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NYSASWM Wasteline

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The President's Corner



Bill Rabbia, President

As many of our readers may have already heard, Rich Bills, NYSASWM President since 2019, has decided to pursue a new career opportunity outside of the solid waste sector. As a past President, the NYSASWM Board of Directors appointed me to fill Rich's position. I have agreed to serve in this role for the remainder of Rich's term. I am sure I speak for all our membership when I thank Rich for all his hard work as NYSASWM President and wish him luck in his new endeavor.

It is as important as ever for our organization to maintain a strong voice as we see ever evolving legislation with the potential to significantly affect our industry and our membership. As we heard at the Fall Conference in Clayton, the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) could

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NYSASWM Executive Board Changes

William A. Rabbia, Executive Director of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, was recently appointed by the NYSASWM Board to serve as president due to the resignation of Rich Bills of Steuben County. Rabbia previously served as president from 2015 to 2018 and has served as a board of directors representative at various times, most recently in an at-large position. Bills resigned his position as environmental Project Coordinator with the Steuben County Department of Public Works as of February 11 and took a job in the private sector. He was in the midst of a second 2-year term as president of the Association.

At the fall conference at 1000 Islands in Clayton, NY, the following officers were also elected:

Amy Miller, P.E., director of the Madison County Department of Solid Waste - vice president. A board representative since 2018, she most recently served as secretary.

Sue McIntyre, director of the Delaware County Department of Public Works - re-elected as Treasurer for her fourth 2-year term.

Patricia Pastella, P.E. - Secretary, moving from Director North 2, where she had served since 2019. She is the Materials Management Division Director for the Development Authority of the North Country.

Board representatives were also elected:

John Brusa Jr., P.E., of Barton & Loguidice – at large

Carl Schmidt, Oswego County Department of Solid Waste – at large

Matt McGarry, P.E., Town of Colonie – Director East 2

Charles Sudbrink, Cortland County – Director Central 1

Pantelis Panteli, Chautauqua County DPW-Environment – Director West 2

Josh Olbrys, Deputy Executive Director of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority was appointed as NYSASWM board director, Central Region 2 at the beginning of the year, to fill the slot left vacant by James Biamonte, who retired from OHSWA as environmental coordinator.

NYSASWM News

Scholarship Awards

The NYSASWM Board of Directors awarded several Christiansen-Roller-White-Miles Founders' scholarships this past fall.

The following students were chosen to receive funds:

Madalyn Benson – a junior at the University of Buffalo majoring in Environmental Engineering - \$5000.

Karianne Bugbee – a freshman at RPI majoring in Environmental Engineering - \$2000.

Yiyi Wang – a PhD candidate at Stony Brook majoring in Technology, Policy and Innovation - \$2000.

Joseph DiMiceli – a senior at RPI majoring in Civil Engineering - \$2000 (second award).

According to F. Joseph Stockbridge, P.E., NYSASWM Scholarship Committee Chairperson, the committee has recommended expanding the educational majors that can be considered for future scholarships. This would encourage students in technical programs that could translate into opportunities in the solid waste industry to apply for scholarship funds.

A total of \$220,000 has been awarded in NYSASWM scholarships since the inception of the program in 2000, with a total of 84 awards to 62 individuals. The program is designed to further the education of the next generation of solid waste management professionals.

Single awards of up to \$5,000 are possible, with a total of \$20,000 available in scholarships in any one round. For more information, contact Mr. Stockbridge at f.josephstockbridge@gmail.com.

Landfill Operator Training

The NYSASWM Spring Conference returned this year to the Sheraton on the Falls in Niagara Falls, New York offering a New York State DEC Endorsed Landfill Operator Training Course. Over 115 participants arrived for the March 14-16 event to take advantage of the return to the in-person training, which meets the NYCRR Part 363 regulations training requirement. The NYSASWM Board was proud to host this event and hopes everyone enjoyed being able to network and share ideas face-to-face once again. We look forward to seeing you again at the upcoming Spring Federation Conference and at the NYSASWM Fall Conference!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Continued from Page 1

have significant impacts on solid waste management across the state, with many municipalities already having to navigate the additional regulatory requirements. The CLCPA Draft Scoping Document (available at climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Draft-Scoping-Plan) is currently in the midst of the public comment period, set to end on June 10, 2022, and NYSASWM intends to provide comments representative of the concerns we are hearing from our membership. In addition, we are tracking multiple Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives on the state level, with an eye toward ensuring that these serve the purpose of relieving financial and operational responsibility from the municipal solid waste management system.

