

Unity Area Recycling Center

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**January 20, 2022**

1. Bring Meeting to Order: Meeting brought to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Board Members and Alternates present:

Paige Ziegler (Montville)	Phil Bloomstein (Freedom)
Diana Hauser (Unity)	Sharon Hibbard (ALT Montville)
Ross Nason (Dixmont)	Beth Soucie (Unity)
Robert Hogg (Troy)	Don Pendleton (ALT Dixmont)
George Faulkner (Jackson)	Greg Falzetta (ALT Thorndike) *left early
Steve Wright (UARRC Co-Manager)	Jeff Reynolds (UARRC Manager)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Michael Berry (Thorndike)	Kip Penney (Knox)
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Guest:

Chrissy Adamowicz, NRCM's Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator  
NRCM refers to Natural Resources Council of Maine [nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org)

3. Agenda Adjustments:  
addition of glass crusher comments as part of agenda  
Diana repeating compliments re: the UARRC Staff
4. Approve November's Minutes:  
Motion to Accept, Seconded, Approved
5. Manager's Report:  
November Traffic Numbers up for 2021.  
In 2020 there were 512 customers. In 2021 Staff saw 571 customers.  
December Traffic Numbers up for 2021  
In 2020 there were 553 customers. In 2021 Staff saw 613 customers  
12-21-2021 shipped 25 bales of OCC for 19.9 tons  
12-21-2021 shipped 10 bales of mixed paper for 6 tons  
Year end numbers put together at end of December  
Town bills & Packets mailed on January 12th. Michael, Jeff & Steve put them together

6. Chairperson's Report:

Paige introduced Chrissy Adamowicz, NRCM's Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator who will present information on 'Getting Ready for Maine's new Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging'

7. Presentation/Discussion:

\*Phil is taping this presentation

\*Chrissy spoke of the 'Timeline for Implementation' July 2022 — 2007

July 2022-December 2023 DEP gathers information from stakeholders on what the rules of the EPR law should be \*Note per Chrissy: out-of-state corporations are determined to fight and weaken law

\*Chrissy spoke of 'How to Stay Informed'

important addresses include

[www.nrcm.org/take-action](http://www.nrcm.org/take-action)

[MainePackagingEPR@maine.gov](mailto:MainePackagingEPR@maine.gov) (DEP mail alerts)

[www.recyclingreform.org](http://www.recyclingreform.org) (alerts/fact sheets/information)

[nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org) Natural Resources Council of Maine (an extensive web site)

\*Grants

DEP Waste Reduction Grants (twice a year)

NRCM Waste Reduction Grants (available on a rolling basis)

USDA Rural Solid Waste Management Grant (available Oct-Dec)

These grants are at the federal level and are very difficult to write

Paige led a discussion after the presentation with many comments.

Chrissy encouraged everyone to look at the web sites and information available. She is also available to answer questions.

8. Discussion of Future UARRC Goals/Strategic Planning:

Glass Crusher - cost of new/sturdier/bigger crusher is circa \$12,000. Ross would like to believe that we go for a much larger one with a conveyor belt and not needing so much individual handling. Bigger crusher would be twice \$12,000, but still in the realm of grant limits. Steve's comments include a need for more warehouse space for such a machine, but some machines are 'vertical', not 'horizontal' and would fit. We still have a critical need for a stable market with an input of a bigger machine. Towns/Customers have repeatedly voiced a need to recycle glass. It is a big selling point for UARRC.

Steve keeps accurate track of # of pieces consumed etc., but there is no hour/time meter.

Bigger machines will have such a meter.

\* our grant that paid for the current glass crusher has another year to go, so any new purchase would have to wait for the current grant cycle to run out.

Truck/BoxTruck Discussion - idea about purchasing a large truck that would collect materials from the towns. (ie. truck is available at 1 town on 1 day for material drop off.) if that scenario moves forward, there is a need for more staff

a grant may cover the cost of a vehicle but not staff or operating expenses

Hauling involves 'more overhead' - sorting, licenses(?) if needed for drivers & vehicle, upkeep of vehicle, extra staff costs, gas etc.

Steve & Jeff weighed in - What kind of truck ? multipurpose/utilitarian? specialized compartmentalized recycling trucks? extra tools/machinery to lift the bins from the truck?

A Box Truck can be driven into with a forklift, cargo is protected from rain & snow can driver use a Class I license? costs?

Many questions - Who are we going to serve? Where are we going? How do we serve? a definite, reliable schedule is needed. Dixmont does not want to give up their truck.

Who writes this complicated grant?

When questions are answered, then and only then, can a discussion seriously begin. Such a process is lengthy - up to a 2 or 3 year process

\* perhaps goals/plans need to be divided into short-range and long-range planning

Paint Program tabled, not enough time

Scrap Metal tabled, not enough time

Paige began a discussion of FundRaising - would the UARRC want to do fundraising? check on our status - if we are 501c4, we can lobby and get state & federal support, but can't do private fund-raising. Need to be checked out.

9. Wrap Up, Assignments:

At our next meeting, we need to extend this conversation

Are we looking at expanding? Is FundRaising possible or desirable? Paint Program, Scrap Metal

Phil talked about a new, permanent link on the website for our ZOOM meetings and protocol to follow

10. Adjournment

Motion to Accept, Seconded, Approved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

\*next Board Meeting is Thursday, February 17, 2022

11. Minutes Submitted: Diana Hauser (Unity) UARRC Secretary

