



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315.435.2070 • Fax: 315.435.8434 • www.ongov.net/legislature

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – DECEMBER 12, 2022 JULIE ABBOTT, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Chase, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. McBride, Dr. Kelly

ALSO ATTENDING: Mr. Yaus; also see attached

Chair Abbott called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

1. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Shannon Harty, Commissioner

a. Authorizing Execution of an Intermunicipal New York Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for Water/Wastewater Providers with New York Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network Members

- New York WARN which is a Mutual agreement between sewer and water utilities
- Authorizing County Executive to sign it, no budgetary impact
- Establish rules of engagement should WEP go and support/help another member utility and/or receive that help; explains insurance requirements; how WEP does cost recovery
- Working with FEMA/tropical storm Fred, mutual aid we offer to municipalities in Onondaga County because agreement not in place; trying to document; WEP able to provide this

Questions and comments:

- Is this creating a cost, more for streamlining or process? This is more for a mutual aid, like fire-fighting, emergency response, because legal issues, how going to be charged, etc. Having this established before the emergency starts is critical instead of in the heat of moment. Getting legal stuff out of the way. Cost/streamline the process
- Was there any down side when trying to coordinate with Tropical Storm Fred? Yes, FEMA looks for assets and resources as to where we are in this agreement. WEP did not have it, trying to help our neighbors, not in trouble; it helps with increasing are liability to recover
- The last time did it, it was done without this (negative repercussions). When a pipe goes bad, fix it, county being a neighboring party out to help; this one would be a contract. The mutual aid that is offered in Fred is limited from financial perspective; we know storms are getting worse; infrastructure is failing; this is good business

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

b. Approving the Classification of a Type I Action Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act with Respect to the Ley Creek and Liverpool Force Mains Project; Accepting the Environmental Assessment Form; Accepting and Adopting the Negative Declaration; and Authorizing the Filing, Distribution and Publication of the Negative Declaration.

- Ley Creek is one of the larger capital improvement projects; replacement of force main coming into Metro Waste bed, several years ago there was a major disruption; at point where WEP has design documents Phase I ready to go
- Complete full environmental review (packet is online) filled out long form, parts 1,2,& 3; no negative impact

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- c. **A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Harbor Brook Drainage District (February 7, 2023 at 12:50 p.m.)**
- d. **A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (February 7, 2023 at 12:55 p.m.)**

Combined 1c & 1d:

- 1c & 1d are initial steps of the 2023 – 2028 capital improvement program that was presented in the October budget
- First one related to public hearing associated with the borrowing on drainage district operating outside of the consolidated sanitary district
- Second one is related to large investment in sanitary sewer district

A motion was made by Mr. McBride, seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- e. **Authorizing the Sale of County Property Located at 102 Dickerson Street, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York Known as the Trolley Lot South (\$1,053,000)**

- Related to the Trolley Lot, on Clinton Street, leased to lot operator; under this action, that land WEP is retaining the land above it, selling out the parking lot area
- It is fully surfaced; nothing below the surface, basically a parking lot, 3.1 acres
- Who is buying it? It is by a competitor process, by a RFP, it is not by the same company running it. County has been managing this and wants to get out of parking lot business. Would it effect anything that the county owns around it? No, working closely with Ms. Harty, for future and current needs; it does not allow us to access below ground to repair; reserve underground to do that; doing a survey off to retain easement across the entire property. They will basically own the asphalt
- Sale of property roles back into capital project account; purchase of land is part of that capital project

A motion was made by Mr. McBride, seconded by Ms. Kuhn to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. **ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY:** Kevin Spillane, Director

a. **INFORMATIONAL: Ley Creek**

- Plan in Ley Creek ~ what OCRRA is purchasing, what we currently own is what is in the blue (see below), our transfer station, purple is land owned by WEP, it is a 99 year lease, county's interest to exercise purpose option on that to the dollar; advantage of county to own longer



LEY CREEK TRANSFER STATION

The Past
Ley Creek is identified as the best site for a solid waste transfer station.

The Present
The facility is past its useful life. Renovations are required to meet regulations.

The Future
A comprehensive solid waste campus offers flexibility for growth, more flow control, and unforeseen challenges.



LEY CREEK - THE PAST

- ➔ The city of Syracuse was in a bind in the early 1970's, as available landfill space dwindled. An engineer was dispatched to evaluate several possible sites for a new "transfer station" to solve the city's pressing waste disposal problems.
- ➔ A January 1971 Post-Standard article reveals Ley Creek emerged as the early front-runner. A sewage treatment plant was already operating in the area and Onondaga County owned the land needed for a transfer station.
- ➔ In the half a century that followed, several repairs and upgrades were made to meet changing needs. The handling of solid waste involves heavy equipment inside buildings and a variety of materials that wear down structures over time. Portions of the facility were modified and expanded in the early 1990's to protect the original structure, so it could continue to serve a purpose.



