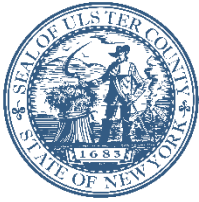


**ULSTER COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Dave Haldeman, Chair  
Vacant, Vice-Chair  
Vacant, Secretary



**Meeting Minutes**

Regular Monthly Meeting ***February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM***

***Hybrid Meeting*** Via Zoom and in-person at the Ulster County Restorative Justice Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston NY

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*“The purpose of the Council shall be to review and advise the county and local governments on present and proposed methods of using, protecting and conserving the environment for the benefit of all the people.”*

With a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at 6:35 p.m.

<b>Municipal Members Present</b>	David Haldeman, Chair (Shawangunk) Leslie Surprenant (Saugerties, T) Kristen Schara (Hurley) Nikita Oarcea (Marbletown) Ted Griesse (Kingston, C)
<b>At-Large Members Present</b>	None
<b>Members Present via Videoconference</b>	Neil Rindlaub (Gardiner) Mark Ellison (Esopus) Rob Ferri (New Paltz, T) Sarah Underhill (Wawarsing)
<b>Ulster County Staff</b>	Nick Hvozda, Department of the Environment
<b>Guests</b>	Jim Easley (Town of Rochester) Robert Cruickshank (Shandaken) Mary O'Donnell Naseem Haidaoui Michael Hartner

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/environmental-management-council/emc-meeting-dates-minutes>

**Discussion/Approval of Minutes**

Dave Haldeman made a motion to approve the minutes from the EMC meetings listed below. It was approved unanimously.

July 27th  
September 28th  
October 26th  
November 30<sup>th</sup>

# ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Announcements

None

## Election of Officers

The following nominees were considered for appointment:

Office	Nominee
Chair	Dave Haldeman
Vice-Chair	Kristen Schara
Secretary	Neil Rindlaub
Liaison to the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee	Ted Griese
Representative to the Recycling Oversight Committee	Leslie Surprenant
Representative to the UC Water Quality Coordinating Committee	Rob Ferri

Dave Haldeman made a motion to approve the nominees. Leslie Surprenant seconded. All voting members were in favor.

Robert Cruickshank volunteered to be a backup to the representative/liaison positions as needed.

## Department of the Environment Update

- Amanda LaValle has been appointed as Deputy County Executive to oversee Office of Economic Development, Office of Employment & Training, Department of the Environment, Department of Public Works, Department of Planning, Office of Tourism, UCAT, *SUNY Ulster*
- [Executive Order 1 of 2023](#) was released on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It sets greenhouse gas reduction goals that align the County with the NYS Climate Act.
- The Ulster County Green Economy Network (UGREEN) continues to hold webinars and networking events for its membership. More information is available here: <https://sustainhv.org/ulster-green-economy-network/>
- Arbor Day- Ulster County Department of the Environment is partnering with Ulster County Soil and Water to provide communities with trees and materials for tree plantings. Application form for municipalities to apply can be accessed here: [https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/environment/UC\\_ArborDayApplication%20form.pdf](https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/environment/UC_ArborDayApplication%20form.pdf) . Any questions can be directed to [Environment@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:Environment@co.ulster.ny.us) or 845-338-7455 .

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## Planning Department Update

No update.

## Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Committee News

- The committee is evaluating a resolution that sets a public hearing for proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2022, A Local Law Providing For The Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County To Clean Water, And For The Rights Of The Hudson River, Also Known As Mahicannituck. More information is available here:  
<https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/legislature/2023/resolution-no-5>
- Amanda LaValle gave a presentation to the committee on the history of the interim release protocol for the Ashokan reservoir.

## Old Business

- Still arranging a date to review the County open space plan
- Dave Haldeman spoke with James Taylor about his concept for a biomass generation plant – the idea would be to gather representatives from UCRRA, the energy, environment, sustainability committee, someone from the county ex. office, someone from the planning dept., representative from the DOE, anyone from this EMC, a representative from the state house and senate whose district includes Ulster County, and others later this spring

## New Business

- The council discussed sending a letter to the DEC supporting the letter drafted by the municipalities in the Lower Esopus watershed regarding the proposed changes to the Ashokan reservoir Interim Release Protocol – all members in favor. Dave Haldeman will work with the DOE to finalize the letter.

