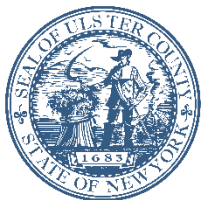


ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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



Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting **July 26, 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.

Municipal Members Present	David Haldeman, Chair (Shawangunk) Rob Ferri (New Paltz) Ted Griesse (Kingston, C) Kristen Schara (Hurley) Mark Ellison (Esopus) James Easley (Rochester) Laura Hartmann (Town of Ulster) Neil Rindlaub (Gardiner) Roberta Clements (Gardiner) Simon Strauss (Olive) Leslie Surprenant (Saugerties) Penny Coleman (Rosendale)
At-Large Members Present	Bill More
Members Present via Videoconference	Bob Cruickshank (Shandaken)
Ulster County Staff	Europa McGovern, UC Dept. of the Environment
Guests	Sheila Hess – CC Environmental

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

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

With a quorum achieved, we approved the minutes from our April 26 (with a correction that Saugerties is applying for Climate Smart re-certification) and May 31 meetings.

Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

Sheila Hess is a principal of CC Environmental and has been working to develop a county-wide Natural

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Resources Inventory – an integrated set of online maps flexibly presenting multiple data sets of the County’s natural and cultural features. She gave us a brief overview of how to access the NRI and its many tools, and announced an online workshop for a more in-depth presentation of its capabilities on July 27.

Department of the Environment Announcements

Europa said that there will be a multi-town environmental “roundtable” on Wednesday, August 30 at the Rosendale Community Center, from 5:30 until 8 PM. Invited will be Ulster County municipality members of CAC’s, Climate Smart Committee members, and Town supervisors

Old Business

Bill more continues to work towards expanding the hazardous waste collection program for small businesses and municipal offices.

Council Member Roundabout

Town of Ulster – continues to work towards establishing a CAC. The Town held a successful Arbor Day event and the airport is working to replace trees that have been cut.

Esopus – town is conducting a disaster preparedness workshop and will soon have another Repair Café. The Town is working on establishing charging stations at Town Hall and at the Sheriff’s substation with help from our UC Dept. of the Environment. On September 23, the Town will host a Disaster Preparedness Expo.

New Paltz -- the Planning Board and Environmental Conservation Board are planning for EV charging stations using the Patterns for Progress model.

Saugerties -- working on Climate Smart Community re-certification and a Community Choice Aggregation program.

Hurley -- has applied to the DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Program for a grant to develop an NRI for the Town. They are also preparing to apply for a Community Forest grant. Kristen raised questions about notices that have been posted regarding “pesticide” spraying along Town roads. Most likely, notices were actually referring to herbicide spraying, a common practice.

Gardiner – Gardiner’s ECC continues to work on an update to the Wetlands and Watercourse section of the Town’s Zoning Code.

At Large (Bill More) -- has spoken with the DEC consultant regarding Catskill Park usage and is urging Towns within the “Blue Line” to contact the coordinator and provide input for updates to the Park Management Plan.

Rochester -- volunteers pulled some 40 tires from 2 miles of the Rondout Creek, with more to go. They are tracking water quality data provided by Riverkeeper. Town Hall has installed a pollinator garden.

Olive -- the Town has secured a grant to support the creation of a Comprehensive Plan. They have

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submitted an application for recognition as a Bronze level Climate Smart Community, and are working on a Community Choice Aggregation program. Town will be holding a Disaster Preparedness workshop. The CAC has identified two Critical Environmental Areas and plans to present them to the Town Board for recognition. Plans to develop an Open Space Inventory have been postponed.

Rosendale -- the Town has submitted its application for Bronze Certification in the CSC program. The Town's upgraded water treatment plant should come online this fall.

Kingston – The City's CAC is updating its policies and procedures. They are working towards establishing a pollinator pathway. They have been tracking air quality in Kingston with data collected by Bard College. Kingston has started collecting organic waste, with 600 households signed up. 1 ton has been collected so far for composting, and they have applied for a grant to expand the program. They are working towards updating their Zoning Code they plan to apply for grant money to hire an urban forester. Kingston has been awarded a \$21 million federal grant for waterfront infrastructure projects, preparing for rising water levels.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted
Neil Rindlaub
Secretary