

# COUNTY OF ULSTER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

October 24, 2018 Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM

## Minutes

### Members in Attendance:

Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk (Chair)  
Mary O' Donnell, Saugerties  
John Sansalone, Gardiner  
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz  
Sarah Underhill, Wawarsing  
Margot Becker, At Large (Vice Chair)

William More, At Large  
Kristen Schara, Hurley  
Ken Panza, At Large  
Mark Ellison, Esopus  
Jim Mays, Olive  
Emilie Hauser, Kingston

**Guests:** Manna Jo Greene, Amanda LaValle

### Called to Order- 6:37pm

**Presentation** by Manna Jo Greene, regarding the Danskammer Power Plant proposal

### Old Business

- I. Waste Management Seminar update
- II. Danskammer Plant, power plants
- III. EMC Secretary discussion

*No motions or actions*

### New Business

- I. November/December Meeting Schedule

Motion made to have one meeting covering Nov/Dec to be held on December- 5<sup>th</sup> in Kingston at 6:30pm, at the Department of the Environment, 17 Pearl Street.

New Business item of writing a letter commending County on passing the BYOB legislation. Motion to approve writing the letter made by John Sansalone and seconded by Bill Moore.

### Dept of the Environment Update

- County has had demonstrations from two companies of 100% electric buses. They performed well on the test route loop in and around the City of Kingston. Also it may be good for municipalities to know that there is again funding available from NYSDEC for electric vehicles (a rebate of up to \$5K per a vehicle). More information available at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html>
- There will be a shutdown of the DEP Catskill Aqueduct scheduled to start October 29<sup>th</sup> and last 10 weeks. In preparation of this, the City of New York has been releasing 500-600 mgd of water

into the lower Esopus Creek to create additional storage capacity in the reservoir.  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press\\_releases/18-100pr.shtml#.XAghXLpFylw](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/18-100pr.shtml#.XAghXLpFylw)

- The Department of the Environment will likely be overseeing the contract for outreach and education around the BYOB legislation (plastic bag ban). We are looking for people who may want to be involved in an education and outreach strategy committee or otherwise being involved.

## Roundabout

Mary, Saugerties- GHG inventory almost done, partnering with Heat Smart, NRDC screening of "the human element," is available for educational presentations, <https://earthvisioninstitute.org/the-human-element/> The Saugerties CAC recommended a moratorium on fossil fuel plant to review zoning code for fossil fuel plants.

John, Gardiner- Continue to have several vacancies on the ECC. Revisiting aquifer protection law. Met with rep from Minnewaska St Park, November 3rd 10-12, training for identification of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Sarantia.mitsinikos@parks.ny.gov

Jim, New Paltz- Nothing to share at this time.

Wawarsing- Sarah Underhill- Trying to paint bike lanes on a couple roads, town parks got a few grants to make improvements, Rondout creek watershed alliance looking for members for other members from Esopus and Kingston, written printed informative brochure.  
[http://www.loweresopus.org/download/Lower\\_Esopus\\_Creek\\_book.pdf](http://www.loweresopus.org/download/Lower_Esopus_Creek_book.pdf)

Margot reporting on Marbletown – The town has a goal of using 100% renewable power and is studying ways in which all energy in the town could be from renewable sources and to build out the EV infrastructure. There are two new EV charging stations at the gym. Also the town has a new initiative in which they will acknowledge “eco-heroes.”

Bill Moore- DEC has hired a new hazardous waste inspector. DEC is complying with some Federal initiatives and that they may be looking at towns more closely.

Kristen Schara, Hurley- The Hurley town board has decided that Hurley will not be participating in the LED lighting consortium. The Town is going to accept the proposal from Central Hudson to replace the lights with LEDs.

Ken Panza, Woodstock- Following up on some culvert data that was collected by the County covering the Woodstock area, several individuals had a meeting with Town Highway super on what to do with the culvert data. They have produced a GIS map as well as talked with the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program. Trying to put together a plan on what to do next, looking at examples including the recently completed Saw Kill (Dutchess Co) culvert plan.

Marc, Esopus- Minor set back on the comprehensive plan, they had been targeting February for completion but it will take longer. Comment on reusable bags. Marc helps coordinate two food pantries, where they have historically frequently relied on plastic bags. They are working with Esopus business alliance, to donate reusable bags. Holly Slotnik, Slotnik signs, coordinating. \$237 for 125 bags, polypro.

Their CAC has a budget of about \$1400, \$600 of which is for a secretary. They are a nine member board, and currently have three vacancies. Participating in the CAPI project (climate action program institute).

Jim, Olive. No update at this time.

Emilie Hauser, Kingston. They are working on an organic waste diversion feasibility plan for events and muni buildings including curbside collection.

**MOTION by Mary O'Donnell to adjourn, seconded by Jim Littlefoot. 8:37pm**