

**Energy & Environment Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** August 30, 2021; 6:15 PM or immediately following the Public Health & Social Services Committee

**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn A. Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein

**PRESENT:** Legislators Albert Bruno and Mary Wawro

**ABSENT:** Legislators Peter Criswell and Laura Petit

**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Deputy Executive Evelyn Wright; UCRRA Director Timothy Degraff.

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:23 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance

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**Motion No. 1:** To approve the minutes of August 30, 2021

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Wawro

**Discussion:** None

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Greene, Bruno and Wawro

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 3

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Minutes approved.

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**UCRRA Update – Director DeGraff gave an overview of the 2022 UCRRA Budget**

**Revenues**

- No increase to the tipping fee; will remain at \$105/ton
- Tonnage estimates are based on a 4 year average; includes 2021 estimate
- Compost revenues are based on tonnage estimates over the previous 3-4 years (brush, food waste, compost sales) with no proposed increase in rates
- Recycling service/tipping fees expected to increase with increased volume and diversion effort. Recycling tip fees not expected
- Increase in Sale of recyclables is expected based on current year actuals
- Miscellaneous revenues decrease due to expected decrease in interest revenue and workers comp dividend

## **Expenditures**

- Salaries/Wages increase due to raises and staffing increase
- Workers compensation rate increase
- HHW costs expected to decrease due to paint steward program
- Transportation costs include contractual increases of \$0.88/ton for MBI and \$1.14/ton for GottaDo
- Solid waste disposal costs include a contractual increase of \$1.27/ton
- No recycling transport/disposal costs anticipated
- Sludge costs decrease related to volume decrease netted with contractual increase of \$1.50/ton

## **Operation Reserve Transfer In**

Mr. DeGraff reported an effort to keep the tipping fee flat in the face of increasing transportation and disposal costs, the UCRRA is planning an operating reserve transfer in and a transfer in from our closed landfill contingency accounts. The contingency accounts are to cover leachate costs in the 2022 budget. The Operating Reserve transfer in will cover about 75% of our budgeted capital costs. He is planning operating reserve transfers over the next three years that will total \$1.1 million (account balance is approximately \$2.9 million but they have outstanding grants they expect to receive over the next few years that will total \$741,591. This would leave us with a balance in operating reserve of approximately 15% of operating expenses.

## **Tipping Fees**

Mr. DeGraff reported contractual increases continuing through 2024, the UCRRA expects tipping fee will increase by \$2/ton in 2023 and 2024. A decrease in the tipping fee is expected in 2025 as debt service will no longer be budgeted for.

Chairwoman Greene pointed out that when the debt services is retired it would be prudent to set money aside for future landfill projects. The committee had a brief discussion regarding the availability of landfill space in New York and the future of Seneca Meadows Landfill.

## **Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act**

Chairwoman Greene reported that progress is being made by the County Executive's office on defining roles and responsibilities for the implementation and enforcement of the local law.

Mr. DeGraff and his staff will be meeting with representatives of the Department of the Environment to discuss it further. The committee discussed the State composting law and its implementation.

## Resolutions for September 14, 2021 Session:

**Resolution No. 385** - Adopting and Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Construction Of A Public Safety Radio Tower and Appurtenances To Be Located At 35 Quarry Road Saugerties New York – Department Of Emergency Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will adopt and issue a negative declaration under SEQRA for a radio tower in Saugerties, NY.

**Motion No. 2:**                      **Motion to approve Resolution No. 385.**

**Motion Made By:**                Legislator Wawro

**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Bruno

**Discussion:**                      None

**Voting in Favor:**                Legislators Greene, Bruno and Wawro

**Voting Against:**                None

**No. of Votes in Favor:**        3

**No. of Votes Against:**        0

**Disposition:**                    **Resolution approved**

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## New Business

Chairwoman Greene introduces two resolutions for discussion:

- Resolution for Discussion: Establishing A Policy Requiring That A Climate Impact Assessment Be Performed Prior To The Commencement Of Development Projects Funded By The American Rescue Plan Act
- Resolution for Discussion: Establishing A Policy Prohibiting The Installation Of Systems That Utilize The Combustion Of Fossil Fuels In All Newly Constructed County Owned Buildings

Chairwoman Greene noted that with additional American Rescue Plan funding a variety of projects are being proposed. In addition to the initial cost, she stressed it is vital that we look at the long-term climate impacts and related costs. She felt that too often the county has not promoted climate solutions. She suggested using software platforms like ICLEI to completing greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, climate action plans, and monitor government-operations and projects.

Ms. Wright asked for clarification of what Chairwoman Greene envisioned in addition to SEQRA review that would be part of a Climate Impact Statement. She reinforced the County Executives support for sustainable climate smart proposals and pointed to his Green New Deal imitative but expressed concern about the potential to slow projects or cause them to become unfeasibility expensive. She suggested Chairwoman Greene meet with Ms. LaValle and Mr. Hvozda to review the “sustainability check list”.

Legislator Bruno felt these proposals were not appropriate at this time and the technology to implement these policies was “not there yet.”

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Chairwoman Greene reported on the successful outreach and educational efforts of the Climate Smart Committee at the Ulster County Fair and a follow up virtual training for new contacts.

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Legislator Bruno introduced a memorializing letter to NY State Representatives requesting and update and amendment to the Opening Meetings Law that would allow members to attend and participate via videoconference without disclosing their physical location or opening it to the public. Chairwoman Greene said she would co-sponsor the letter. Legislator Bruno will circulate the letter when it is ready.

Chairwoman Greene asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Wawro  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 3  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Time:** 7:53 pm

**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo  
**Minutes Approved:** October 4, 2021