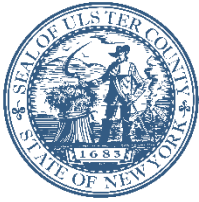


ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Kristen Schara, Vice-Chair
Neil Rindlaub, Secretary



Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting *April 26th, 6:30 PM*

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

“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.

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| Municipal Members Present | David Haldeman, Chair (Shawangunk) Leslie Surprenant (Saugerties, T) Nikita Oarcea (Marbletown) Rob Ferri (New Paltz, T) Ted Griesse (Kingston, C) Kristen Schara (Hurley) |
| At-Large Members Present | None |
| Members Present via Videoconference | Naseem Nissam Mary O'Donnell Jim Easley Simon Strauss |
| Ulster County Staff | Nick Hvozda, Department of the Environment Europa McGovern, DoE |
| Guests | Janelle Kozarek Bill More Laura Hartmann Eleanor Peck (Hudson Valley Regional Council) |

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 March 29, 2023. They were approved unanimously.

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Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

Eleanor Peck of the Hudson Valley Regional Council <https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/> spoke about the Climate Smart Community Program and clean energy initiatives. In New York State, 118 communities have been certified as Bronze or Silver Climate Smart communities. Both HVRC and Cornell Cooperative can support communities in achieving Climate Smart certification. More about CSC at this website:

<https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/regional-initiatives/clean-energy-sustainability/#csc>

HVRC is also working to support a Clean Energy Communities Program

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities> under the direction of NYSERDA, which offers \$5,000 grants towards Community actions reducing energy usage – taking more actions can increase grants. In Ulster County, there are six communities participating in a Climate Smart Communities group.

Announcements

None

Department of the Environment Update

Bill Moore, Bob Cruikshank, and Jim Easley have been approved as members of EMC.

Ulster County Climate Corps will hire six interns aged 16 to 25 for 12 weeks this summer for climate related projects. Link: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/climatecorps2023>

The Green Business Champions Program will have an awards meeting at 5:30 PM on May 26 in High Falls for businesses engaged in sustainability efforts. Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/green-business-innovators-of-ulster-county-awards-celebration-tickets-609504292747>

The UC Department of the Environment is working to obtain federal grant money for EV charging stations. “[Justice 40](#)” census tracts will be prioritized for funding.

Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee

Ted Griese reported that he most recent meeting of the energy and environment committee focused on solid waste issues. The town of Plattekill has registered strong opposition to landfill citing there. Efforts are underway to reduce the waste stream.

Resource Recovery

Bill More again discussed the proposal he has drawn up for a hazardous waste disposal program targeted for small quantity hazardous waste generated by businesses, schools, town, garages, etc. He proposes that it take place on the Friday before the regular Saturday household hazardous waste collection program. Bill and Dave Haldeman will compose a letter to the UCRRA and UC Legislature to urge adoption of this program

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Planning Department Update

No update.

Old Business

Bill More said that DEC has hired a contractor to design a management plan to alleviate overuse of the Kaaterskill Falls and Blue Hole areas in the Catskills. He wondered if we could reach out to the Catskill Park Coordinator at DEC to register our interest in protecting other overused areas like some of the trailless peaks. Leslie provided a link to the Catskill Park Citizen Advisory Committee: <https://catskillcenter.org/catskill-park-advisory-committee>

New Business

None

Council Member Roundabout

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| Town of Shawangunk Dave Haldeman | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shawangunk is considering a development proposal for the 700 acre Blue Chip Farm. Dave wondered if we can collectively create a list of environmental issues that should be included in the environmental impact assessment for every UC development -- e.g.: planting of native species, lighting, provision of EV charging stations and renewable energy sources, impervious surfaces, vehicular traffic impacts, etc. |
| City of Kingston Ted Griese | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kingston was recently awarded a \$270,000 grant to build 2 fast charging stationsKingston was also awarded a \$21 million grant for shoreline stabilization and waterfront improvement |
| Town of Saugerties Leslie Surprenant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Saugerties continues to work towards Climate Smart re-certification and a Community Choice power aggregation projectLeslie is leading an effort to study the effects of aquatic vegetation removal from the Esopus Creek and hopes to correlate that with measures of turbidity in the CreekSaugerties continues to consider Development plans for Winston Farms. Here is a link to the scoping documents: https://winstonfarm.com/document-center/ |
| Town of Esopus Mark Ellison | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The ECC is sponsored a Repair Café Saturday MY 27Esopus had a successful Earth Day celebration and gave away 300 tree saplings |
| Town of Marbletown Nikita Oarcea | No report |
| Town of Olive Simon Strauss | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Olive has imposed a moratorium on large subdivisions and has identified, and recommended that the Town Board protect, two Critical Environmental AreasOlive should soon receive Bronze Climate Smart certification |

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| Town of Gardiner Neil Rindlaub | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gardiner continues to work on drinking water protection in our hamlet area with assistance from the new head of the NY Rural Water Association, Mary Theresa Julien and is planning a public awareness campaign. |
| Town of New Paltz Rob Ferri | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rob attended a meeting on watershed protection and water quality improvement |
| Town of Hurley Kristen Schara | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hurley is working to reduce mowing near the Rail Trail |
| Town of Rochester Jim Easley | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rochester is getting support from OSI for Rail Trail improvementsEngaged in pollinator friendly plantings for Earth DayIs planning to remove tires and trash from the Rondout |
| Town of Marlboro Janelle Koszeurek | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Marlboro is working to establish its CAC and has set up a Facebook page. Also handing out packets of native plant seeds |
| Town of Ulster Laura Hartman | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ulster continues to work towards reestablishing its CAC.IPark 87 is about to start building both affordable and upscale housing. Businesses planning to locate there include a battery manufacturer, Zinc 8 and a lithium battery manufacturer, as well as the Workforce Development Institute. |
| Bob Cruickshank | <ul style="list-style-type: none">UCRRA conducted an excellent composting workshop.Working towards installing EV charging stations and an energy audit of town buildings |

The next meeting is scheduled for May 31 at 6:30 PM at 733 Broadway in Kingston.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted
Neil Rindlaub