As you will see in the pages of this edition of Wasteline, we are seeing fresh faces added to our ranks of solid waste professionals and will continue to see more. I encourage you to welcome these folks into the fold, reach out to your contacts to help fill the open positions, and help us to keep our community of solid waste managers strong as we look for cost effective and innovative ways to tackle this ever-evolving landscape.

Announcements

2022 NYS Organics Summit: Registration Now Open!



[Register now](#) for the 8th Annual Organics Summit, taking place April 5-6, 2022. This will be a hybrid event, allowing attendees to participate in-person or virtually. This annual event is an opportunity to connect with over 150 materials management professionals from across the State and beyond to share success stories and discuss creative solutions for the further development of the organics recycling industry in New York State.

Other summit highlights include:

- Initiatives to advance organics recycling
- Co-digestion of food scraps at anaerobic digesters
- Large-scale composting operations
- Source-separation and product quality
- Community composting and community engagement

A student discount is available for current students; students must register with a college email address.

2022 NY Federation Conference with Trade Show



Registration is now open for the 2022 Solid Waste & Recycling Conference with Trade Show. The conference will take place at The Sagamore Resort, May 22 through 25, 2022.

After a 2-year hiatus, during which time two virtual conferences were held, the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations is working to put on its much anticipated networking and technical sessions event under its banner of "Strive for Sustainability."

While relying on virtual options when in-person gatherings were not possible, volunteers and those involved with putting on the annual conference learned to use a conference app that will now provide new opportunities for learning, superior networking and up to the minute conference happenings right on the phone in your hand! The conference will offer 12 professional development hours, the educational trade show, industry updates, and networking opportunities in a beautiful Adirondack setting.

Mark your calendar, look for news in your inbox, and visit the website at nyfederation.org for registration information, exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities and technical program information.

Project News

UCRRA Awarded Small Scale Composter of the Year

The US Composting Council has named the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency as Small Scale Compost Manufacturer of the Year for 2021. This title is awarded to public or private operations with less than 10,000 tons per year throughput for excellence in both compost production and marketing/distribution. Since the start of the program in 2012, UCRRA has diverted more than 19,000 tons of source-separated organics from landfilling and sold more than 10,000 tons of finished compost.



Project News (cont.)

Niagara County Wins Diamond Award for Landfill Project

Contributed by Dawn Timm, Niagara County Department of Public Works

Niagara County Legislator Mike Hill has announced that Niagara County has won a 2021 Diamond Award in the environmental category from the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC) for the Niagara County Landfill No. 1 Improvement Project. Legislator Hill and Environmental Coordinator Dawn Timm made a presentation on the award at a meeting of the county Legislature.

“This is the engineering profession’s equivalent of winning an Academy Award, it’s a big deal and something of which we should be very proud,” said Hill, Chairman of the Niagara County Refuse Disposal District. “Dawn Timm did a tremendous job as did our engineering partner, CHA Consulting. The result is an innovative project that saved taxpayers millions of dollars.”

“This is the engineering profession’s equivalent of winning an Academy Award”

Timm explained the Landfill 1 Project was completed in May 2020 as planned and exceeded expectations.

“This was a very innovative project, as it’s the first publicly owned landfill in New York to use Closure Turf technology, an artificial turf that can be placed right over the geomembrane,” said Timm. “What that does is eliminate the need for two feet of cover soil and management of a vegetative layer, which means no erosion and no mowing. That produces significant long term savings by avoiding maintenance costs.”



Timm (L) and Hill (R)

Timm said the original landfill project estimate was roughly \$12 million, but this approach to design and construction was only \$4 million, eliminating \$8 million in cost. In addition, the project included environmental improvements such as improved water quality of storm water runoff.

The ACEC presents the Engineering Excellence Awards annually to projects in the public and private sectors judged to be complex, innovative and significant value to society.

The Diamond award is the highest honor bestowed by ACEC in New York.



Niagara County Landfill No. 1

RNG Project at Steuben County Landfill

Waga Energy is joining forces with Steuben County (New York, USA) on a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) project at the county's Bath landfill. The RNG produced will be injected in the local grid and used as a biofuel to decarbonize mobility. The Steuben County landfill will be the first in the US to adopt Waga Energy's WAGABOX® technology, already in use at ten landfills with an additional eleven facilities forthcoming in Europe and North America.

