ULSTER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting ***Oct 25, 6:30 PM***

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom **and in-person at SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus**

"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 6:40 p.m.

Municipal Members Present	David Haldeman, Chair (Shawangunk) Rob Ferri (New Paltz) Mark Ellison (Esopus) Laura Hartmann (Town of Ulster) Neil Rindlaub (Gardiner) Simon Strauss (Olive) Leslie Surprenant (Saugerties) Penny Coleman (Rosendale) Sarah Underhill (Wawarsing) Ted Griese (Kingston)
At-Large Members Present	Bill More
Members Present via Videoconference	James Easley (Rochester) Kristen Schara (Hurley) Janelle Koszarek (Marlborough) Roberta Clements (Gardiner)
Ulster County Staff	Europa McGovern, UC Dept. of the Environment
Guests	Simon Slotnick (NYSACC) (via Zoom)

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

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

When a was quorum achieved, we approved the minutes from our Sept 27 meeting.

Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

No speaker this evening

Department of the Environment Announcements

1) Europa said that the Water Quality Coordinating Committee met last week. A survey will go out to gather info for MS 4 community reporting. The survey is going to town supervisors and stormwater managers. Soil and water Committee will hold a meeting on December 5 on the topic of erosion and sediment control.
2) The DoE is working to support sustainable purchasing. Ulster County is part of a Green Communities Purchasing Group. A purchasing manual has been created as well as a training video for user facilitation.
3) DoE is working to implement the Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act starting with 85 identified generators of large amounts of food waste.
4) DoE is also working to establish Re-use Innovation Centers
5) The Ulster County NRI is nearly wrapped up and ready for general use.

Energy and Environment Committee

Ted Griese reported that Committee focused on issues at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency in its most recent meeting.

Old Business

New Business

Simon Slotnick from NYSACC addressed us via Zoom. He reported on the success of their 2023 virtual and in-person conference, hosted in Ithaca, NY. The first day consisted of in-person presentations with virtual participation via Gathertown. This was followed by two days of field trip workshops.
Simon noted that the city of Kingston hosted the conference in 2017 and asked if Ulster County would consider hosting the 2024 conference. He said that in Tompkins County they operated with a budget of $6000 and had approximately 225 registered attendees of whom 85 to 100 were in-person. He noted the wealth of expertise in our Mid-Hudson colleges that could be called upon, as well as the DEC staff in New Paltz.
Julie Noble, who serves on the Kingston CAC, served as the primary coordinator in 2017, and Dave said he will contact her to see if she could help coordinate in 2024. Simon said that he would need a commitment from Ulster County no later than February 2024.

In other new business, Bill More asked where things stood with the iPark 87 proposal for 500 new housing units. Apparently, it is still in process. And Bill reminded us that we are in deer hunting season and need to wear appropriate clothing in the woods.
Also, on November 13 the Mohonk Mountain House will host a Mohonk Consultations conference on balancing the need for affordable housing in the Mid-Hudson region with our land preservation goals.

Council Member Roundabout

Town of Ulster – has imposed a moratorium on new sewer hookups. Citizens are also working to formulate a tree policy and to support an update of the towns Constantly sensitive Plan

Esopus – the Town held a Repair Café in September, but had to postpone its Emergency Preparedness Expo. New signage for the 11 hamlets of Esopus have been donated by the Bruderhoff.

Saugerties – is working on Climate Smart Community re-certification, aiming to update their 10-year-old NRI, and working on a policy to regulate clearcuts of trees. A pollinator meadow will go in at Cantine Field.

Hurley – Hurley is surveying citizens for a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning update.

Gardiner – Gardiner's ECC is looking to support use of the towns NRI in Planning Board and Town Board decisions.

Olive – is working on a Community Choice Aggregation program. Two Critical Environmental Areas have been ID'd for Town Board designation and the Town has obtained a grant to initiate a Comprehensive Plan

Rosendale -- the CEC is working to promote solar panels, heat pumps, and EV charging infrastructure.

New Paltz – a Conservation Overlay Zone has been identified northeast corner of the Town. Cornell Cooperative Extension held a workshop on assessing riparian buffers.

Marlborough – is working toward Bronze Climate Smart Certification.

Shawangunk -- Dave reported that the DEC is sampling Wallkill River water. The large Blue Chip Farm development proposal may be stymied by lack of sufficient water. Town is waiting on a grant award for an EV charging station. A local couple is offering demonstrations of organic gardening and composting.

Kingston -- Scenic Hudson presented their solar mapping tool. Kingston has obtained a grant from Climate Smart Communities for a composting program.

Rochester -- the Town has imposed a moratorium on large subdivisions until their Comprehensive Plan update is completed, and has created a Climate Smart task force.

Marlborough – a quiet month

Wawarsing -- water study results were presented to the Town Board, which did not choose act on the recommendations. The Nevele Hotel site has been purchased by developers. The Town is exploring routing of the rail trail through or around the hotel site, and is contemplating a

municipal composting program.

Marbletown -- Simon Strauss will contact Tom Konrad in order to assess Marbletown's interest in UCEMC participation.

Next Meeting -- Nov. 29, 6:30 PM at SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus on Mary's Ave.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted
Neil Rindlaub
Secretary