

COUNTY OF ULSTER
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

MINUTES April 25, 2018

Clinton St. John Meeting Room SUNY
Ulster

In attendance:

Virginia Starke, At Large,

David Haldeman, Shawangunk, Chair

Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties

John Sansalone, Gardiner

Emilie Hauser, Kingston

Sarah Underhill, Wawarsing

William More, Woodstock

Kristin Schara, Hurley

Eric Stewart, Marbletown

Amanda LaValle, Ulster County Dept. of the
Environment

Judith Karpova, Town of Rochester

Jim Mays, Olive

Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz

Meeting started at 6:30

Discussion of previous minutes and minutes vetting procedure going forward. Suggestion to set up minutes in Google docs for review prior to next meeting: Judith will send out the draft and people can edit as necessary. People are thus taking responsibility for their edits. Judith will distribute final minutes.

End-of-meeting roundabout will also be entered into Google Docs.

Reports

Pharmaceutical Take-Back: Amanda LaValle advised that the NYS Senate passed the pharmaceutical take-back bill today. The bills will be sent to the NYS Assembly.

Hazardous Waste: The number of bill will give updates on passage of any bill for whomever wants to track it. Communities are allowed to have clean-up days 3x a year for homeowners. Dutchess and Sullivan Counties have added commercial clean up days. The commercial hazardous waste pick up now falls into 3 categories. The first category involves transportation of less than 220 lbs of waste per month. The commercial facility is allowed to store up to 2200 lbs but only transport 220 lbs. 220 pounds is ½ a 55 gallon drum. (The EMC will receive a paragraph with further information.) 82-87% of commercial hazardous waste falls into this category.

The problem is that these commercial facilities under the current law must hire a larger transporting company at considerable cost. This is a burden to our businesses.

How to improve the hazardous waste disposal regime: allow the commercial entity to self-transport larger amounts to a disposal location on designated cleanup days. Right now, households can bring in their hazardous waste on Saturdays. We're trying to have these small commercial hazardous waste generators be able to come in a day early to leave their waste. They will pay for it. We want to provide somewhere for them to transport it. All the small companies can cover their costs to transport to a close location. The county benefits because they're not transporting the hazardous waste, the generators are paying for it.

The waste is usually solvent based, such as cleaning materials. It may or may not actually be hazardous. Advantage to communities: garages, school districts, support organizations, are allowed to participate. A garage that was paying \$1600/yr. to have someone else transport their hazardous waste could now drain the material into a holding container and bring it to the cleanup day. UCCRA pays for cost in Ulster County.

Issues of staffing, time, budgeting. Meeting with Tim Rose, Exec. Director of Ulster County Resource Recovery will be set up. A number of EMC members are interested in attending.

UCCRA collected 15,000 lbs of solid HHW, 1080 lbs of pharmaceutical waste.

UC Legislature – Dave Haldeman

The legislature discussed plastic bags, called a special session for the county re: a ban and charge on paper bags. Dave will send info. Enforcement undetermined.

Old Business

Glidepath – Town of Ulster

Discussion, revised letter; informationally oriented; purpose and effects of letter. Will post on EMC website as part of minutes. Suggestions and discussion of whom the letter should be sent to, whether we should use County letterhead and whether we should put in a disclaimer. Some minor changes made to clarify that the letter is from the EMC, not the county. Approved.

Laws re: voting and deliberating outside of EMC meetings

Re: legal opinion on voting over email for CACs: this is not allowed. Statutory groups are established by towns under state law. They must meet, deliberate and vote in public and this applies to us. We can discuss back and forth on email; google docs a good way to do this. Concern raised about speed that letters and weigh-in being timely. Concern raised about public meeting laws and mandate for all deliberations being public.

Stipulation in google docs; anyone with website has access, which makes the document public. Can be read-only for non-EMC members but editable by EMC. The google docs URL can be on the county website. All formal votes will be at meetings.

Announcements

Amanda LaValle:

Updated list of contacts for ECCs and those towns which have CSC members is available.

