

Unity Area Regional Recycling Center

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February 20, 2025

1. Bring Meeting to Order: Meeting brought to order at 7:10 p.m.
Meeting held at Mt. View Library
2. Board Members & 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)
Leigh Juskevics (Manager)	
3. Board members & Alternates Absent:

Jeri Roberts (Jackson-ALT)	Penny Stevens (Knox-ALT)
Beth Soucie (Unity)	

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

4. Agenda Adjustments:
none
5. Approve January 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:
A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved
6. Manager's Report:
Manager's Report February 20, 2025
We had a breakdown of the forklift. This took a couple of days to fix, and we were closed while this happened. Eventually the part came in and we're now back up and running. Even with the forklift fixed, it still doesn't start well in single digits. We finally got stats from Apparel Impact. Even though we started mid-year, we diverted 1.77 tons of clothing/shoes/textiles!
Before CMP can get us a quote for switching to 3 phase power, we need to fill out a load sheet detailing all the changes they'll have to make based on what we have. We've basically been playing catch up and keeping things status quo. It's been so cold it's impossible to be outside for much of the day. During our time inside we've almost caught up on batteries and lightbulbs. We're holding our own outside, and in the afternoons when it does warm up, the guys are able to finish bales and start new ones.
Traffic numbers for the month so far are 232 members.
I've been going through more files and weeding stuff out.
Knox is having a budget meeting on 2/22, Saturday at 10 a.m. Discussion about the recycling center is on the agenda.

Town meetings in our member towns:

Dixmont, March 15 ?time	Freedom, March 29, 10 a.m.
Knox, March 8, 8 a.m.	Montville, March 29, 10 a.m.
Thorndike, March 15, 9 a.m.	Troy, March 15, 9 a.m.
Unity, March 22, 9 a.m.	Jackson, March 15, 9 a.m.

7. Budget vs. Actual:

Printout available

8. Arrival of Vanessa:

Vanessa Berry of the Natural Resources Council is the guest speaker this evening. (Members of the Public and Town Municipal Officers have been invited.)

Vanessa presented a slide show of the basics of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) packaging law requiring large corporations and manufacturers to help pay for the cost of recycling. She addressed how the EPR for packaging law will work and how it will benefit Maine and our communities. Handouts are available.

The EPR for Packaging law targets a major problem with waste management because it 1) provides incentives for producers and big corporations to make less waste and more eco-friendly packaging; 2) takes the financial burden off taxpayers, so towns will no longer have to cut programs or raise taxes due to recycling costs, and 3) creates a uniform list of materials collected in each participating municipal recycling program.

For more info, one can visit the council's EPR site at

<https://www.nrcm.org/blog/how-epr-packaging-benefits-maine>

Notes:

Maine's current recycling rate is 35%

EPR Packaging law began as Maine LD 154 The Act to support municipal recycling programs and save taxpayer money.

A DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) Conference in April will include EPR.

Another site to visit is the www.recyclingreform.org and MainePackagingEPR@maine.gov

9. Adjournment:

A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

10. Minutes Submitted:

Diana Hauser (Unity) UARRC Secretary