On December 30, 2021, Waga Energy, a European expert in the production of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) from landfill gas, signed a contract with Steuben County, New York for the development of an RNG project at a municipal solid waste landfill located in the town of Bath. Waga Energy will build a landfill gas upgrading unit using its patented WAGABOX® technology. Once completed, the unit will produce grid compliant RNG (also known as biomethane) from the methane generated by the decomposition of the waste in the landfill. The WAGABOX® unit will be commissioned by March 2023. It will purify 1,000 standard cubic feet per minute (1,600 cubic meters per hour) of raw landfill gas to deliver 207,000 mmBtu (60 GWh) of RNG.

The facility will produce RNG that can be used for residential consumption or as a transportation fuel, equivalent to supplying around 4,000 homes with clean, local, and renewable energy, saving an estimated 13,500 tons of carbon dioxide per year. Waga Energy will fund, build, operate and maintain the WAGABOX® unit under a 20-year landfill gas supply contract with Steuben County.

The Steuben County project is Waga Energy's first project in the United States

The entire facility will be built in North America, with the exception of one of the components of the cryogenic module that will be imported from France. Waga Energy will generate revenues by selling RNG to a private offtaker through a purchase agreement similar to the PPAs (power purchase agreements) commonly used for renewable electricity projects. The revenue generated by the project will be shared with Steuben County.

WAGABOX® is a breakthrough technology for upgrading landfill gas into grid compliant RNG. The result of fifteen years of research and development, the technology combines membrane filtration and cryogenic distillation to separate methane from landfill gas. Over the last five years, ten WAGABOX® facilities have been commissioned in France. An additional eleven projects—eight in France, one in Spain, and two in Canada—are under construction. The Steuben County WAGABOX® project is Waga Energy's first project in the United States.

Waga Energy CEO and cofounder Mathieu Lefebvre said, "We are honored to have been selected by Steuben County to upgrade the methane from its Bath landfill. This first contract in the United States marks a major milestone to introduce our WAGABOX® solution to the US market. We are eager for landfill operators in the United States to see how efficient our technology is, and how our hassle-free operating model can help small and medium-sized landfills generate additional revenues while taking concrete action against climate change." Steuben County Manager Jack Wheeler said: "Steuben County is thrilled to partner with Waga Energy in leveraging landfill gas in an environmentally conscious and economically advantageous project. Waga Energy has proven to be a highly innovative international firm and bringing this collaboration to fruition will benefit Steuben County and our region for many years to come."



Project News (cont.)

Rockland Green MRF Improvements

Contributed by Nathiel Egesi, P.E., RRT

The Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green (“Rockland Green”) owns a dual stream Materials Recovery Facility built in 1997 that operated until 2019 when it was decommissioned due to the equipment system having reached the end of its useful life. Rockland Green embarked on an initiative to finance and procure the complete replacement and upgrade of their MRF equipment system as well as significant facility improvements.



RRT Engineering, LLC based in Melville, NY provided the assistance for the demolition of the retired equipment systems and to establish a transload operation to divert recyclables to other facilities for the planned renovation period. Rockland Green procured a new equipment system of 30 TPH for fiber and 12 TPH for commingled containers featuring 5 optical sorters and advanced screening and separation technology based on specifications and designs prepared by RRT, RRT’s experience of designing over 400 other MRFs, and data derived from a composition study performed by RRT.

RRT also prepared bid packages for procuring separate construction contractors for General Construction, Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical and Fire Protection as well as assisted Rockland Green with the negotiations with the Building Trades Council to establish a PLA. The design prepared by RRT included a 15,000 sf addition, new loading docks, electric service, conversion of the heating system from oil to gas, remodeling the offices and all the building modifications for the new equipment including pits, bunkers, push walls, overhead doors, ventilation, lighting, heating, fire sprinklers and fire alarms as well as modifying traffic patterns with new roads, stormwater management improvements and retaining walls.



RRT also assisted Rockland Green to develop the business term sheet and the RFP for the procurement of a long-term MRF operator, procurement of glass markets, and the Independent Engineer’s report for the bond issue.

Construction commenced in October 2021 and is well underway with completion scheduled in the fall of

2022 for operations to resume. Also, a procurement is in progress now for a qualified MRF operator with proposals due late December. This entire project effort reflects a team effort including Rockland Green’s Executive Director, Gerard M. Damiani, Jr. and staff, Rockland Green’s Board, and its outside counsel West Group Law, PLLC.

