

**ONONDAGA COUNTY
RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY**

**JUNE 8, 2011
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**



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

The Board Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

D. Lawless presented the TREASURER’S REPORT. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board Members.

The May 11, 2011 Minutes of the Board were accepted as presented and filed.

The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT was presented by A.T. Rhoads. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board. Mr. Rhoads’ report theme was “revenue diversity”. He spoke to the Board and presented various examples of how he believes revenue diversity would improve OCRRA.

Public Information Officer, Kristen Lawton’s memo to the OCRRA Board Members focused on OCRRA’s External Communications to the community via OCRRA’s web site, OCRRA’s Recycling Events, Press Releases, E-mail Blasts, OCRRA’s Paid Advertisements, and OCRRA’s Quarterly Newsletter, just to name a few. Ms. Lawton explained to the Board that the Agency’s recycling services and programs have grown significantly over the years, and while recycling is important, it is not all that OCRRA does. Ms. Lawton said that to have OCRRA seen as more than just a recycling entity, we need to take a careful look at what message we want to share with the community — recycling, waste reduction, or something else altogether. Currently, OCRRA does a great job of getting the recycling message out, and Ms. Lawton stated that with the Board’s help, she would like to redefine OCRRA’s message priorities in order to be more inclusive and to coincide with the Agency’s new Vision and Mission. Ms. Lawton asked the Board Members what they think OCRRA’s priorities are, and what to

focus on, to brainstorm a list of priorities. One at a time, each Board Member presented his/her thoughts and ideas to Ms. Lawton on how to get OCRRA's complete message to the public.

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

- The Recycling Figures for April 2011 are as follows:

Mandatory Recycling:	18,700 tons
Mandatory & Voluntary Recycling:	43,500 tons
Total Waste Reduction through Recycling:	61%

- Agency Counsel, Mr. Bulsiewicz, discussed legal issues associated with "flow controlling" commercial recyclables, based on the Rockland County, New York model.
- The Committee discussed, in detail, the idea of flow-controlling commercial recyclables to a public MRF, as a way of capturing some of the value of these commodities in order to reduce tip fee costs to local taxpayers. The Agency staff accommodated by providing informative and balanced background information about this idea. Recycling Chair, R. May, concluded from these discussions that a great deal of information was learned about this issue; however, the Committee will not be bringing a proposal to the Board in the near future regarding flow control of recyclables.
- The Committee reviewed proposed language changes to the 20-year old County Source Separation (recycling) Law. A revised document, based on Committee Members' comments, will be distributed for further review. Committee Members' proposed changes are due by June 3rd, to the Director of Recycling.
- The Committee reviewed a detailed timeline of events associated with recent monetary thefts at the Agency's Amboy Compost Site.
- The 2011 **Vonnell Mastri Recycling Award** was presented to Southside Academy Charter School in Syracuse on May 27th — a K-8 Charter School located on Onondaga Creek Blvd.
- The May 28th Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event at the Ley Creek Transfer Station attracted over 1,000 residents. A post-event online survey indicated that 92% of the participants were served in 15 minutes or less.

Resolution # 1748 — Resolution Authorizing State Assistance Application for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program was moved by R. May and seconded by R. Smardon. The Resolution was adopted: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

The 2015 COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by L. Klosowski. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board. Highlights from the Committee meeting are as follows:

- The Committee is reviewing approximately six scenarios for 2015.
- The Committee discussed developing criteria for evaluating the different scenarios, and including additional categories to be considered in the Criteria Matrix.
- It was determined to be appropriate for the Ad Hoc 2015 Committee to stay on its current schedule of producing a report by the end of 2011. This report will go to the Board of Directors, and it will describe and provide pro forma financials for the various operation and ownership scenarios for the WTE Plant.
- The Committee further discussed the possibility of a survey of County residents to determine their views on the key issues regarding County solid waste disposal. If a survey is to be performed, it was determined that it should be done in the Fall.

The ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by D. Lawless, and copies were distributed to the Board. Following are items discussed at the Committee meeting:

- The Committee entered into Executive Session for approximately 36 minutes to discuss a personnel matter.
- Mr. James Morrison, of Catalyst Renewables, advised the Committee that an industrial site, originally a co-generation plant, was available to the Agency for either sale or co-development. The Committee asked Mr. Morrison to supply a more comprehensive, written explanation of the proposals and potential benefits to the Agency. Chair of the Board, Mr. Barrett, informed the Board that this is so premature, and an opportunity the Agency will not explore at this time due to future operations.

The FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by K. Dodson. Copies of the report were distributed to all Board Members. Following are Committee discussed items:

- Regarding Bond Refinancing: John Shehadi and Christine Crowley of Fiscal Advisors, Inc. presented an update on refinancing opportunities for the Agency's bonds. It is not possible to refinance the Series A Bonds without refinancing the Series B Bonds. The Agency cannot refinance the B Bonds without Covanta's participation and approval, and Covanta continues to decline participation in refinancing the B Bonds at this time. The Agency will continue to remain in contact with Covanta and will re-evaluate if, and when, Covanta reconsiders its position.

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- **OCRRA Debt Limit:** Fiscal Advisors, Inc. has considerable expertise in Municipal, Authority, and Agency debt limits within New York State. Mr. Shehadi, CEO of Fiscal Advisors, explained that the preferred method of setting debt limits for Authorities and Agencies in New York is a coverage limit. If facilities are to be financed, OCRRA would need to demonstrate its ability to raise sufficient revenues to pay the costs of operation, maintenance, and debt service.

Capstone Project (four-week project):

Khristopher Dodson updated the Board on the Capstone Project. Mr. Dodson said that every year Maxwell School students of Public Administration participate in a Capstone Project for a four-week period. Mr. Dodson said that he thought it would be a good idea, this year, to look at OCRRA, as it is a Public Agency, and think about how to have OCRRA have a more sustainable financial structure in the future. For the last four weeks, the students have been doing research on about 30 case studies, and the students presented approximately 15 of those case studies to OCRRA Management in a two-hour meeting.

The 30 case studies that were researched across the country looked at what other solid waste management agencies do throughout the United States. Pieces were extracted from the case study research information that could be applicable to Onondaga County. Mr. Dodson said that he was surprised to learn that a number of agencies are currently doing curbside food composting. The Capstone Project Team will be submitting a final, detailed report to Mr. Dodson, who will forward the report on to the Executive Director and OCRRA Board Chair for review, and then the report will be shared with the entire Board of Directors.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by C.M. Strong.



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Attachment