Ulster County EMC

Draft Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2015

Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble (chair)

John Sansalone, Gardiner

William A. More, At Large, Kingston

Kathie Quick, Esopus

Virginia Starke, Hurley

Emilie Hauser, Kingston

Joe Lioni, Rosendale

Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley

David Haldeman, Shawangunk

Cindy Lanzetta, Marlborough

Amanda LaValle and Alanna Henneberry, UC Dept. of the Environment

Guests: Larry DeWitt, Rochester CAC; Andrew Faust WECSAC Chair

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

Cindy moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. William seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Ulster County Dept. of Environment Update**

The first public UC Legislature hearing regarding the ban of microbeads occurred on Dec. 9th concurrent to the EMC meeting. John Sansalone read the testimony he submitted on behalf of NYWEA in support of the ban. The summer edition of NYWEA’s quarterly journal devoted an issue to the topic. Dave made a motion to support a law banning microbeads in UC. William seconded. The motion passed unanimously. A federal bill would be preferable from an enforcement perspective. Local legislation demonstrates support for a federal ban.

Two other resolutions on the agenda of the UC legislature: Opposing granting lead agency status NYS Thruway for the SEQR review of the Pilgrim Pipelines project (some local municipalities have already passed resolutions requesting that NYDEC assume lead agency status); establishing a lead agency for the solar installation project at the Town of Ulster landfill.

**New Business**

There will be a reorganization meeting for the EMC in January. The slate of officers to be voted on includes the committee chairperson, vice chair and secretary. Members are invited to volunteer to run for these positions and to generate ideas to move the EMC forward. A campaign to reach out to municipalities without CAC’s and ECC’s is needed. Also, it would be beneficial to attend meetings in the coming year with existing environmental commissions that do not have EMC representation to emphasize the importance of the EMC. The terms for EMC members are 3 years.

The EMC could also return to the role of studying environmental issues for the UC Legislature. EMC members should be informed on the work of Energy and Environment Committee.

Location of the EMC meetings was discussed. The options are the SUNY Ulster Kingston or Stone Ridge facilities. The Dept. of the Environment will reserve a conference room for meetings in 2016.

**Member Roundabout**

Dave Haldemann – The CEO of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust attended their EMC meeting. There are 8 parcels in the township under stewardship of the land trust. A group called New Paltz Interfaith Council of the Environment was formed.

Mary O’Donnell (via email) – The CAC will be the lead agency for the Solarize campaign which will run for 6 months. The town board supports the NYDEC as lead agency for the Pilgrim Pipelines.

John Sansalone –The ECC has 3 vacancies and needs new members to help closeout the Hudson River Estuary grant. They will need to reaquire the grant to pay attorney fees.

Kathie Quick – Negotiations are continuing concerning the solar installation at the former land fill. The output will be offset by the load from the water treatment plant.

Emilie Hauser – The revised comprehensive plan was submitted to the Common Council. Public hearings were held to garner comments on the Hudson Riverport Plan. The CAC was awarded a grant from the Hudson River Estuary program for a natural resources inventory. Some of the maps that have been prepared are on display at the Kingston Library. The effect of sea level rise on the Hudson River is projected to be 6 feet by 2100.

Joe Lioni – The Marbletown government offices will be moving to the former Rosendale Elementary building.

Non-Member Input

Andrew Faust – The town of Wawarsing completed a comprehensive plan. They are working on a joint open space plan with the town of Rochester. They met with Riverkeeper to form an inter-municipal watershed organization.

Larry DeWitt – The town of Rochester’s OSP was modelled on the Wawarsing plan. They submitted a grant application to the Hudson River Estuary Program for $50,000 to create a viable plan that will tie into the comprehensive plan, zoning, etc.

Meeting adjourned 8:40.