New Recycling Coordinator Joins the Fulton County DSW

Jean Shatley-Mason recently joined the Fulton County Department of Solid Waste (DSW) in the position of recycling coordinator. She succeeds Dianne Woske, who retired in August of 2021 after 21 years with the County.

Jean brings communications, marketing and graphic design capabilities to the department, with a B.S. degree in communication and information design from SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica, NY. She also holds an A.A.S. degree in graphic communications/sales and marketing from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in Johnstown, NY.

She most recently worked in local real estate markets, designing ads for all social media platforms, developing newsletters and designing promotional campaigns involving billboards, postcards, advertisements and mailers, using photography and video.



Shatley-Mason

David B. Rhodes, DSW director said “Jean is a welcome addition to the department, and will help promote the county’s recycling programs, with emphasis on digital media outreach to get the word out to residents about all the recycling opportunities provided by the Department of Solid Waste.”

Jean and her husband live in Johnstown.

OCRRA Team Shuffle

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) has several employee announcements, promotions, and a retirement - as well as two open positions - to share with our fellow solid waste managers.

After five years as OCRRA’s Executive Director, Dereth Glance has accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner for Materials Management and Environmental Remediation with NYSDEC. The OCRRA board of directors conducted an internal search to fill her position and selected Kevin Spillane, current OCRRA director of transfer operations. Spillane has run OCRRA’s transfer operations for more than five years. Previously, he was the director of business operations for the Seneca-Cayuga ARC, project planner with Stearns and Wheeler, and director of solid waste with Ontario County. OCRRA is now accepting applications for director of transfer operations. Michael Mokrzycki, current OCRRA business officer was promoted to deputy director and business officer.

More than markets have changed on the recycling front in Onondaga County. After 30 years of service, OCRRA’s long-time director of recycling and reduction, Andrew Radin retired from public service in October. Radin’s career to advance sustainable materials management continues as the New York State program manager for PaintCare, implementing the paint stewardship program in New York State.

Kristen Lawton, OCRRA’s long-time Public Information Officer was promoted to director of recycling and reduction. Earlier in 2021, OCRRA added two new talented recycling specialists to the team: Lisa Piering and Maria Bianchetti.

OCRRA is also looking to hire an engineer-in-training with a minimum of two years professional work experience to work with Cristina Albuino, PE, OCRRA’s engineer, to support solid waste engineering needs at OCRRA’s transfer stations, compost sites and Waste-to-Energy facility. The assistant engineer and the director of transfer operations job postings can be found here: www.ocrra.org/about-us/ocrra-team/employment

To contact Kevin Spillane at OCRRA, send an email to kspillane@ocrra.org. To contact Andrew Radin at PaintCare, send an email to aradin@paint.org.

Casella Open Positions

Looking for something new in the solid waste management field? Casella has open positions!

<https://careers-casella.icims.com/jobs/2320/landfill-environmental-technician/job>

Visit Casella’s website for more!

**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION
FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**



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At Large: Vacant	North 1: David Rhodes Fulton County DSW	West 2: Pantelis K. Panteli, P.E. Chautauqua County
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**NYSASWM
MEMBERSHIP
BENEFITS**

- Discount registration for the Spring Federation Solid Waste Conference and Vendor Show at the Sagamore Hotel in Lake George
- Discount registration for the Annual Fall NYSASWM Conference and Vendor Show
- Discount registration to annual Landfill Operator Training Program
- Subscription to the NYSASWM newsletter— *Wasteline*
- Track legislation on behalf of the membership and alert members to bills that may have an impact on their systems
- Scholarship Program with first consideration given to the children of NYSASWM members
- Countless opportunities for networking & technology transfer as a member of the largest organization representing solid waste managers in New York State

**JOIN NYSASWM
TODAY!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**New York State Association for Solid Waste Management
Established 1975**

Please complete the following:

Check type of membership:

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*Note that dues are per person (not per company) and are in effect for the calendar year. Please make checks payable to: "NYSASWM" (dues are \$75.00 per person per calendar year) and mail to:

**New York State Association for Solid Waste Management
Membership Department, P.O. Box 13461, Albany, New York 12212**

Please note that while NYSASWM is a not-for-profit organization, membership dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. To the extent permitted under the Internal Revenue Code, dues may be deducted as a business expense.

This newsletter is a membership benefit.