

Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 9, 2025 – 3:00 PM
LOCATION(S): KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislaturestreams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Deputy Chair Walls
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Lizvett Noriega, Legislative Administrative Assistant; Tyron Rogers, Legislative Technical Support Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Greene, Hewitt (arrived at 5:13 PM) Litts, Nolan, and Stewart
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislator Donaldson
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle – UC Executive’s Office; Executive Director Marc Rider – UC Resource Recovery Agency; Director Andy Bicking – Department of Environment; Director Dennis Doyle – Planning Department; Vicki Lucarini – EMC; Karin Hubbs – DSS/Neighbor of Terra-Gen; Jillian Fried – Arc Mid-Hudson/UC Resident

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislaturestreams>

Deputy Chair Walls chaired the meeting as Chair Hewitt was a panelist at a conference. He called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to Approve the Minutes of the November 3, 2025 Meeting**
Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hewitt, Litts, Nolan, Stewart, and Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Deputy Chair Walls explained to the Committee that the meeting will start with interviews for the 2 seats on the UCRRRA of Directors for appointment at the December 16th Legislative Session and interviews have been allotted 15 minutes per applicant. There were six (6) standard questions. Members were provided with scoring sheets and asked to complete their scoring sheets at the conclusion of each interview.

The following individuals were interviewed for a seat on the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board of Directors

- 3:05 PM – Poppy Cannon-Reese
- 3:25 PM – Andi Weiss Bartczak (by phone, stuck in traffic)
- 3:45 PM – Trevor Curwin
- 4:05 PM – Donna Egan (by phone, stuck in traffic)
- 4:25 PM – Chris Hurlbert
- 4:45 PM – Stephanie Erwin

- 5:05 PM – Legislator Manna Jo Greene

The following questions were asked of the Interviewees:

1. Please tell us a little bit about yourself, why you want to serve on UCRRA Board, and what strengths you would bring to it?
2. In 2020 UCRRA adopted a 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan, which was approved by the Legislature in 2021. Have you reviewed the plan, and can you share any insights with us about it?
3. Are you in favor of citing a landfill for Ulster County, and if so, how should the agency go about it?
4. What is your vision for the future of solid waste in Ulster County for the next decade and beyond and how might this be implemented?
5. We are in the process of implementing a Zero Waste Implementation Plan – What is your vision for maximum waste diversion?
6. Can you make weekday meetings in the evening? The current UCRRA board has set the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:15 PM for 2026 -- that could be amended, but how will that work for you?

Deputy Chair Walls respectfully asked Legislator Greene to step out during the RRA interviews, as she was one of the applicants.

Deputy Chair Walls welcomed Poppy Cannon-Reese to interview for the RRA Board.

The Committee took a 3-minute recess to allow time for the next interviewee to arrive.

Committee moved onto Resolutions. Legislator Greene joined the Committee.

Resolutions for the December 16, 2025 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 569 – Opposing The Development, Construction, And Operation Of The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility Proposed By Terra-Gen, On The Property Of The Former John A. Coleman Catholic High School In The Town Of Ulster, Ulster County, NY

Resolution Summary – This Resolution memorializes the Ulster County Legislature's opposition to the development, construction, and operation of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility submitted by applicant Terra-Gen at the site of the former John A. Coleman Catholic High School, in the Town of Ulster, and urges the Town of Ulster to deny the correlating application. Further, this Resolution urges the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and other relevant state agencies to prioritize safe alternative energy storage technologies and siting strategies that minimize risks to residential areas, the environment, and ecologically sensitive regions.

Motion No. 2:

Motion Made By:

Motion Seconded By:

Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 569

Legislator Nolan

Legislator Greene

Voting in Favor:

Legislators Greene, Nolan

Voting Against:

Legislator Litts, Stewart, and Walls

Votes in Favor:

2

Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Postponement Defeated

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 569**
Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Voting in Favor: Legislators Litts, Stewart, and Walls
Voting Against: Legislator Greene, Nolan
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 2
Disposition: **Resolution Defeated**

Legislator Greene stepped out of the room for the next RRA applicant.

Deputy Chair Walls recessed the meeting at 3:52 PM. Deputy Chair Walls called the meeting back to order at 4:00 PM.

Deputy Chair Walls welcomed Trevor Curwin to interview for the RRA Board.

Committee Clerk Noriega let the Committee know there was an accident on I-87 and two of the applicants, Andi Weiss Bartczak and Donna Egan were stuck in traffic.

