

# Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes April 27, 2017

## Members in Attendance:

Dave Haldeman (Chair), Shawangunk  
Kristen Schara (Secretary), Hurley  
John Sansalone, Gardiner  
James Mays, Olive  
Mark Ellison, Esopus  
Margot Becker, at Large  
Mandy Wolfson, UC Dept. of the Environment

William More, at Large  
Emilie Hauser, Kingston  
Judith Karpova, Rochester  
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz  
Fran Sansone, Esopus

Guests: Ralph Durham, Hurley CAC;

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

March minutes were approved as amended.

## Old Business

Creek Week – What events or activities are EMC members planning that could fit with Creek Week? The Town of Shawangunk is putting in a rain garden with other groups. Eric Stewart has planted a pollinator garden at the Marbletown town hall. Solarize Rondout is having a pizza party to promote the program. Hurley is planning to do a BioBlitz in September. Gardiner is considering doing a stream clean up in September. The Marbletown CAC will discuss Creek Week at their next meeting.

Topics for half day training - The goal would be to have a workshop in the fall and invite planningboards, town boards and CAC's. It must be designed for training credits. GIS training would be of interest. The proposed NYS Wetlands Laws, and the cluster planning tool being used in Shawangunk are other topics.

## New Business – Presentation of the Ulster County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Annual Report

The permit is changing but currently the old permits are in effect. There are 6 minimum control areas that UC must report on annually: public education and outreach; public involvement/participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), construction site runoff control, postconstruction storm water management, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. For example: the UCRRA held 3 household hazardous waste collection events; UC supervised runoff control, mostly at the Sawkill Rd. bridge site as well as any post construction structures or infrastructure such as detention ponds; rain gardens were planted. They don't use pesticides anymore to control weeds. Salt dispensers are calibrated to minimize salt deposition and chemical storage. They mapped all the structures in their stormwater system including the presence of culverts. They are now assessing the aquatic life in UC watersheds such as the Lower Esopus. The county hired a LIDAR contractor to help with mapping. (Q - Is there any monitoring of defoliant used by Central Hudson around guardrails? A - The DEC has regulations that cover this. The DEC New Paltz regional office issues about 400 aquatic permits per year which must be verified. Users must deploy certified applicators. NYDOT manages guardrail treatments. The NYCDEP agreed to not use pesticides and herbicides. The Rotating Intensive Survey (RIBS) includes the mapping of invertebrates. Each major area is done every 7 years. including testing for the presence of pesticides.) Mandy sent EMC members a link to the report and it is available on the UC website.

## Dept. of Environment Update/Legislative Update

The US EPA Office of Water is planning to streamline regulations. There will be a public meeting to solicit input. UC purchased a 2017 Nissan Leaf locally on the state contract. It has a range of over 100 miles and can use fast chargers. They will get 11 more plug in hybrids to be used by various departments. The UC legislature reviewed the Green Fleet Report which included a year's analysis of usage, cost, public vs. county use, and the number of sessions cost charging time. DEC sponsored a green cleaning workshop to promote cleaner, safer, and more efficient products and systems for public buildings such as schools. There is a webinar featuring the Baltimore City Schools on Wednesday. The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Conference at the Ashokan Center is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. The NYS Association of Conservation Commissions conference will take place in Kingston in October. Julie Noble is coordinating the conference. NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association will meet in Binghamton in June. The UCDOE helped many of the towns write

applications for EV charging stations. The required 20% matching funds could be in kind. The county will install 6 more in addition to the station applied for by the towns.

The UC Legislature accepted a \$261K grant for a new composting program. The project will start at the UC jail, turning food waste into compost. The UCDOE and UCRRRA will share the contract. All processing will take place at the UCRRRA. They are going to map locations of food waste generators for future planning. The UC Health Dept. has completed 2 sweeps of 800+ locations for compliance with the polystyrene ban. Initially, 116 were found to be noncompliant but now there is almost 100% compliance. They are allowing vendors to work through their stockpiles. There is a brochure explaining the law on the UC website. UC is considering a fire training center on property near SUNY Ulster. The parcel is mostly wetlands and locals have expressed concerns. The county does not currently have a center and some fire companies are renting facilities elsewhere for training. Other counties have these and can provide information about operations and requirements. Typically, chemical extinguishers, smoke, and fuel for ignition will be used. The plastic bag ban is on hold. The legislature is waiting for direction from NYS with regards to the NYC law.

### **Roundabout**

John Sansalone – NYWEA will be sponsoring a series of presentations on water quality improvements for its legislative forum in Albany on May 9<sup>th</sup>. NYWEA's annual spring meeting, June 3-5, will take place in Rochester. The Bronx Zoo has a new exhibit of hellbender salamanders. The book Mannahatta has inspired an exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York which shows Manhattan Island before European settlement. The ECC has been tasked with several projects to review.

William More – Rockland County passed an ordinance to require pharmaceutical sellers to fund sites for drop off of unused pharmaceuticals. A USDEA sponsored drug take back is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Every police department in UC has a drug take back box which is available every day.

Jim Littlefoot – The ECB had a joint meeting with the town's planning board to propose a checklist of vernal pools, wetlands, etc. to be given to homeowners for completion when purchasing or building.

Kristen Schara – The CAC draft open space plan was submitted to the town board. The CAC is planning a public meeting to solicit input.

Jim Mays – The CAC continues to work with Rochester and Marbletown on Solarize Rondout. They are working on charging stations and benchmarking. Marbletown will share their benchmarking work.

Mark Ellison – The town lawyer submitted corrections to the draft scenic resources inventory. The town's economic development committee is putting out a postcard survey for a new comprehensive plan. It will include a phone number for responses. They want to have a community forum. They are using their planning board consultant. Vernon Benjamin reviewed solar policies with the EB.

Judith Karpova – The ECC is wrapping up their Natural Heritage Plan in June. Their town supervisor is stepping down. They are attending planning board meetings and trainings to foster a better relationship. There is a Solarize event on April 30<sup>th</sup> and a Hudson River Environmental Society meeting at SUNY New Paltz on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Emilie Hauser – The Hudson River Environmental Society meeting will include speakers on the history of energy production, alternative energy, energy distribution and usage, oil transport and the REV. The speakers will represent the NYSPSC, NYSERDA, Riverkeeper, Pace University and others. The afternoon session will concentrate on solar installations from residential to large projects and impacts on open space, farmland, and land use. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. The *Hudson River on the Rise* conference for waterfront communities to plan for sea level rise will be on April 27<sup>th</sup>. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Cornell University landscape architecture students will present ideas for Kingston Point Park to accommodate sea level rise. By the end of the century, the sea level is predicted to rise 72 inches. The CAC received 2 bids for work on their natural resource inventory. There are 2 community solar installations planned, one on Ulster Ave and the other on Jockey Hill.

Next Meeting – May 31st

Mr.Sansalone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Littlefoot seconded. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 8:35.