

ONONDAGA COUNTY
RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

OCTOBER 12, 2011
BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Board Members Present:	Jake Barrett, John P. Copanas, Khristopher A. Dodson, Hanah Ehrenreich, Frank Forte, Scott Gerharz, Jonathan Y. Kelley, Lee Klosowski, P.E., Donald Lawless, Michael J. Reilly, CPA, Richard Smardon, Ph.D.
Board Members Absent:	Rachel May, Ph.D., Ravi Raman, P.E.
Also Present:	William J. Bulsiewicz, Esq., Warren Simpson, Andrew Radin, Joseph Fontanella, Kristen Lawton, Maria Cirino, Amy Miller, Ann Fordock (Recycling Specialist II)
Guests:	

The Board Meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

The September 14, 2011 Minutes of the Board were accepted as presented and filed.

Mr. Barrett informed the Board that Ann Fordock, who was present at the meeting, has worked for the Agency for the past three years. Mr. Barrett noted that Ann's title was Recycling Specialist I, and now Ann, in the wake of many achievements on behalf of OCRRA, has moved up in rank and has earned the title of Recycling Specialist II. Congratulations from the Board Members and OCRRA Staff to Ann for her accomplishment.

The TREASURER'S REPORT was presented by D. Lawless. Copies of this report were distributed to the Board.

The INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT was presented by B. Bulsiewicz. The Board received copies of this report.

Mr. Bulsiewicz distributed the *SWANA's 2011 Excellence Award Winners'* news release. He informed the Board that OCRRA received three awards from SWANA, which are National Awards:

- *Communication, Education and Marketing Excellence Awards:* OCRRA received the Silver Award for Marketing.
- *Recycling and Special Waste Excellence Awards:* OCRRA received the Silver Award for Composting Systems.
- *Planning and Management Excellence Awards:* OCRRA received the Bronze Award for Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems.

Mr. Bulsiewicz updated the Board regarding Union Negotiations, which have been ongoing for some time. The OCRRA group, along with Mr. Frank Forte, put together a very comprehensive proposal that was submitted to the Union -- a new proposal, new ideas, new concepts, etc. The feedback that Mr. Bulsiewicz received from the Union was that the proposal was a good one and further discussions should head in a positive direction for both parties.

Mr. Bulsiewicz informed Board Members that Andrew Radin and Sarah Stewart had discussions with OCWA and they were able to consummate a "sharing contract" with them. OCWA will contribute to OCRRA's School Recycling Education by also having OCRRA's Recycling Educator include presentations about water sustainability, along with the recycling presentations made at local schools.

The ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by F. Forte. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board.

Following are highlights from the September 14th Special Administration Committee Meeting:

- The Committee discussed a Resolution recommending to the County Legislature to adopt amendments to the Local Law No. 10 of 1989 and Local Law No. 9 of 1992 to allow for the importation of waste. The Committee entered into Executive Session to discuss further. After exiting Executive Session, the Committee recommended that the discussion be continued at the next Administration Committee Meeting.

Following are highlights from the September 27th Administration Committee Meeting:

- The Committee received additional information from the Agency Engineer and decided to postpone discussion until the October Committee Meeting to allow sufficient time to review the information.
- The Committee voted to enter Executive Session to discuss a comprehensive proposal to the Union as part of labor negotiations.

- The 2012 Fee Schedules and the 2012 Budget, in detail, were reviewed by the Committee.

Resolution # 1760 — Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Former Executive Director Tom Rhoads for Years of Service was moved by F. Forte and seconded by R. Smardon.

By Board unanimous consent, Resolution # 1760 was tabled for revision. Mr. Copanas moved to Table the Resolution and K. Dodson seconded the movement. Mr. Copanas said that much more personal information should be included within the series of Wheras Clauses, as Mr. Rhoads was the Agency's Executive Director for the past 15 years, and the highlights of his OCRRA record should be included within the Resolution.

