

ONONDAGA COUNTY
RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 14, 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, Rachel May, Ph.D., Ravi Raman, P.E., Michael J. Reilly, CPA, Richard Smardon, Ph.D.
Board Members Absent:	none
Also Present:	A. T. Rhoads, William J. Bulsiewicz, Esq., Warren Simpson, Andrew Radin, Joseph Fontanella, Kristen Lawton, Maria Cirino, Amy Miller
Guests:	Mr. Joseph Berg, Esq., Assistant Corporation Counsel, City of Syracuse

Mr. Barrett, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Mr. Barrett stated to the Board Members that, at this time, he would like to recognize Mr. Tom Rhoads. Mr. Rhoads, Agency's Executive Director, presented his resignation and is leaving the Agency on September 15th. Mr. Barrett mentioned the stellar job Mr. Rhoads has performed for the Agency for the past 15 years. With the Board's appreciation, Mr. Barrett presented a few gifts to Mr. Rhoads.

Mr. Rhoads thanked the Board for their thoughtfulness. He told the Board the following: *"How important it is to have Board Members who volunteer for the community. He also said that it is just so important for our organization to have Board Members' commitment to all of the opportunities and challenges that our solid waste system must address. Your volunteerism for our community means so much, and I wish we had more of the public coming to our meetings to get and share our great information out there. In fact, I believe one of the reasons why we don't have a lot of people from the public coming to our meetings is because you, the Board, do this job so well. I really extend all of my appreciation to all of the Board Members who have served our community for so many years. The other part of the equation is that we need to do all that we can to make sure that we keep our volunteer people and our Agency Staff, as our most important assets. We will have compost facilities, disposal facilities,*

transfer facilities, and operations. But, frankly, our people are our most important asset. This is a team organization, and it must remain a team organization, and the team is on your side.”

Rachel May moved the August 10th Minutes of the Board to be amended, and Frank Forte seconded. The August 10th Minutes of the Board were amended per Board consensus, and were filed accordingly.

The TREASURER'S REPORT was presented by D. Lawless, and copies were distributed to Board Members.

The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT was presented by Mr. Rhoads. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board. Mr. Rhoads presented the Board with three National Awards recently received from the Solid Waste Association of North America. Mr. Rhoads said that although it is very nice to receive many awards, he'd like to reinforce that the Agency's people are the Agency's greatest asset. These awards represent great service to our community, he said, and that recognition is very special. Mr. Rhoads also said that the Agency assembles the team here that is totally professional towards the accomplishment of the Board's Mission. He asked the Board Members to think about the Agency's Vision. The Agency has a Mission and a Vision, which is the Board's Vision. This is where the challenges and opportunities are.

Mr. Barrett asked Board Members to take this opportunity, if they wish, to ask Mr. Rhoads his opinion on questions asked.

- R. May asked about public education, which is critical for careful communications and education of the community. She asked what the message should be. Mr. Rhoads said that some public outreach and surveys are to be completed to fine-tune what that message should be. He said that he strongly believes in the public education process. He said that this is incredibly critical.
- R. Smardon asked about all the Strategic Planning Sessions that were held, which are an important opportunity and a positive value statement to municipalities. Mr. Rhoads stated that he believes the 2015 Committee is focused quite a bit on the relationship with the WTE Plant. He said that the important opportunity is to take the municipal aspect of our organization to the next level. Mr. Rhoads said we've not been addressing our municipal partners – strategically, this would be a good thing to invest the Agency's resources in – in visiting with the towns – go to them with the Agency's positive pro-active message, with the Agency's value statement – with a strong sales pitch. He said the Agency has the legacy information to make that strong sales pitch for the continuation of the system.
- S. Gerharz asked Mr. Rhoads what type of replacement he would look for – what would be the ideal Executive Director candidate. Mr. Rhoads said to find a person to champion this system's value, a

person who can talk about the system and represent the Board and this organization's high achievements, and with the Board's help continue to lead this organization. An individual who will be able to translate the Agency's Vision to the community, and continue to provide this high level of service. A person who will communicate with confidence to the municipalities and to the stakeholders the values of the programs the Board is budgeting. A person with some solid waste experience – a person with enough knowledge and integrity to represent the Board and to be well-received. A person with confidence and a measure of understanding.

The OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by D. Lawless. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board. Following are highlights from the Committee Meeting:

- The Committee reviewed the 2012 Transfer Budget proposal.
- Amy Miller advised the Committee that DEC had issued both Solid Waste and Title V Air Permit for the WTE.
- Agency Engineer's Report by Amy Miller was presented to the Board. Ms. Miller informed the Board that Agency Representatives (Tom, Bill, and Amy) met with Covanta Americas President, Seth Myones. Mr. Myones stated that Covanta wants to work cooperatively with OCRRA to find a mutually agreeable post-2015 alternative to the Market Rate Agreement. Before discussions begin with Covanta regarding post-2015, Covanta requests that the Agency have a strong direction of interest before meetings begin. Mr. Myones said that he would like to see negotiations begin in the next few months. He believes that both parties will be able to work together cooperatively.
- There are no proposed Resolutions from the Operations Committee.