Deputy Chair Walls returned to Resolutions and asked for Legislator Greene to return to the meeting.

Legislator Nolan suggested skipping Resolutions No. 570 and 571 due to Chair Hewitt's temporary absence.

Resolution No. 572 – Confirming Reappointments To The Environmental Management Council

Resolution Summary – This Resolution confirms the reappointment of the following individuals to the Environmental Management Council for the term January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028: Kristen Schara (Town of Hurley Representative); Emilie Hauser (City of Kingston Representative); Robert Ferri (Town of New Paltz Representative); Simon Strauss (Town of Olive Representative); James Easly (Town of Rochester Representative); and Dave Haldeman (Town of Shawangunk Representative).

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 572**
Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Litts, Nolan, Stewart, and Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 573 – Confirming Appointments Of Alan Newman And Carole Furman To The Environmental Management Council

Resolution Summary – This Resolution confirms the appointment of Alan Newman (Town of Marbletown Representative) and Carole Furman (Town of Saugerties Representative) on the Environmental Management Council for the term January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 573**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Litts, Nolan, Stewart, and Walls

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 574 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$19,950.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$19,950.00 with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C., to extend term of agreement , increase funding and expand scope of work to include ‘Pre-Demolition Hazardous Materials Investigation Services’ at 58 Brigham Lane, Ulster (Tax Parcel #39.15-3-17), identified in the contract as parcel ‘B-7’ – Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments for certain foreclosure-eligible properties as requested by the County for the term 10/1/25 – 9/1/26.

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 574**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Litts, Nolan, Stewart, and Walls

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Deputy Chair Walls recessed the meeting at 4:17 PM. Deputy Chair Walls called the meeting back to order at 4:32 PM.

Deputy Chair Walls welcomed Chris Hurlbert to interview for the RRA Board.

Applicant, Andi Weiss Bartczak was reached via phone for the RRA Board interview. Deputy Chair Walls welcomed her and proceeded with the interview.

Deputy Chair Walls welcomed Stephanie Erwin to interview for the RRA Board.

Applicant, Donna Egan was reached via phone for the RRA Board interview. Deputy Chair Walls welcomed her and proceeded with the interview.

Deputy Chair Walls welcomed Legislator Greene to interview for the RRA Board.

During Legislator Greene's interview, Chair Hewitt joined the Committee at 5:13 PM. He declined to take over Chairing the meeting. Chair Hewitt stated for the record his votes in favor of the minutes and Resolution Nos. 570 and 571.

Legislator Greene rejoined the Committee.

Resolution No. 570 – Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary – This Resolution confirms the Chair of the Legislature's appointment of an individual, to be determined, to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency for the term January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

Motion No. 4: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 570

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hewitt, Litts, Nolan, Stewart, and Walls

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 571 – Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary – This Resolution confirms the Chair of the Legislature's appointment, after consideration of the recommendation of the Minority Leader, of an individual, to be determined, to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency for the term January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

Motion No. 5: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 571

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hewitt, Litts, Nolan, Stewart, and Walls

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Reports

- UCRRA – Director Marc Rider – Upcoming meetings, January 10th & 24th, pop-up e-waste recycling at the Town of Ulster Transfer Station, from 8am-2pm; December 11th, Board Meeting – MOA for collective bargaining agreement; December 12th, Special Meeting from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Department of the Environment – Director Andy Bicking – Hired Watershed Coordinator, Ella Cattabiani; The Annual Benching Study has been completed and will be submitted to the Legislative Clerk; Annual Greenhouse Gas inventory will also be done soon; Water quality issues – MS4 Permit, will be collaborating with Rockland County Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop training materials which will be helpful with others that have permit responsibilities; Working on the Climate Smart Communities Certification with NYS.

New Business – None

Old Business – Chair Hewitt stated he will be working on reintroducing the resolution in the New Year with strengthening the language in the law to reflect support from national and international organizations.

- **Resolution No. 178** – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2025, A Local Law Providing For The Protection And Restoration Of The Esopus Creek, Rondout Creek And Wallkill River In Ulster County, And Providing For The Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County To Clean Water And A Healthy And Productive Ecosystem, To Be Held On Tuesday, January 6, 2026 At 6:30 PM *(Withdrawn By Sponsor)*.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:43 PM
Respectfully Submitted: Lizvett Noriega, Legislative Administrative Assistant
Approved: February 4, 2026

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislaturestreams>