ONEIDA COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Solid Waste Conference Room
Monday, October 26, 2026

Committee members:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Kyle Timmons	X		
Billy Fried	X		
Kyle Kilbourn	X		
Matthew Campbell	X		

Also Present: Lisa Bauknecht/Solid Waste Director, Rachel Gang/Solid Waste, Fred Hegeman/Waste Water Management, Levi Rhody/Sand County Environmental, Jennifer Lueneberg/LRES Director, Traci Hartman/Oneida County Clerk. PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Steven Warner, Dan Kroll and Casey Krausensky/ All Waste Material Management-DNR

1. **Call to order and Chairperson's announcements**
   Chairman Ted Cushing called the Solid Waste Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Noting the meeting being held at the Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room and was properly posted and ADA accessible. No new announcements.

2. **Approve agenda**
   Motion made by Kilbourn and seconded by Timmons to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all ayes.

3. **Approve minutes of the Solid Waste Committee meeting held September 28, 2026.**
   Motion made by Kilbourn and seconded by Fried to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, all ayes.

4. **Public comments**
   None

5. **Future Meeting Dates**
   - Monday, November 23, 2026

6. **September Monthly Vendor Vouches and Budget to Actual Report**
   No unusual items were noted for the month. Kilbourn mentioned that equipment expenses were over budget. Bauknecht explained that the McCoy work, discussed at the previous meeting, had to be completed as there was no option but to have the necessary equipment repairs done. The Committee acknowledged receipt of the vendor vouchers and Budget to Actual Report.

7. **Credit Account application for RF Excavation and Taege Transformation LLC**
   A motion was made to approve the credit account applications as presented. Motion made by Timmons, seconded by Fried. Motion carried, all ayes.

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8. Solid Waste Operator Licensure Requirements

Jennifer Lueneberg with LRES proposed removing the CDL requirement from the Solid Waste Operator job descriptions and making it a preferred, but not required, qualification.

The Solid Waste Operator I and Solid Waste Operator II positions are currently filled. The Operator I does not have a CDL, while the Operator II does. The Lead position is currently vacant and requires a CDL. There is an excellent internal candidate for the Lead position who does not currently hold a CDL.

Lueneberg explained that removing the CDL requirement could allow the internal candidate to move into the Lead position, opening the Operator I position for recruitment without CDL requirements and potentially making hiring easier. She noted that obtaining a CDL has been difficult over the past five years due to the time and expense involved.

The only vehicle currently used for on-road operations is the International hook truck, which is used to deliver and pick up roll-off boxes and does not require a CDL. If the department's CDL-qualified employee were to leave or retire in the future, the Highway Department could be contracted to perform any work requiring a CDL.

Lueneberg also reported that she contacted other counties, none of which require a CDL for comparable positions, and their wages are comparable. The proposed change could also improve the dynamics within the yard by allowing the internal candidate to advance to the Lead position. Lueneberg clarified that the change would not need to go before the Executive Board and would not result in across-the-board raises for employees.

Motion: Kilbourn made a motion to approve the proposed change to the licensure requirements. Seconded by Timmons. Motion carried, all ayes.

9. Recycling Ordinance Amendment

The Committee discussed proposed amendments to the Recycling Ordinance. Fried noted that the ordinance addresses how recycling is handled throughout the County rather than the operations of the Solid Waste Department specifically. The proposed amendments were submitted to the DNR for review and were also reviewed by Chad Lynch with Corporation Counsel.

Kilbourn raised questions regarding certain wording and citation provisions. It was clarified that the Solid Waste Department does not issue citations, as that authority rests with the Sheriff's Office.

A motion was made by Fried to forward the amended ordinance to the County Board for consideration. Timmons seconded the motion. Matt Campbell abstained, explaining that he had not reviewed the amendment prior to the meeting and did not have sufficient time to do so. All other members voted in favor.

10. 2027 Demo IV Long Term Care and Demo IV Closure Letters of Credit

The letters of credit were sent to Chad Lynch with Corporation Counsel for review. The letters would provide coverage for 2027 and, if approved by the Committee, would be forwarded to the Executive Board for approval. Fried asked about the cost, and Bauknecht advised that the fee was $100. Motion made by Cushing, seconded by Timmons. Motion carried, all ayes.

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11. Quotations for Repair of Trash Compactor, Recycling Compactor, and Baler
JWR completed inspections of all three pieces of equipment at a cost of $4,000. The quotes for full repairs were $50,000 for the trash compactor, $50,000 for the baler, and $18,000 for the recycling compactor.

