

Unity Area Recycling Center

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January 16, 2025

1. Bring Meeting to Order: Meeting brought to order at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting held at UARRC

2. Board Members and Alternates Present:

Phil Bloomstein (Freedom)

Paige Zeigler (Montville)

Michael Berry (Thorndike)

Diana Hauser (Unity)

Jenny Tibbetts (Jackson)

Kip Penney (Knox)

Ross Nason (Dixmont)

Rose Zoller (Troy)

Beth Soucie (Unity)

Leigh Juskevice (Manager)

3. Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Jeri Roberts (Jackson-ALT)

Penny Stevens (Knox-ALT)

[Currently there are no Alternates representing the towns of Unity, Thorndike, Montville, Troy, Freedom, or Dixmont.]

4. Agenda Adjustments:

a Card is circulating.

Suggestions for disposing of wood pile along the road.

Resignation of Greg Falzetta from Board

5. Approve November 21, 2024 Minutes:

Motion was Made, Seconded & Approved

[There was no Board Meeting in December 2024. No Minutes.]

6. Agenda Adjustments:

\*A Card is circulating to thank Greg for all his service to the UARRC Board.

He is resigning due to health reasons.

\* There is a woodpile near the road. Question was - What should we do?

Sell it? Haul it away? Do nothing?

It was discussed and decided that if someone asks about it/needs it/wants it, said person can cut it up and take it. But it is their responsibility.

7. Manager's Report:

Manager's Report January 16, 2025 submitted by Manager Leigh Juskevice

\*Town Invoices were sent to member towns, along with a copy to Board members.

Even though the cost per capita is less than \$20, we know some towns may question the slight increase. I've researched some of the other options towns could use, which show nothing is cheap.

\* I also asked our Rep with ME DEP about towns not recycling. She said, "There is a regulatory requirement that towns need to work towards a 50% recycling rate. We never hold a town's feet to the fire over that, but we are always looking to have towns strive toward a better recycling rate every year. Having a town pull out and dismantle their recycling participation is something that might catch the DEP's attention." She also

talked about the stewardship program for packaging and how participating municipalities will be reimbursed for the packaging they recycle. It will be a couple years before this happens - October 2027 when towns get that reimbursement - which will be for material recycled in 2026.

\*Our Baler was finally fixed, after being down for almost 3 weeks. A contact block had a broken clip and once that was replaced, we were back in business. In the end it cost us less than \$300 and some downtime baling cardboard. We did use one of the other balers to bale cardboard, but it produced smaller bales.

\*With all the cold weather, the guys have been packing lots of lightbulbs and batteries. This week we sent out 13 boxes.

Traffic for December was high, **474 visits**, considering we were closed extra days for the Holidays. This month (January) we've had **236 patrons in 9 days**.

\*We had 50+ freon devices serviced and we're waiting for that to be picked up, along with some bales of tin/steel. We also shipped out a load of OCC/newspaper/mixed paper in December.

\*Apparel Impact couldn't get us collection figures for our report. Those are expected any day though. They also placed a new bin in Unity.

\*There was also a discussion of a 3 Phase Transition/Converter.

\*There was also a discussion about Dixmont wanting to exit the UARRC.

\*Leigh also wanted to include:

## Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging, Waste Management, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

### Anticipated Schedule for Implementation

\*Spring 2025 - Department initiates outreach for an update to Chapter 428 to add Appendix A (packaging material types list and designation of readily recyclable packaging materials).

\*Summer 2025 - Department initiates rule making to add Appendix A to Chapter 428.

\*Summer 2025 - Board of Environmental Protection adopts update to Chapter 428, adding Appendix A.

\*September 2025 - Department issues a request for proposals to select the SO.

\*April 2026 - Department contracts with the SO.

\*May 2026 - Producers register and report. Reporting is limited to an estimate of total tons of packaging produced during calendar year 2025.

\*July 2026 - SO invoices producers for start-up registration fee to cover operational costs during the initial start-up period.

\*September 2026 - Producers pay start-up registration fee (no more than 180 days after effective date of DEP contract with the SO).

\*March 2027 - Participating municipalities report on packaging material managed during calendar year 2026.

\*March 2027 - Producers report on packaging material produced and sold in or into Maine during calendar year 2026.

\*September 2027 - Producers make first annual payment for packaging material sent in or into Maine during calendar year 2026.

\*October 2027 - Participating municipalities receive first reimbursement for packaging material managed during calendar year 2026.

\*February 2028 - Department provides comprehensive review of program rules to the Legislature and outlines any proposed changes to program rules or statute.

\*Summer 2035 - Department issues a new request for proposals to select the SO.

8. Adjournment:

A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

9. Minutes Submitted:

Diana Hauser (Unity) UARRC Secretary