman</b>
<b>Also Present:</b>	<b>M. Cirino, M. Mokrzycki, K. Lawton, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, J. Gascon, C. Albuino, T. Palmer</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	

The February 14, 2024, Board meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Roll was taken. Quorum is present.

E. Gilligan moved E. Gilligan and B. Page seconded the approval of the December Board minutes.

Roll was called and the minutes were approved as submitted.

K. Spillane announced that as of today OCRRA has hired a Transfer Direct and Assistant Director.

K. Spillane presented the Executive Director’s report which outlined the following:

- Flue repair continues at Covanta.
- Compost is being bagged Amboy, preparing for the season.
- OCRRA is maintaining our facilities at Rock Cut transfer as we are in full bypass of all materials away from the waste to energy facility.
- The annual audit is underway.

Engineering:

- The Agency is working with Covanta on the flue repairs.
- The forensic expert has been onsite overseeing the project.
- Costs discussions continue with Covanta.
- The landfill study at the Waste Beds, the waste conveyance system at Amboy, and the safety and heating and ventilation improvements at Rock Cut Road are all moving forward.

Transfer and Compost:

- Waste bypass continues while repairs are being made at Covanta.
- Several potential candidates have been interviewed for the Transfer Director and Assistant Direct positions.

Recycling:

- The Recycling team continues to meet with municipalities to advise about OCRRA’s remaining blue bin stock, offer guidance into switching to carts and grant opportunities.
- The Director of Recycling is working with the County to write a two-year extension request for our Local Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Data is being collected for the annual recycling report for 2023. The results will be presented at the March Recycling and Operations committee meeting.

Public Information:

- Earth Day promotions have begun.
- The newsletter is being finalized through the end of February.
- Content gathering is underway for the Agency's annual report.

Engagement, Outreach and New Opportunities:

- Madison County held a public hearing on December 19, 2023, with intent to pass resolutions to allow importation of waste and to award a contract with Cassella for operation of the landfill. Many local citizens there were opposed to the changes and the resolution was tabled.
- The Executive Director is spearheading an effort to create a Waste to Energy Coalition in NY, similar to the National Trade Coalition. The coalition is working on comments regarding EPA standards enumerated previously and the NYS Cap-and-Invest Program, a new emissions limiting effort from the State as part of last year's roll out of the Scoping Plan for the NYS Climate Act.
- The Executive Director will be in Washington D.C. in March to speak further with the EPA about implementing the new regulations.
- The Executive Director plans to meet with Senator Schumer's office to discuss Ley Creek and the possible alternative funding for the proposed new facility.
- OCRRA has asked our area state representatives that OCRRA be included in this year's State Budget for consideration of the costs related to the demolition of the current facility at Ley Creek and the early site development needed to begin the next phase of the transfer station construction.

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

- This report reflects December 2023 data.
- The 2023 year-end audited financial statements will be presented to the Board by our external auditors at the March Board meeting.
- The December electricity rate was 2.1c/kWh.
- Electricity revenues were just over \$5,000,000.
- For the year, the Agency had an increase in net assets (income) of approximately \$600,000.
- The Agency's cash balance at the end of December was \$21.8M.
- The Agency began the year with \$22.6M.
- The Agency paid the MRF \$1,546,997.
- The Agency billed haulers \$973,582 for recycling tip fees.

There was a brief discussion regarding waste bypass.

A. Bianchetti motioned and L. Colon-Torres seconded to approve the Treasures report.

Roll was taken and the Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

The **LEY CREEK PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE** – report was presented by D. Lawless.

- The committee met on January 30, 2024.
- The committee discussed the conceptual planning and conceptual feasibility study phase of the Ley Creek Project.
- The committee moved a resolution establishing a Capital Reserve Fund.

**Resolution #2429 – Resolution Establishing a Capital Fund to Finance the Construction and Improvement of the Ley Creek Transfer facility** was moved by D. Lawless and seconded by D. Daley.

There was one spelling error that will be corrected.

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

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

- The committee moved a resolution allowing a contract for landfill use with the Town of Camillus.
- The committee moved a resolution to modify an existing contract for professional consulting services related to the WTE Engineer.
- The committee moved an affirming resolution to contract for professional consulting services related to the analysis of the flue failure at the WTE facility.

K. Spillane gave a brief explanation of the resolution for the contract with the Town of Camillus.

There was a brief discussion regarding the terms of the contract, how rejected items are handled and insurance.

**Resolution #2430 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Execute a Landfill Use Agreement with the Town of Camillus** was moved by B. Page and seconded by D. Daley

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

**Resolution #2431 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Modify an Existing Contract for Professional Consulting Services Related to the Waste to Energy Engineer** was moved by B. Page and seconded by E. Gilligan.

C. Albunio gave a brief explanation of the resolution.

There was one spelling error in the heading that will be corrected.

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

**Resolution #2432 – Resolution Authorizing and Affirming the Executive Director to Execute a Contract for Professional Consulting Services Related to the Analysis of the Flue Failure at the WTE Facility** was moved by B. Page and seconded by D. Daley.

C. Albunio and J. Gascon gave a brief explanation of the resolution.

There was no further discussion.

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

M. Mokrzycki:

- Negotiations with National Grid regarding the PPA have begun. The contract expires in 2025.

C. Albunio:

- Annual stormwater reports have been submitted to the NYSDEC.

K. Lawton:

- The Home and Garden Show is in March.

R. Czerwiak:

- The Board Evaluation forms are due for those that have not submitted them.
- Financial Disclosure forms will be distributed soon. They are due back to R. Czerwiak by mid-May.
- R. Czerwiak and M. Cirino will begin working on the next round of retention organization and box destruction lists in the coming months.

T. Palmer:

- Continuing work on the annual reports.
- Recycling education efforts are ongoing. Textile recycling. What can be reused and how to get the materials where they need to be.

There was a discussion regarding textile scraps and recycled materials.

M. Cirino:

- February 22, 2024, at 4:00PM is the scheduled Audit committee meeting.
- The week of March 4<sup>th</sup> the Audit committee will meet again.
- Ethics training continues.

There was a discussion on the city's recycling and the roll-out of the new recycling carts in the fall.

D. Daley moved, and J. Driscoll seconded to adjourn the meeting.

A unanimous aye voice vote was recorded.

The Board adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Board Ethics Training will be after adjournment.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak