

Unity Area Recycling Center

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February 15, 2024

1. Bring Meeting to Order: Meeting brought to Order at 7:03 p.m.

ZOOM meeting

2. Board Members & Alternates Present:

Diana Hauser Hauser (Unity)	Beth Soucie (Unity)
Phil Bloomstein (Freedom)	Greg Falzetta (Thorndike ALT)
Eleanor MacMackin (Freedom-ALT)	Kip Penny (Knox)
Ross Nason (Dixmont)	Jenny Tibbetts (Jackson)
Paige Ziegler (Montville)	Leigh Juskevice (Manager)

3. Board Members & Alternates Absent:

Michael Berry (Thorndike)	Robert Hogg (Troy)
Don Pendleton (Dixmont-ALT)	Jeri Roberts (Jackson-ALT)

4. Guests:

Guests included Town of Montville Select Board
Cathy Roberts, Doug Thomas, Sharon Hibbard
(Sharon is also UARRC's Alternate from Montville)

4. Agenda Adjustments:

none at this time

5. Approve January Minutes:

a Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved
Greg abstained as he was not present at January Meeting

6. Manager's Report:

Manager's Report—February 15, 2024

The Ecology Learning Center charter school in Unity has approached us about having some interns here next school year. I told them some of the tasks students could help with would be FB posts, helping customers sort products, building pallets of electronic waste, sorting batteries, packing lightbulbs, public outreach/education, crushing glass, and researching new markets. This would run from November 2024 to May 2025 and would be for about 3-4 hours one day a week.

I had a zoom meeting with a rep from Nextrex. They make outdoor products, like decking, fencing, outdoor furniture, etc. out of recycled plastic. They use #2 and #4 film, clear and colored mixed, and would provide us with a shipping container to hold product while we bale it. They only provide 40' shipping containers, and Jeff isn't sure where we could set the container where we'd have easy access to it. We did discuss (Jeff and I) about putting a 20' container in the empty space behind the warehouse—a

40' container wouldn't fit there. They **do not** take bags that held mulch or soil, so that would limit some of what we could take, but they do take bubble wrap, pellet bags, other films, and boat wrap. They don't take any agricultural films, so no greenhouse or hay wrap, although she did say they have a division working on it. They pay \$0.14/pound and transportation is free!

We're getting ready to ship a load of OCC and mixed paper next week and are planning another load of OCC and newspaper to follow shortly after that.

During the cold snap this week the guys have sorted and boxed up approximately 550 pounds of batteries.

The solar array is officially ours now! Here's a link to the monitoring portal if anyone is interested in seeing what we produce: <https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/site/public?name=Unity Area Regional Recycling Center#/dashboard>

Traffic so far for the month: 275.

Comments/Discussion: No one under 18 can be on the warehouse floor. Any volunteers/students would be helping customers with their recycling & sorting outside the warehouse. Concerns to be addressed.

7. The Montville Select Board/Municipal Officers were introduced:

They wished to question/address UARRC's budget increases and ask about a strategic plan/future plans for the Center.

Kip & Greg spoke about increasing wages - even with the increases, we are not much higher than minimum wage. The Strategic Plan goal is that the Center remain stable and not keep cutting services. A big problem is decreased prices for recycled materials. Also, safety considerations/priorities and policies have taken center stage.

Ross spoke of the DEP - still working on a time line. Paige spoke of the legislative work on EPR.

8. Budget vs. Actual update:

The spread sheet is available from the Center if needed.

No discussion.

9. File and Policy Update:

Greg is still constructing safety/hazard policies. Hopes to have a graph for review soon.

Training records need to be updated.

10. Solar Panel Update:

See link in Manager's Report.

11. Plastics Discussion:

About Nextrex. See Manager's Report.

12. Wrap-Up & Assignments:

Spoke about need for more education and outreach.

Importance of talking/answering questions at Town Meetings. We can develop a talking list.

Continue research on films, plastics, markets, education & outreach.

13. Adjournment:

a Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

14. Minutes Submitted:

Diana Hauser (Unity) UARRC Secretary