Resolution # 1761 — Resolution Adopting an Agency Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 was moved by F. Forte and seconded by J. Copanas. The Resolution was adopted: 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Resolution # 1762 — Resolution Adopting Tipping Fees and Related Charges for Fiscal Year 2012 was moved by F. Forte and seconded by R. Smardon. The Resolution was adopted: 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

The RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by J. Copanas. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board Members. Highlights from the Committee Meeting are as follows:

- The August 2011 Recycling Figures are as follows:

Mandatory Recycling:	29,000 tons
Mandatory & Voluntary Recycling:	46,100 tons
Total Waste Reduction through Recycling:	59%

- The Committee discussed the 2012 Public Education Budget.
- A detailed memo from the Public Information Officer was reviewed, summarizing various public education investments, including recycling education, system-related messages, community surveys, and support services for website and internet outreach.
- The Committee revisited the 2015 financial summary for the Amboy Compost Site, including material processing assumptions, revenue projections and operating costs for an expanded organics management system. Board Members were advised that expenditures for the compost operations are grant eligible.
- Investing in compost development is consistent with NY State's Solid Waste Management Plan and maintains OCRRA's progressive approach to managing the waste stream.

- The Committee reviewed bids for a temporary scale system for incoming commercial and institutional organics at the Amboy Compost Site.
- The Committee also reviewed bids for a fabric covered material storage building to maintain availability of material for sale at the Jamesville Compost Site to ensure material can be processed, and sold, by preventing saturated conditions.

Resolution # 1763 — **Resolution Authorizing Acting Executive Director to Enter into Contract to Purchase Truck Scale** was moved by J. Copanas and seconded by J. Kelley. The Resolution was adopted: 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Resolution # 1764 — **Resolution Authorizing Acting Executive Director to Enter into Contract to Purchase Fabric Covered Storage Structure** was moved by J. Copanas and seconded by M. Reilly. The Resolution was adopted: 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

The OPERATIONS COMMITTEE met jointly with the Recycling Committee in September, and the OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT consisted of the Agency Engineer's Report to the Operations Committee. This report was distributed to Board Members.

The FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by K. Dodson. Copies of the report were distributed to all Board Members.

The Finance Committee discussed the debt limit proposal by the Business Officer. The Committee agreed with his recommendation of \$385,000,000, and a proposed Resolution will be presented.

Mr. Bulsiewicz stated that in 2009 the Legislature passed the Public Authorities Accountability Act Amendments; and in those amendments, they directed that the ABO recommend to the Legislature a debt limit for those Public Authorities that don't have a debt limit. That would mean all those Public Authorities without a debt limit, their Enabling Legislations would be amended and an ABO recommended debt limit would then be added in. Therefore, if the Agency does not propose a debt limit, one will be provided by the ABO's recommendation, and it may not be to the Agency's liking.

Resolution # 1765 — **Resolution Recommending Debt Limit Cap for Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency** was presented by K. Dodson and seconded by R. Smardon. The Resolution was adopted: 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

2015 COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by L. Klosowski. Report copies were distributed to Board Members. The Committee discussed and elected to go into Executive Session to discuss topics related to potential contract negotiations with Covanta. The Committee would also discuss the establishment of

negotiating goals for Covanta discussions. Mr. Reilly moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Agency's negotiating position and contract negotiations with Covanta. Mr. Kelley seconded the movement. Executive Session was approved by the Board by unanimous consent. Executive Session began at 5:50 p.m.

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Forte moved to exit Executive Session and Mr. Smardon seconded the movement.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Khristopher Dodson informed Board Members that Syracuse University's Maxwell Students (Maxwell is a public administration program) were asked by Mr. Dodson to do a comprehensive report on how to sustainably fund waste management agencies. Mr. Dodson distributed copies of the Financial and Operational Recommendations' Document of approximately 100 pages, which was completed in about four weeks by the six Maxwell Students. Case studies from around the country and different funding mechanisms, and a budget spreadsheet are included in this study.
- Regarding the vacant Executive Director position, a discussion took place regarding the upcoming process for finding an Executive Director replacement for OCRRA.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by C.M. Strong.



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Attachment