

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: October 4, 2018; 5:30
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Mary Wawro
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Manna Jo Greene (arrived 5:48), Joseph Maloney (5:48 to 7:00) and Brian Woltman (departed 7:00)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Kathy Nolan and Laura Petit, Tim Rose, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA), Jo Ann Myers.

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Rose asked if the committee had any questions following last month's presentation of the UCRRA 2019 budget by Tim DeGraff, UCRRA Controller.

Legislator Bartels shared concerns regarding the need for more educational outreach regarding recycling. She also asked for an explanation about what types of plastics are being accepted for recycling.

Mr. Rose explained that some facilities have optical eye sorters that can distinguish the resins used to produce the plastic and separate it. He emphasized that this just applies to recycling at the UCRRA. Private haulers that are taking recycling to other facilities may accept these plastics.

The committee discussed several of the issues currently impacting recycling efforts. Mr. Rose described regional problems and how other states have self-sufficient recycling programs because they encouraged local manufacturers who use recycled plastics as raw materials to make other products.

Legislators discussed the need to get the Recycling Oversight Committee seated to address these issues and the need for more accountability and product stewardship from manufacturers.

Mr. Rose discussed the UCRRA outreach efforts that include tours of the facility for school and scout groups, interviews on the radio, billboards and radio ads. The agency is currently seeking a recycling coordinator to help with those efforts.

Mr. Rose also reported information he learned at a state-wide conference regarding landfill space. One speaker predicted that all landfills in New York State will be at capacity by 2039. He noted that 20 years may seem like a long time but in reality, siting new landfills could take longer than that so the situation is serious. Another speaker reported that the last landfills in Massachusetts will close in 2021 and solid waste from Massachusetts and Connecticut is being pushed to landfills in New York. The predictions that New York landfills will be operational until 2039 may not have taken this into consideration so the situation may be much more critical.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes September 6, 2018 and September 27, 2018

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Woltman

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Joseph Maloney and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 2: to discuss Resolution No. 382 - Appointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee

Resolution Summary: This resolution would appoint several members to the Recycling Oversight Committee

Motion By: Legislator Woltman

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: The committee deliberated on the need to seek applicants from a wider geographic area. Several legislators have potential candidates that have not yet applied.

Legislator Bartels suggested the committee wait to make any decisions until all the candidates had been interviewed.

Disposition: No action taken.

Motion No. 3: to discuss Resolution No. 400 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 20 Of 2018, A Local Law Requiring Restaurants And Fast Food Service Establishments Provide Plastic Beverage Straws Solely Upon Request

Resolution Summary: This resolution would approve and adopt proposed local law No. 20 of 2018 establishing a requirement that local restaurants and food establishments ask patrons if they want a straw before providing one.

Motion By: Legislator Woltman

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Legislator Woltman objected to the numbers used in the second paragraph of SECTION 1. He referred to a New York Times article he gave the committee last week reported that the numbers being widely cited by major news organizations and groups calling for a ban on plastic straws was the result of research conducted by a 9-year-old by in Vermont. He felt it was important that any language used in a law be accurate and if reliable figures were used the source should be cited. He suggested removing the actual numbers and writing something more general.

Legislator Woltman also wanted to allow “passive distribution” of straws be allowed. He noted that many fast food establishments are self-serve and the customers can either take them or leave them.

Legislator Woltman discussed the plight of drive through servers being required to ask every driver if they want a straw and the rude and sarcastic remarks the question might elicit from drivers.

There was a consensus that the second paragraph of SECTION 1 should be changed. The clerk was asked to circulate something for future discussion.

The committee discussed passive distribution but decided to take no action.

Disposition: No Action.

Legislator Bartels announced that she and Chairman Wawro will invite Amanda LaValle, Coordinator of the Department of the Environment, to special meeting to discuss her department's budget. A date will be determined after speaking to Ms. LaValle and polling the committee members.

Motion No. 4 - To move into executive session for the purpose of conducting interviews for the Recycling Oversight Committee

Motion Made By: Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels
Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels and Greene
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Jo Ann Myers was interviewed for the at large positions

Motion No.5 – To move out of executive session.

Motion Made By: Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels
Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels and Greene
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Old Business

- **Climate Smart Committee**

Legislator Greene made a presentation at the Fall Seminar of the New York State Association of Counties that was well received.

Legislator Greene reported progress on the The Greene Business Challenge.

Chairman Wawro asked if there was any other business, hearing none

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By:	Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Greene
No. of Votes in Favor:	3
No. of Votes Against:	0
Time:	7:50 pm
Respectfully submitted:	Fawn Tantilillo, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved	November 8, 2018