



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ulster County Legislature Approves Coordinator For New Ulster County Department Of The Environment

The Ulster County Legislature approved the appointment of Amanda LaValle as Coordinator of the newly formed Ulster County Department of the Environment.

Ms. LaValle was appointed to the position of Coordinator of the Department of the Environment by resolution on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. She will take over the reins of the Department on Monday, February 25, 2008 in a short ceremony 3:30 PM at the Department's new home at 17 Pearl Street in Kingston.

The formation and staffing of the Department was the next step in a successful restructuring of County departments to be in compliance with Federal MS4 Stormwater regulations.

Ms. Lavallo has responsibility for coordinating the expanded environmental duties of several County Departments including Public Works, Public Health, Planning, Soil and Water, and Information Services. County Administrator Mike Hein expressed pleasure at Ms. LaValle's appointment after an exhaustive search by the Legislature's Special Committee to Study the Environmental Needs of Ulster County, Co-Chaired by Legislators Brian Shapiro (D- Woodstock) and Alan Lomita (D- Rosendale).

County Administrator Mike Hein stated, "This is a coordination-based model that is sensitive to environmental needs and to the taxpayer, and has become a State-wide archetype." Legislator Alan Lomita said, "The establishment of the Ulster County Department of the Environment reflects the concern that our residents have for this issue and that global problems can be addressed one county at a time. We hope that other counties in New York State will follow the lead of Ulster County." Legislator Shapiro adds, "Our new Department of the Environment is the first of its kind in New York State. Under Ms. LaValle's leadership, Ulster County will be ready to meet the challenges of protecting our environmental resources both now and in the future."

Legislators Shapiro and Lomita, as Co-Chairs of the Special Committee, were enthused by the experience that Ms. LaValle brings to the County. An Ulster County native with a Masters Degree in The Environment and Society, she has worked tirelessly to protect the environment, working in such diverse public and private venues as the New York City DEP, Cornell Cooperative, SUNY Ulster, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Esopus Creek Stream Management Program.

Ulster County Legislature Chairman David Donaldson comments, "I welcome the opportunity to work with Ms. LaValle and look forward to Ulster County serving as an example to the rest of the State on issues of Water Quality Assurance and other environmental matters".