

Ulster County Legislature



UC RRA Reform Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2024 at 9:30 AM

KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Committee Members:

Mike Baden, Chair

President, Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors

Tracey Bartels, Vice-Chair

Legislative Chair Designee

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Energy, Environment & Sustainability Representative

Laura Petit

Minority Designee

Comptroller March Gallagher

Ulster County Comptroller

Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle

Ulster County Executive Designee

Jim Gordon, Vice-Chair

UCRRA Board of Directors

PRESIDING OFFICER: UCRRA, Chair Baden

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Lizvett Bost, Legislature Administrative Assistant

PRESENT: Chair Baden, Vice-Chair Bartels, Legislator Greene, Comptroller Gallagher, Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle, Jim Gordon, Vice-Chair UCRRA Board of Directors

ABSENT: None

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Stewart, UCRRA Executive Director, Marc Rider, Shabazz Jackson & Josephine Papagni, Greenway Environmental Service, Steve Ellman, Kingston

Call Meeting to Order: 9:40 AM

Approval of the March 1, 2024 & March 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion No. 1

Motion to APPROVE the Minutes of the March 1, 2024 & March 14, 2024 Meeting

Motion By: Laura Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Voting In Favor: Chair Baden, Legislator Greene, Deputy County Executive Lavalle, UCRRA Vice-Chair Gordon, Laura Petit

Voting Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Disposition: **MINUTES APPROVED**

Chair Baden addressed he will continue the committee until completion but will not be supervisor anymore.

Laura Petit raised a question about a vacated position on the committee, and Chair Baden explains that he has resigned, and the supervisors will decide who will fill the position.

UCRRA, Vice Chair Jim Gordon and Chair Baden discussed sending a letter to haulers regarding the disposal of recyclables, he was waiting on a list of haulers from, UCRRA, Executive Director Marc Rider.

Legislator Greene expressed concerns about greenhouse gas emissions from waste management options.

Legislator Greene suggested including a greenhouse gas inventory in the report to consider the impact of different technologies and disposal options on emissions.

Chair Baden emphasized the importance of analyzing the impacts of the recommended solutions on greenhouse gas emissions.

Deputy County Executive LaValle mentioned the importance of evaluating greenhouse gas emissions associated with different solid waste management strategies and suggests using the US EPA's warm model which is the greenhouse gas emissions calculation model that is specific around all the various options of solid waste management for analysis.

UCRRA, Executive Director Marc Rider is working on a UCRRA of greenhouse gas emission inventory, with the goal of setting a baseline and improving it with any alternative technologies reviewed.

Committee discussed including greenhouse gas analysis/Inventory in waste disposal recommendations.

Committee discussed greenhouse gas emission inventory for County and Municipalities.

Chair Baden stated that he will be asking the Legislature for an extension until August 1 to complete the report, citing the need for more time to review the contract and government sections. UCRRA Vice-Chair Gordon suggested July 7th instead, Comptroller Gallagher agreed to ask for a 30-day extension for now and if needed more time ask for another extension later. Committee members voted on 30 a 30-day extension, vote was 5-2 with Vice-Chair Gordon and Petit voting no.

Comptroller Gallagher discussed updating solid waste management plan and local Solid Waste Plan amendment.

UCRRA Executive Director Marc Rider gave an update in Solid Waste Management Plan.

Comptroller Gallagher and Legislator Manna Jo Greene discussed the need for greater agency ownership and implementation of the solid waste plan, with a focus on cost and implementation details.

The group agreed on the importance of including the Zero Waste group's work in the plan and the need for a contract that runs through the agency with oversight participation from other parties.

Legislator Greene suggested hiring professionals to revise recycling plan, while UCRRA Executive Director, Marc Rider clarified that updates every two years are not approved by the Legislature that DCA approved the last biannual update.

Planners aim to update local solid waste plan with specific implementation strategies.

Chair Baden mentioned a list of disposal options from the last meeting, including reopening existing landfills and alternative disposal methods.

Deputy County Executive, LaValle highlighted the importance of evaluating disposal technologies through the local solid waste management plan and biannual updates.

UCRRA Vice-Chair Gordon expressed disappointment with the lack of detail in a report provided by a consultant.

Committee discussed various waste management options, including composting, incineration, and recycling.

Comptroller Gallagher expressed concern about the lack of detail in the landfill section of the plan, suggested a more detailed analysis of various landfill options. Chair Baden agreed, adding that some disposal technologies may ultimately require landfilling, and the plan should consider other options beyond just landfilling.

Vice-Chair Bartels emphasized the need for a clear recommendation on landfill size and expressed concerns about technologies that demand feedstock and may lead to wasteful practices.

UCRRA Executive Director Marc Rider updated the committee on Cornerstone's original tasks, including reviewing hydro quest report and evaluating closed landfills for potential reopening, these are still in draft form but most of the work by Cornerstone has been done.

UCRRA Executive Director Marc Rider highlighted emerging technologies with zero emissions and waste, while Laura Petit emphasizes waste reduction.

Legislator Greene suggested reviewing local Solid Waste Plan to include comments and address concerns about Hurley's zero waste pilot project. Legislator Stewart added that the Town Board of Hurley approved a three month trial period for which they're going to be invoiced \$20,000 from Greenway, he thinks this will provide an interesting opportunity for the Town of Hurley to act as a model and he believes this will be a good thing for the committee to look at all our transfer stations and try different things at transfer stations and see if you know and use them as kind of an experiment to see how different approaches and ideas might be used in the County as a whole.

Deputy County Executive LaValle stated, although it is getting better and developing and evolving she raised concerns about energy inputs and thermodynamics of disposal technologies.

Legislator Greene raised concerns about a pilot approval affecting the committee's work and a discrepancy in the agency's position.

UCRRA Vice-Chair, Jim Gordon, was disappointed to hear the agency did not respond to an RFP and promises to investigate.

Laura Petit suggested using ARPA funding for a waste reduction program, potentially opening opportunities for all municipalities to participate.

Committee members discussed and debated extending a deadline for a report for 30 days, with some members expressing concerns about the potential impact of doing so.

Committee members discussed drafting a report on a contract, with some members expressing concerns about the lack of a written draft and requesting access to the full contract.

Greenway Environmental Services guests spoke regarding the pilot program.

Next Meetings: Thursday, April 18, 2024 @ 9:30 AM
Every Thursday in the month of May

Adjournment

Motion No. 2: MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Made By: Deputy County Executive LaValle

Motion Seconded By: Laura Petit

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 11:20 AM

Respectfully submitted: Lizvett Bost, Legislative Administrative Assistant

Minutes Approved: April 18, 2024