

Establishing the Ulster County Waterways Advisory Committee

Referred to: The Energy and Environment Committee (Chairman R. Parete and Legislators Bartels, Heppner, Lapp, and Wawro)

Legislator John R. Parete and Legislator R. Parete and Legislators Heppner, and Wawro offer the following:

WHEREAS, contained within the County of Ulster are many rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways that are critical to the economic development of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognizes the importance of maintaining the waterways in Ulster County to preserve the natural beauty of Ulster County, to help protect against flooding and resulting property damage, to ensure the safety of individuals using waterways for recreation, and to provide opportunities for economic development; and

WHEREAS, the long-term importance of this issue warrants thorough fact finding, public examination and study to establish a lasting plan for the maintenance of the waterways situated within Ulster County, and identification of potential barriers to economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognizes the importance of collaboration with the local municipalities, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and other state and federal agencies on these important issues; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ulster County Charter Section C-16 and the Administrative Code Section A2-11: *“Advisory committees, commissions and boards. Members of all citizens’ committees, commissions and boards appointed pursuant to Section C-11K of the Charter shall serve at the pleasure of the County Legislature. They shall serve without compensation other than for actual and necessary expenses within appropriations made therefor, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the County Legislature. The Chairman of the County Legislature shall be a member ex-officio of all such committees, commissions and boards”*; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the “ULSTER COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE” shall be established for the purpose of:

- a. Conducting a thorough examination and study of the waterways within Ulster County for the purpose of creating a maintenance plan to protect against flooding and resulting property damage, and to mitigate potential life-threatening dangers;

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- b. Retaining the services of an expert in the field of water management or other related fields, within Legislative appropriations, that may provide the Advisory Committee with knowledge and insight into the various issues confronting the maintenance of Ulster County waterways;
- c. Facilitating communication with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to provide assistance with issues specific to regulations imposed on residents and businesses situated within the New York City Watershed; and
- d. By no later than October 31, 2016, the Advisory Committee shall present its findings to the Legislature recommending next steps for carrying out the maintenance of Ulster County waterways, and detailing specific barriers to development faced by residents and businesses within the NYC Watershed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the membership of the Ulster County Waterways Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature comprised of the following members:

- 1. The Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature or his or her representative, who shall serve as Chairman of the Advisory Committee;
- 2. Two additional Legislative members;
- 3. A member of the Ulster County Supervisors and Mayors Association representing a municipality within the NYC Watershed; and
- 4. A member of the public at large who owns or operates a business within Ulster County effected by an Ulster County waterway;

and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Waterways Advisory Committee will seek input from groups including, but not limited to, the Environmental Management Council, the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Coalition of Watershed Towns, **the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program** and the Catskill Watershed Corporation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive may appoint staff from the Executive branch of government to assist the Ulster County Waterways Advisory Committee in its work,