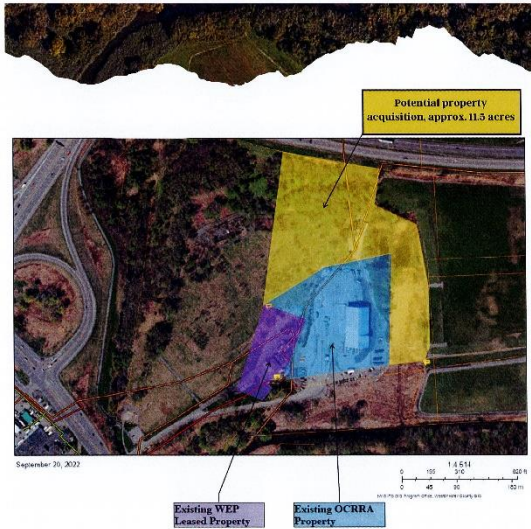
LEY CREEK - THE PRESENT

- ➔ Modifications will no longer meet modern regulatory requirements, including floor drains and an enclosed tipping floor. Today, the structure is past its useful life due to the condition of the floor, foundation and structural components.
- ➔ While in operation, the site regularly handled roughly 600 tons of commercial and residential waste each day – with limitations.
- ➔ OCRRA Partners: Covanta operates a Waste-to-Energy Facility (WTE), turning trash into electricity. Recycle America sorts curbside recyclables at a Material Recovery Facility (MRF).
- ➔ Without the capacity to collect and handle hard-to-manage materials (household hazardous waste, electronics, batteries), the Agency was required to find a variety of vendors throughout the community to assist with disposal.



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE

- ➔ As renovations are explored at Ley Creek, there is a timely opportunity to reimagine solid waste management in Onondaga County.
- ➔ OCRRA's Board of Directors has developed a 2022 Strategy Plan to meet the current needs of residents and businesses, while also anticipating unforeseen circumstances in the decades ahead.
- ➔ The acquisition of approximately 11.5 acres surrounding the current OCRRA property would position the Agency for modernization, more control over the flow and reduction of waste, and potential long-term savings.
- ➔ **Note:** The cost to purchase property and complete renovations would be funded entirely by OCRRA. The agency is NOT seeking financial support from Onondaga County.



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE CAMPUS

- ➔ Eco-Drops offer residents a single site to deliver hard-to-manage waste materials.
 - Currently, in Onondaga County, residents must drop-off paint, batteries, thermometers, electronics, etc. at separate collection events or partner locations throughout the county.
 - Residents have expressed a desire for a simpler path to proper disposal. More space would allow OCRRA to explore a central site.



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE CAMPUS

- ➔ Additional waste disposal capacity at Ley Creek would help OCRRA adapt to unforeseen challenges.
 - Covanta processes approximately 1,000 tons of waste each day, providing the main source of municipal solid waste disposal available in Onondaga County.
 - Recycle America operates the county's only Material Recovery Facility (MRF), equipped to sort curbside recyclables. Roughly 125-150 tons of Onondaga County's residential recycling is handled at the MRF each day. When commercial customers from the region are added, the number rises to more than 250 tons daily, on average.



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE CAMPUS

- ➔ More cost-effective solutions would be on the table, leading to significant long-term savings:
 - OCRRA's main offices could potentially move to a new facility at Ley Creek, ending the need to rent space for decades.
 - A solid waste campus would complement the town of Salina's development plan, potentially attracting businesses that specialize in material recovery. The town supervisor has expressed support for OCRRA's property expansion.



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE CAMPUS

- ➔ Shared services would be possible, with significant savings:
 - OCRRA and the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection (WEP) need new fuel stations at Ley Creek. Instead of building two stations, within a few hundred feet of each other, the agencies could reduce construction waste with a shared facility and save more \$1M dollars.
 - A roadway on WEP property could be shared, allowing OCRRA to split up residential and commercial traffic for easier access to the facilities.
 - The challenges of outdoor maintenance work in Central New York could be resolved with a shared indoor facility, robust enough to accommodate both agencies.



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE CAMPUS

- ➔ Additional capacity gives OCRRA more control over the flow of materials for better recovery and recycling.
 - Wine and liquor bottles break, contaminating other curbside recyclables. The result is too dirty to create new bottles. A drop-off option at Ley Creek could accommodate a clean supply of recyclable glass, attractive to bottle manufacturers.
 - If necessary, a new transfer station could hold all of the county's daily residential recyclables, giving OCRRA the flexibility to transfer materials to any facility in the region.
 - More competitive contracts are possible. Miller Environmental Group can offer a year-round drop-off site for household hazardous waste. Others can't. If OCRRA has an Eco-Drop, more companies could compete to manage the waste.



LEY CREEK - THE FUTURE

- ➔ Five decades after Ley Creek was identified as the best option for a new transfer station in Onondaga County, there is an opportunity to learn from the past and prepare for the future.
- ➔ A flexible and adaptable site is the path to a long-term successful comprehensive solid waste management plan.
- ➔ The purchase of 11.5 acres of land at Ley Creek, fully funded by OCRRA, would offer cost-savings and competitive contracts.
- ➔ OCRRA'S Mission: To serve our community by providing a comprehensive solid waste management system that is environmentally, socially and fiscally sound. Through innovative strategies, including waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy recovery, disposal and education, OCRRA helps make our community a more sustainable and healthy place to live.

Questions and comments:

- What is timeframe to develop this? This is not going to be as impactful to do at the transfer station, transfer station has to be permitted. This facility, because of the size and functions, will do what is called registration of DEC, DEC is much simpler than permitting, permitting for this site is under new regulations, plus want to work with town to make sure all activities are above that. Much more impactful. Hoping to move forward; 2 year timeframe
- As far as solar panels, is OCRRA putting them in to fuel the need of station, or will there be enough for other people to benefit? The landfill will be tied to community grid, our solar green project is related to onsite, use of building and fueling (MSW) down the street; when facilities are full
- Ms. Harty is talking about coming back; to map out some things to keep county informed on; coming every month to meet; other important things

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Kuhn, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk
 Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2022

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Kevin Spillane	OCRRRA
Michael Mokrzycki	OCRRRA
Tammy Palmer	OCRRRA
Pete Heuler + Paddy Gonzalez	Comptroller
SHANNON HARTY	WSP