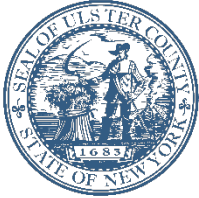


**ULSTER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Kristen Schara, Vice-Chair
Neil Rindlaub, Secretary



Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting *Feb 28, 2024 6:30 PM*

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and in-person at SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus

“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.”

Without a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at 6:35 p.m.

Municipal Members Present	David Haldeman, Chair (Shawangunk) Mark Ellison (Esopus) Vicki Lucarini (Town of Ulster) Penny Coleman (Rosendale) Ted Griese (Kingston) James Easley (Rochester) Kristen Schara (Hurley) Neil Rindlaub (Gardiner)
At-Large Members Present	Bill More
Members Present via Videoconference	Roberta Clements (Gardiner) Robert Cruickshank (Shandaken) Rob Ferri (New Paltz) Simon Strauss (Olive) Nikita Oarcea ((Marbletown)
Ulster County Staff	Michelle Gluck, UC Dept. of the Environment
Guests	Tom Konrad

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/environmental-management-council/emc-meeting-dates-minutes>

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

Lacking a quorum, Dave did not bring up minutes from our previous meeting for approval.

Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

Tom Konrad -- President of Investment Research Partners LLC, Chair Marbletown ECC

Tom spoke about his experience in generating grants for Marbletown through the Clean Energies Communities Program. This program was established in 2017 and is similar in many respects to

ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Kristen Schara, Vice-Chair
Neil Rindlaub, Secretary

the Climate Smart grant program but is better funded. The current Round Three has generous grants for qualifying actions that achieve specified point levels. Qualifying actions include:

- 1) Community benchmarking, 2) “build ready” solar site designations, 3) community solar or hydropower documentation, 4) energy code enforcement training, 5) municipal clean fleet actions.

He also noted that grant money is available for the installation of Level 2 EV chargers through the Make Ready program. Ulster County is aiming to get to 70% renewable power by 2030 which will require large numbers of new solar installations and the ability to export excess summer solar production, and substantial numbers of new substations to support that capacity to export power.

Department of the Environment Announcements

Michelle Gluck, Senior Environmental Resource Technician at UCDOE.

Michelle reported that the DOE is working to support communities preparing applications to the Clean Energy Communities program. The County website has applications for getting trees for Arbor Day. There will be an EV training program for municipal staff offered in April.

Legislature Report: Energy and Environment Committee

No report -- the Energy and Environment Committee will next meet in March

Old Business

Dave reported that the 2024 NYSACC Conference will be hosted by Tug Hill. He asked if Ulster County could host the 2025 conference??? Dave has identified eight task-oriented committees that would be needed to host the conference – dealing with funding, sponsors, meals, tours, speakers, presenters, lodging, tech support, transportation for 250 people, workshops -- he has volunteers to head four of those committees, and would need four more volunteer committee heads.

New Business

Bill More said that there is a Texas company that wants to frack with CO2 in NY State and urged us to contact our state representatives regarding bill A0866. He also asked if the Catskill Railroad has submitted an application for herbicide use along its tracks.

Council Member Roundabout

Town of Ulster – Vicki- Citizens of Ulster are coordinating with residents of Woodstock to oppose the proposed large Woodstock National golf development adjacent to the Bluestone Forest.

Esopus – Mark - community members are fighting a proposal for a high end “glamping” resort. The ECC is working on grants and trying to recruit new members. There Earth Day event has been postponed. Esopus has a new 2 MW solar farm coming online

**ULSTER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Kristen Schara, Vice-Chair
Neil Rindlaub, Secretary

Hurley – Kristen- Hurley has received a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program. They participated in a solar mapping training, but concluded that solar farm electricity couldn't currently be handled by the local grid. As part of the Clean Energy Communities program, they presented to the public on 1) Community Solar, 2) Heat Pumps, and 3) EV's. They are working towards establishing a composting program

Gardiner – Neil - Gardiner continues to work on a revision to its Wetlands and Watercourses law.

Rochester— Jim -- Rochester will host an Earth Day event and is updating the town website with new ECC information.

Rosendale – Penny- Rosendale received a \$10,000 grant and is working on a energy benchmarking and audit program, is looking to partner with a solar contractor to identify a “build ready” site, hoping to qualify for a \$50,000 grant from Clean Energy Communities.

Shandaken—Bob- working to meet Clean Energy and Climate Smart goals, planning an Earth Day event.

New Paltz – Rob – the Hudson River Estuaries Program will monitor several streams that feed into the Wallkill River and has awarded a \$60,000 grant to monitor algae blooms. Town of Bloomingburg is discharging untreated sewage into the Shawangunk Kill, a major tributary of the Wallkill.

Olive – Simon – working to update their Comprehensive Plan and partnering with Shandaken to support EV charging and Community Solar.

Next Meeting – April 24, 2024, at SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus on Mary's Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted
Neil Rindlaub, Secretary