Neil Curry is now the chair of Town of Lloyd CAC – they need representation on the EMC

Laura Heady is now the chair of Rosendale CAC – they need representation on the EMC

Ribbon cutting for Ulster County solar, the EMC should be there. [When? Where?]

NYSERDA NYSun workshop for municipalities re: large-scale solar; redevelopment sites, readying brownfields, not yet scheduled, full day agenda. Asking for specific concerns on industrial, landfill sites. [when and where]

A question arose as to whether we have an inventory of county sites larger than ¼ acre. How to assess information on what's already developed. NYSERDA will not share this data at this point. Fire departments have been driving around to find out who has solar to know what to deal with if there's a fire on that site.

Discussion on town Building Departments: Each has separate rules, even though they have to issue a permit. Handout on 2017-18 stormwater annual reporting year. Some towns have applied for waiver from programmatic aspects of MS4.

Mandy Wolfson worked with an engineer on an educational workshop series on best practices of stormwater management.

Roundabout:

Shawangunk: First year no Styrofoam picked up at all.

Saugerties: Climate Start Community underway – webinar this Friday 10:30 to noon, new system of reporting, how it will take place, portal to be set up, Mary O'Donnell will send out to all. Interest in Community Choice Aggregation; explanation of how it works. Saugerties had a presentation at their last CAC meeting. Pilot program in Westchester very successful, saved 8.6 million for ratepayers in their first year.

Three certified consultants for this, the town must sign up with one of them; "Good Energy" "Jules Energy" or "Association of Towns. The consultants are charged with finding a good ESCO; they get a fee for this research. All electricity consumers in the town are included unless they opt out. The municipality has to send a letter to everyone in their jurisdiction.

Gardiner: In the CSC program, developing a charging station. 2nd solar farm proposed, siting issues, may need to revise solar law. Tillson Lake Dam has become an issue; built in 1930, 40 acre lake, DEC required lake level to be lowered. Lake was drained, then dam repaired, land bought by Palisade Lake Commission. DEC says dam is unsafe, wants it breached. Major repair issues, cost of 9 million to repair.

Aquifer protection law underway, will introduce soon. NYWEA Lake George annual spring meeting

Hurley: CSC pledge passed! Very early stages. Looking at culverts, informal survey taken. Most don't meet guidelines. (County has surveyed culverts on Hurley county roads, CAC and Amanda should meet)

At Large: The Town of Ulster once had a CAC, 15 years ago.

New Paltz: 4 EV charging stations in the community center.

At Large: Cleanup days, one in NP July 21st, UCCRA on Oct 21st. Pharm drop-off, NP Police Department, most pharms can't take liquids. Must leave in bottles. Travel with named bottles, but can black out once you get to the drop-off station. This Saturday. All police depts. have drop off containers

Marbletown: received \$50K grant, retrofitting community center. Town Board must approve hiring consultant and suggested retrofits to the community center. Signed contract with

geothermal company for joint town hall. Community solar on other town owned buildings. All official buildings will be green (Tom Konrad on how it's financing).

Kingston: Symposium on pollutants in Hudson River May 2nd, summary of agenda. DEC Infocator / environmental, recreational. Scenic Hudson has new tidal wetlands map showing impact of sea level rise "Protecting the Pathways." Kingston now "silver", County now "silver" re: CSC. Points have been increased. Just "certified" is now "bronze." Every 5 years must recertify. Earth expo. Need hazard mitigation plan for 2017. Towns can get points for contributing to the County mitigation plan.

Olive: Discussing Community Choice Aggregation; presentation before town county supervisors meeting. Only one of the consultants at that meeting. We are planning to get a speaker in about CCA

Town of Rochester: Passed the NH Inventory as a report to be an addendum to the town master plan. Now can proceed to public hearings, notifying the county and voting on specific recommendations in the plan. New member, Kristin Marcell, who works for the DEC, is now helping us with our CSC.

Ken Panza interested in becoming an At-Large Member.

Ann Brandt from Woodstock now a member of the EMC

[Adjourn](#)