The 2015 COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by L. Klosowski. Copies of the report were distributed to Board Members. The August 24th 2015 Committee Meeting was held in Executive Session. A compilation of *confidential* work completed by the Committee was assembled into a binder and distributed to Committee Members. Members were asked to review the material before the next 2015 Committee Meeting.

The RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by R. May. Copies of the report were distributed to Board Members. Following are highlights from the Committee Meeting:

- The July 2011 Recycling Figures are as follows:

Mandatory Recycling:	19,800 tons
Mandatory & Voluntary Recycling:	45,900 tons

Total Waste Reduction through Recycling: 62%

- The Committee reviewed the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budgets for both Recycling and Compost Operations, including a proposed public education investment to launch a campaign highlighting the “benefits of the OCRRA System” within the community’s broader understanding of the Agency.
- The Committee completed its review of proposed compost site development costs for an expanded organics management system at the Amboy Compost Site to accommodate increasing quantities of incoming material streams, meeting all state regulatory requirements (for leachate and stormwater management, scale systems, paving, site utilities, etc.). Such site development costs are grant eligible (at 50% of expenses); OCRRA’s compost project is in the state funding queue; reimbursement is typically running several years after grant submittal, and only occurs after costs have been incurred.
- The Committee discussed Recycling Education Services provided by an independent contractor, Elaine Van Avery, and recommends renewal of the contract for one year period for the 2011-2012 school year, with an additional one-year option period. These costs are 50% grant eligible through New York State.
- The Committee recommends that the Board pass a resolution in support of the federally proposed “Responsible Electronics Recycling Act of 2011.” The Committee further recommends that the Resolution include a position statement that such federal legislation, which is aimed at restricting the export of non-working electronics containing toxic chemicals to developing countries, should require “Extended Producer Responsibility,” known as EPR, by product manufacturers.

Resolution # 1755 — **Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Purchase Vertical Compost Mixer** was moved by R. May and seconded by R. Smardon. A discussion followed. The Resolution was adopted: 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Resolution # 1756 — **Resolution Urging Onondaga County and Local Governments in Onondaga County to Support Electronics Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility for Electronic Wastes** was moved by R. May and seconded by R. Smardon. The Resolution was adopted: 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Resolution # 1757 — **Resolution Approving Five-Year Equipment Capital Plan for Agency’s Compost Operations** was moved by R. May and seconded by R. Smardon. A discussion followed. The Resolution was adopted: 10 ayes, 1 nay (R. Raman), 0 abstentions.

Resolution # 1758 — Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Contract for Recycling Educator was moved by R. May and seconded by R. Smardon. The Resolution was adopted: 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

The ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by R. Raman. Copies of the report were distributed to Board Members. Following are highlights from the Committee Meeting:

- The Executive Director updated the Committee on the status of labor negotiations with the IUOE. The Executive Director reminded the Committee that we are operating under the current contract while waiting for the Union to commence serious negotiations.
- The Business Officer reviewed the following with the Committee: The proposed 2012 Fees, the proposed 2012 Revenues and Tonnages, the 2012 Budget Summary, and the 2012 proposed 2012 Professional Fees and Insurance Budget.
- The Business Officer reviewed the proposed Personal Services and Fringe Benefits Budgets with the Committee.
- The Business Officer advised the Committee of small contract actions since the last meeting.
- At approximately 5:00 p.m., the Committee entered into Executive Session to discuss a potential candidate for an Interim Executive Director as Tom Rhoads will resign effective September 15th. The Committee also discussed the process and procedure to follow for the hiring of a new Executive Director. The Committee did not make a decision at this time. The Committee decided to further this topic at a future meeting. Executive Session concluded at 6:10 p.m.
- The Administration Committee was charged, by the Agency's ByLaws, to appoint an Interim Executive Director. All Board Members were invited to attend. The Administration Committee's goal was to seek an Interim Executive Director who was not interested in the permanent full-time position. Following is the Resolution appointing an Interim Executive Director.

Resolution # 1759 — Resolution Authorizing Agency to Appoint Acting Executive Director was moved by R. Raman and seconded by J. Kelley. The Resolution was adopted: 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

The AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by M. Reilly. Copies of the report were distributed to Board Members.

- Various audits were reviewed by the Committee.

- Internet Security was discussed. Mr. Reilly asked Ms. Cirino to inquire about the confidentiality of Agency e-mails from Board Members to Staff. It was discussed that W. Simpson and M. Cirino will work on a possible solution with the Agency's Telecommunication Network Technician.
- The Audit Committee's next meeting is scheduled for November 29th at 11:30 a.m.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by C.M. Strong.



cms/Attachment