Bauknecht explained that the quotes will be reviewed item by item, as some parts or services may be obtained at a lower cost elsewhere or done in house. The primary repair currently needed is for the trash compactor hoses. Timmons expressed concern that repairs were needed on the compactor despite its relatively young age. Bauknecht noted that the equipment processes more than 100 tons of trash daily.

Fried asked whether all three pieces of equipment were currently operational, and Bauknecht confirmed that they were. Bauknecht advised that she was not ready to move forward with the proposed repairs at this time. The Committee will revisit the repair quotes in the future, as the proposed repairs are not currently included in the budget.

12. 2027 Rate Increase
Bauknecht advised that rates are reviewed approximately every year and a half, with the next rate increase scheduled to take effect January 1, 2027. The proposed increase is based on the 4.7% CPI (Consumer Price Index) for urban Water and Sewer and Trash Collection Services. The transfer station rate would increase from $82 to $86 per ton.

Timmons questioned the current pricing for stumps and whether charging $100 per load would be more appropriate or if the department is currently recovering its costs. Bauknecht will run reports to review stump pricing and profitability and will also research alternative stump-grinding companies.

A motion to approve the 2027 rate increase was made by Timmons, seconded by Kilbourne. Motion carried, all ayes.

13. Compost Update and DNR
Bauknecht advised that she invited representatives from the DNR and Levi Rhody from Sand County Environmental to attend the meeting and assist with questions from the Committee regarding the compost issue.

Fried explained that the Committee's primary concerns were the cost of moving the material and the potential availability of state funding to help address the issue. The Committee also questioned whether the June 30, 2027, deadline could be extended.

It was clarified that there are two separate materials involved: approximately 1,700 tons of finished compost and 6,300 tons of raw fiber cake. The finished compost must be landfilled, as it cannot be land spread and Oneida County no longer operates an active landfill. The raw fiber cake is being treated through an inoculation process in an effort to reduce contaminant levels so it can meet land spreading requirements and potentially remain on-site.

Fried asked Kroll whether the deadline could be extended. Kroll advised that the DNR would be willing to work with the County but would need to see a written plan outlining how the material would be addressed. The County would need to begin removing or monofilling the finished compost before the deadline. Monofilling could be expensive and take years to obtain the

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necessary permits. Hauling the material elsewhere would also be costly but would likely be more affordable than monofilling.

Regarding funding, Hegeman noted that some funding has been available through the Clean Water Program, primarily for wastewater sampling. Krausensky advised that the DNR does not have funding available for this project. Krausensky also indicated there may be some flexibility with the deadline, but the DNR would need a written plan from the County.

Timmons estimated that approximately 77 truckloads of finished compost would need to be hauled away. If the raw fiber cake does not meet land spreading requirements, an additional 286 truckloads could potentially need to be removed.

Cushing asked whether the cap on the County's closed landfill could be removed to allow the material to be placed on-site and then recapped. Krausensky indicated that this would be a significant undertaking but agreed to look into the possibility. Kilbourn asked about burning the material. Hegeman advised that this option would not be economically feasible, although further research is being conducted.

Fried reiterated concerns about meeting the deadline with winter approaching. Timmons suggested exploring the possibility of developing a new landfill on County property, noting that other regional landfills are approaching capacity. Rhody agreed that this option could be investigated. Rhody also believed the raw fiber cake may be able to meet the criteria for land spreading.

The Committee discussed several potential options and follow-up items:

- Existing closed landfill: Investigate the cost and feasibility of removing and replacing the cap to accommodate the material.
- New landfill: Explore the possibility of developing a new landfill on County property.
- Vilas County: Timmons asked whether Vilas County could accept the material, as its landfill has not yet been capped. Rhody stated that Vilas County had previously declined but that he would revisit the request. He noted that additional DNR considerations would also need to be addressed.
- Alternative disposal locations: Bauknecht mentioned a Southern Waste Management facility that may have space available, pending confirmation and review of hauling costs. Hartman recalled hearing at a conference that Barron County might also be willing to accept the material.
- Raw fiber cake: Continue evaluating the inoculation process and determine whether the material can meet land spreading requirements.

The Committee also discussed the challenge of securing transportation. Any trucking company hired to haul the material must have the required Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) trucking license.

The Committee will continue exploring disposal options, associated costs, and the feasibility of meeting the DNR's requirements and deadline.

14. Solid Waste Report
Nothing to Report

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15. Future Agenda Items

16. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

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Committee Chairman Committee Secretary

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