## Council Member Roundabout

Town of Shawangunk Dave Haldeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town is working on ways to extend the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail from Wallkill to Gardiner. The Open Space Institute is interested in connecting these trails to the Empire State trail. Dave will be meeting with representatives from OSI to discuss.</li><li>• Blue Chip Farms, 700 acre horse farm. A developer wants to build a golf course, rental bungalows and private homes. This parcel is next to the National Wildlife Refuge with endangered species and wetlands. There will be difficult decisions about the environmental impact</li></ul>
City of Kingston Ted Griesse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability office drafted legislature to ban neonicotinoid use by City staff. Local Law #2 likely has passed by now</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City is working with Pace Law Center to review the LWRG. The City has convened a working group and is completing a RISE assessment. The working group includes multiple CAC members.</li> <li>The CAC is investigating the use of gas-powered lawn maintenance equipment and potential regulations to limit their use and impact.</li> </ul>
Town of Saugerties Leslie Surprenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAC commented on the draft EIS for the Winston Farm project</li> <li>Exploring options for revitalizing the CCA program after the supplier default</li> <li>Town is getting a grant from Partners for Climate Action to start a ¼ acre pollinator meadow at Cantine Field. The project will start in November.</li> </ul>
Town of Esopus Mark Ellison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ECC is holding a Repair Café Saturday March 25</li> <li>Earth Day is Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>Continuing to pursue bronze certification</li> <li>Working with CCE on emergency preparedness public outreach</li> <li>Working on installation of a municipal charging station</li> <li>Looking for FEMA program for emergency assistance</li> </ul>
Town of Marbletown Nikita Oarcea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food waste audit at Rondout Valley High School. Currently collecting data. The goals are to raise awareness and reduce waste.</li> </ul>
Town of Olive Simon Strauss (from email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Olive has accumulated enough points to apply for Bronze Climate Smart Communities certification.</li> <li>Critical Environment Areas - with a grant for technical assistance from the NYS DEC and Hudsonia, a working group assembled by the Olive CAC ("OCAC") has identified two Critical Environment Areas in the Town; presented to the Town Board for their approval to move forward, and is now preparing for meetings with the Planning Board followed by public outreach to and meetings with landowners of parcels in the proposed two CEAs.</li> <li>Moratorium on subdivisions of over 5 parcels. Recently the Olive Town Board enacted a moratorium on large subdivisions. During the moratorium the OCAC expects to render assistance to the designated Zoning Committee to provide environmental guidelines for the Planning Board to follow in considering future large-scale subdivisions when the moratorium is lifted.</li> </ul>
Town of Gardiner Neil Rindlaub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a proposal to build 8 houses on a large parcel in the town. The CAC is reviewing adherence to buffer requirements for streams and wetlands. The issue was referred by the planning board.</li> </ul>
Town of New Paltz Rob Ferri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes from Water Quality Coordinating Committee – the WQCC is considering development of a stormwater coalition for Ulster County towns</li> <li>Rob will be conducting a stormwater workshop on March 9<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>

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	<p>(<a href="#">Register here</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Paltz CAC developed an ordinance on a conservation overlay district and will be proposing it to the town board</li> </ul>
Town of Hurley Kristen Schara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiting to hear the result of the application for Bronze certification in the CSC program</li> <li>• Working with HVRC on a climate action planning process</li> <li>• Incorporating goals of the Climate action plan and sustainability elements into ongoing comprehensive plan update</li> <li>• CAC is following a case against a private water company in West Hurley. Water customers were left without recourse from the PSC. Senator Hinchey has proposed a bill to regulate private water companies.</li> <li>• Several large parcels available for sale. The CAC is exploring open space uses. 1) 686 acres on Hurley Mountain Road. 2) Northern edge of Binnewater Lakes area</li> <li>• The town is working on an organics solid waste collection program at the Transfer station. The Town will release an RFP for firms to handle the transportation and/or on-site composting. Dave mentioned that UCRRA is developing a similar program (that requires the town to provide transportation to UCRRA, and to provide an overseer at the drop off point)</li> <li>• The CSC is working with CCE to develop a social media &amp; public education website to help residents plan for disasters/weather emergencies. CCE is creating the online resources.</li> </ul>
Town of Rochester Jim Easley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest speaker from Walkill Valley Pollinator Pathway – Angela Sisson. There is money in their town budget to develop a pollinator pathway.</li> <li>• Two proposed local law rewrites underway: 1) wetlands, 2) yard setback requirements for waterways/wetlands. The town CAC sent a letter supporting the updates to the town board. The County planning board provided comments.</li> <li>• Revamping plastic bag collection program. The rec center was collecting bags and the program made them into benches.</li> <li>• Discussing dark skies local law proposal</li> </ul>
Town of Shandaken Robert Cruickshank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertising NYSERDA no-cost energy audits to town residents. They are using the audit completed at the town library as an example. The changing price of fuel oil is making the project economics much better. They are also attempting to get audits for all town buildings.</li> <li>• There is a PACE resource available to help commercial entities understand the audit recommendations.</li> <li>• The town is working on EV infrastructure development for the town.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shandaken is working on compost development and is interested in the program provided by UCRRA</li><li>• The town is starting working groups for a government operations climate action plan and natural resource inventory.</li></ul>
Town of Wawarsing Sarah Underhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The NY Rural Water Association completed a study of the town's public and private water systems. Suggestions from the study are being made through the town board.</li><li>• The Cresco labs facility and the Nevele site development will have water use impacts for the Town.</li><li>• There is development of the O&amp;W Rail Trail happening through OSI</li></ul>

Town of Marlborough – Naseem Haidaoui gave an update on the town's CAC and work on several projects.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The speaker will be Adam Bosch from Pattern for Progress

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm