

**AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 16, 2024**

**DRAFT**

Board Members Present: Chairman Kenneth Long (via Zoom), Vice Chairman Vincent Bono, Steven Boucher, Robert Comis, James D’Onofrio, Barbara Freeman (via Zoom), Nancy Novak (via Zoom) and James Williams

Board Members Absent: Treasurer Richard Redmond and James Franco

Authority Staff Present: Joshua Olbrys, Jodi Tuttle, Emily Albright, Joseph Artessa, Eileen Brinck, Justin Fitch, Hailey Hutchinson, Pat Lisandrelli and Andrew Opperman

Others Present: Authority Counsel Kevin Martin (via Zoom)

Vice Chairman Bono called the September 16, 2024, Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. D’Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Boucher and passed to approve the June 17, 2024, Authority Minutes.

There were no speakers or comments received for the public comment period.

Vice Chairman Bono asked Authority Secretary Jodi Tuttle to read the Memorial Resolution No. 16 aloud, recognizing the achievements of former Board member Dr. Guy Wilcox. Resolution No. 16 was introduced by Ms. Freeman, seconded by Mr. D’Onofrio, and passed approving the Authority’s recognition of the achievements of former Board member, Dr. Guy Wilcox. [8 Ayes; 0 Nays; Absent: Messrs. Redmond and Franco]

Superintendent of Waste Collection Justin Fitch provided an update on the Regional Landfill Phase II Closure project, which spans over a 4-acre area. Mohawk Valley Materials was awarded the project for \$1,434,508.10. Mr. Fitch explained the 3-layer system of the project, which consists of a gas venting layer, geomembrane layer, and drainage layer. As of September 16, 2024, Atlantic Lining has approximately 40 – 50% of the drainage layer placed. Authority employees are currently working on project pipework, while Mohawk Valley Materials is working on the barrier protection layer. Mr. Fitch and Mr. Olbrys are pleased with the progress made on the project so far.

Executive Director Joshua Olbrys provided an update on possible changes to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulations. In November of 2023, NYSDEC stakeholders discussed requiring leachate be managed on-site and not permitted to be conveyed or transported off-site.

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Jodi M. Tuttle  
*Authority Board Secretary*

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Mr. Olbrys stated that this decision was mainly in response to concerns over PFAS and PFOS. Mr. Olbrys explained the negative effect this could potentially have on the Authority's facilities. After further discussion and review of comments from various organizations, including the Authority, NYSDEC intends to release a proposed rulemaking later this year.

Continuing with NYSDEC regulation updates, Mr. Olbrys discussed the proposed increase to the NYS Bottle Bill, which gained traction in 2024. The Authority has never supported expansion of the bill, as it would cause a significant loss in revenue. If the Bottle Bill is increased, the Authority will request that a portion of the money be given to recycling facilities to help offset any loss of revenue. Mr. Olbrys also presented the proposed changes to the NYS Solid Waste Management Plan, "The Circular Economy," established in 2023. The proposed changes include extended producers' responsibility for packaging and paper products; expanding the existing food donation and food scrap recycling laws; and a disposal disincentive surcharge.

Recycling Coordinator Eileen Brinck provided an update on the new "Binny" page on the Authority website. On this page, users have the option to learn about "Binny's" backstory and can also request a visit from "Binny." A "Binny" photo gallery and "Binny" social media posts will eventually be added to the website as well. Ms. Brinck stated that "Binny's" backstory will help with student engagement at future educational events.

Executive Director Joshua Olbrys gave a brief presentation on the Authority's Regional Demolition Program. Since starting the program in 2007, the Authority has demolished over 50 structures and worked with over 25 municipalities throughout Oneida and Herkimer Counties. Mr. Olbrys estimates that the Regional Demolition Program has saved municipalities more than \$500,000 over the past several years. The Authority already has an estimated 5 buildings to demolish in 2025 and estimates another 4 buildings through the Herkimer County Landbank.

Mr. Olbrys said that the 2025 budget timeline is on track. The Finance Committee was given a first draft of the 2025 budget and updated five-year financial plan at the Committee meeting preceding this meeting. A motion was made by Mr. D'Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Williams, and passed to schedule a public hearing of the proposed 2025 Authority budget for November 18, 2024.

Mr. Comis commented on how helpful and professional staff are when he visits the Authority facilities. Mr. Comis noted that it is important to continue to set aside funds in the budget for future capital projects at the Utica facilities. Mr. Olbrys replied that he, Solid Waste Engineer Andrew Opperman, and Barton & Loguidice will look at the Authority's plan for future repairs, additions, and expansions.

At 5:18 PM, with no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Comis and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi M. Tuttle  
Authority Secretary