

**2015 Annual Report  
Ulster County  
Environmental Management Council (EMC)**

**EMC Background**

When the Ulster County Department of the Environment was established in 2008, the Ulster County EMC was able to continue its primary role of reviewing and advising the County and local governments on environmental issues. In 2008, The Department of the Environment completed the County's first Environmental Plan which has been used as a management tool for multiple County departments' environmental activities. The EMC also began operating under the new Charter form of government in early 2009, which allowed for the EMC to continue providing essential networking and communication among the county's environmental commissions and boards.

**Environmental Management Council**

Fourteen of the twenty-four municipalities in Ulster County had active Environmental Council/Commissions in 2015 (See Exhibit A).

At the end of 2015 the membership of the Environmental Management Council Board included 11 town representatives, 6 at-large members and one ex-officio member for a current total of 18 members (See Exhibit B). Officers for the UC EMC for the 2015 year were nominated as follows: Chairperson – Steve Noble (by Virginia Starke); Vice Chairperson – Cindy Lanzetta, (by Steve Noble); Secretary – Kristen Schara, (by Virginia Starke). Throughout the year, attendance was excellent with a quorum at most meetings. In December of 2015, EMC Chairperson Steve Noble and EMC member Hank Bartosik, appointed by the Town of Wawarsing, resigned their memberships.

One of the goals of the Ulster County EMC is to educate the membership about local environmental initiatives and organizations in the area by hosting guests at the monthly meetings to share their information.

During 2015, the EMC hosted a few special presentations. These included:

- a. Allergies and the Environment by Dave Haldeman, PA
- b. Solarize Hudson Valley Presentation by Betta Broad of Catskill Mountain Keeper
- c. Ulster County Greener by Design Presentation by Alanna Henneberry of UC Dept. of the Environment
- d. Ulster County Legislature Update by Legislator Manna Jo Greene
- e. S.T.R.I.V.E Green Infrastructure tour by Amanda LaValle of UC Dept. of Environment

Members acted as liaisons between the EMC and the environmental municipal councils and executive branches. The Secretary of the EMC documented in detail the information that was exchanged at each meeting in minutes and then the members shared the minutes with their municipal councils and executive branches. This method proved to be a successful communication tool for the EMC.

**Department of the Environment**

The Department of the Environment (DOE) helped advance the county in the areas of sustainability, stormwater and natural resources.

In 2015, Ulster County became the first and only County in the state of New York to achieve net-carbon neutrality. The DOE developed the 'Footprint Reduction Program' which serves as a guide for local municipalities to follow in order to reduce carbon emissions from government operations.

The DOE conducted MS4 training for 168 Ulster County, 29 City of Kingston, 17 Town of Hurley, and 2 Town of Ulster employees and assisted MS4 towns with MS4 stormwater permit and audit issues.

The DOE continued to lead the Ulster County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force in order to better coordinate the County and affected municipalities' response to this invasive forest pest. The DOE also finalized the "Ulster County EAB Action Plan" to better focus management efforts for County staff and to be used as a resource for component municipalities.

### **Web/Communication Development**

Staff of the Ulster County Department of the Environment and participation from the Ulster County EMC continued to grow the [ucenvironment.org](http://ucenvironment.org) website which includes posting past EMC agenda/minutes and county-wide environmental events. An EMC Facebook page was developed and is planned to be published in 2016.

### **CreekWeek 2015**

The 5th annual CreekWeek celebration took place on September 12-20<sup>th</sup> in 2015 and was sponsored by Ulster County Environmental Management Council and Ulster County Department of the Environment.

CreekWeek is intended to help build awareness and encourage the enjoyment of water and watersheds in Ulster County. The Ulster County Department of Environment and the Environmental Management Council believe that an annual CreekWeek will better connect people to our fantastic Ulster County environment – particularly our watersheds and water resources. The hope is that people use these events to learn more about what is just outside their door, learn something about how they can protect or improve the environment, enjoy time outside with friends and family, and to have fun.

In 2015, dozens of community organizations and CAC's from across Ulster County came together to offer a wide variety of educational, watershed based programming to Ulster County residents and visitors (See Appendix B for a complete listing of the 2015 CreekWeek events).

## **Exhibit A**

### **Municipal CACs and EMC Membership**

#### **1. Municipalities with Environmental Commissions/Committees (CAC):**

Town of Esopus  
Town of Gardiner  
Town of Hurley  
City of Kingston  
Town of Lloyd  
Town of Marbletown  
Town of Marlborough  
Town of New Paltz  
Town of Olive

Town of Rochester  
 Town of Rosendale  
 Town of Saugerties  
 Town of Shawangunk  
 Town of Wawarsing  
 Town of Woodstock  
 Town of Hardenburgh- *inactive*

**2. Environmental Management Council Current Membership (End of 2015):**

**Town Appointments to EMC:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>
Bejaoui, Anissa	Town of Marbletown
Littlefoot, Jim	Town of New Paltz
Liuni, Joe	Town of Rosendale
Hauser, Emilie	City of Kingston
O'Donnel, Mary	Town of Saugerties
Quick, Catherine	Town of Esopus
Sansalone, John	Town of Gardiner
Starke, Virginia	Town of Hurley
Halderman, Dave	Town of Shawangunk
Bartosik, Henry*	Town of Wawarsing

*\*Resigned in December of 2015*

**At-Large Members of EMC:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>
Brandt, Ann	Town of Woodstock
Damrath, Joseph	Town of Saugerties
Lanzetta, Cindy	Town of Marlboro
Schara, Kristen	Town of Hurley
More, William	City of Kingston
Noble, Steve*	City of Kingston

*\*Resigned in December of 2015*

**Ex-Officio Representative:** Ulster County Department of Planning

## **Appendix B**

### **Events held as part of the 2015 CreekWeek:**

Guided Tour of the D&H Canal Five Lock Walk  
Boat Brigade supported by Riverkeeper  
Water Assessment by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE)  
Hike on the Kingston Greenline with Naturalist Mark DeDea  
Rochester Hollow Stream Walk  
Esopus Meadows Walk and Wade  
Guided Tour of the D&H Canal Five Lock Walk  
Free Family Fishing Day  
Boat Brigade sponsored by Wallkill River Watershed Alliance  
Mossy Glen Hike  
Lighthouses of the Hudson 2015 Exhibit  
Sunset Seine and Sing  
John Burroughs Slabsides Geology Ramble  
Kingston Fall Foliage Morning Kayak Tour