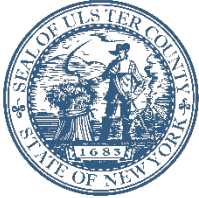


# ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair  
Emilie Hauser, Vice-Chair  
Vacant, Secretary



## Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting *August 25<sup>th</sup> 2021, 6:30 PM*

Howard St. John Seminar Room, SUNY Ulster

Or Via Zoom

<https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/j/97442549615?pwd=ZHB6NVJ2MFlvRTFiS3ZJeVFzdWNmUT09>

Meeting ID: 974 4254 9615 | Passcode: 278571

Call in: +1 646-558-8656 US (New

York)

---

*“The purpose of the Council shall be to review and advise the county and local governments on present and proposed methods of using, protecting and conserving the environment for the benefit of all the people.”*

No quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at **6:30p.m.** by David Haldeman, Chair. Meetings of the EMC are open to the public at the Howard St. John Seminar Room on the SUNY Ulster Campus, or via Zoom.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Municipal Members Present (5)</b> | Dave Haldeman, Mary O’Donnell, Neil Rindlaub, Mark Ellison, Emilie Hauser |
| <b>At Large Members Present</b>      | William More  |
| <b>Ulster County Staff</b>           | Amanda LaValle  |
| <b>Guests</b>                        | Fawn Tantillo, Madeline Russo   |

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/environmental-management-council/emc-meeting-dates-minutes>

**Notes:**

**(Guest speaker was not present)**

### Discussion of Meeting Minutes

Minutes are for mentioning actions taken, motions made/approved, and summarizing general discussion. Having someone generate minutes is preferred over using the Zoom recording/transcripts. Minutes could be potentially recorded by a student intern hired by the County’s Department of the Environment.

### Conduct of Meetings

All decision-making bodies (voting) must have members located in a notified public location. This might push a move back towards in-person meetings. Laws were written prior to modern technology advancements. No clear decision on how the laws are exactly interpreted for the EMC.

### Changes to Department of Environment

Nick Hvozda is the interim Department Director because Amanda LaValle has moved to the Planning Department.

# ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair  
Emilie Hauser, Vice-Chair  
Vacant, Secretary

Amanda will still try to come to EMC meetings to build a relationship with EMC and the Planning Department. The Department of the Environment also has a new intern. No Department of the Environment update was provided in terms of current work being done.

## **CAC and ECC Updates**

Meeting dates and times of some towns need to be updated because they are incorrect. These meetings need to be publicly noticed, mostly through the town website.

## **County Fair and Climate Smart Communities**

People received information about volunteering for Climate Smart Communities at the Ulster County Fair and there was a presentation on 8/26 about such volunteering.

## **Town Updates**

Gardiner is pushing for a campground to come under compliance as they have not been approved for expansion, nor have received proper permits. Also have created a Natural Resources Inventory map that needs a little more work to be more user friendly and allow for better insight on issues surrounding the NRI.

Kingston CAC is looking for new members. Kingston has also hired a company to change the zoning codes. City of Kingston looking into conservation by trying to fund open space improvement through real estate transactions and grants. Former jail site also being turned into recreational spaces as well as other things. Finally, some parking lots are getting green infrastructure.

Town of Rochester just finished a six month grant that was given to have presentations about becoming Climate Smart Communities (in tandem with 6 total municipality reps). The goal was to get closer to having more certified Climate Smart Communities. Rochester has passed a resolution to create a CSC task force. Up next is determining the differences between the CAC and the CSC task force.

Saugerties CSC task force has continued their work on the clean energy communities program. Saugerties can now apply for a \$10k grant to use for a project that has not been determined yet. Saugerties has also been looking at community solar but were waiting to finish CCA. CAC is monitoring harvesting of milfoil and good progress has been made in controlling water chestnut. Town applying for CFC grant to replace chiller in ice arena. Also going to monitor hydro project.

Esopus is trying to improve membership as well as trying to increase the presence of the environmental board. This will happen due to sponsoring events in upcoming months. They are also working on submitting a budget for this upcoming year.

Shawangunk is trying to get a large EV presence at a September community event. They are also working on presentation for the town board about charging stations and EVs. There is effort being made to upgrade the rail trail in Wallkill and around the prison.

## **Extra Discussion**

There is currently an increase of midges which are creating an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhaging disease in deer. Kingston has already picked up double digit carcass numbers from this disease of deer dying on private lawns or public property. It is not transmittable to humans or pets but it is something to keep an eye on.

## **Adjournment**

Mary O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn at 7:36pm and Mark Ellison seconded the motion.

Next meeting is September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.