

**ULSTER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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



Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting *January. 31, 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.”

With a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at 6:40 p.m. **Please Note: Due to technical difficulties meeting was not recorded.**

Municipal Members Present	David Haldeman, Chair (Shawangunk) Mark Ellison (Esopus) Vicki Lucarini (Town of Ulster) Simon Strauss (Olive) Penny Coleman (Rosendale) Sarah Underhill (Wawarsing) James Easley (Rochester) Kristen Schara (Hurley) Rob Ferri (New Paltz)
At-Large Members Present	Bill More
Members Present via Videoconference	Roberta Clements (Gardiner) Robert Cruickshank (Shandaken)
Ulster County Staff	Europa McGovern, UC Dept. of the Environment, Director
Guest	Lucas Carillo, “Damn Good Farm”, Wallkill, NY

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

November 29, 2023 Minutes Motion by Roberta Clements/Kristen Shara **Approved**

Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

Lucas Carillo, “Damn Good Farm”, Wallkill, NY

Topic: Small acreage organic farming, providing fresh produce to the community, and composting. Presentation included the success of sustainable farming on 0.8 acres of land for family of 4, into third year. Supplemented with chickens/rabbits. Question period followed.

Department of the Environment Announcements

- Europa McGovern, Appointed Ulster County Department of Environment, Director

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- Community Action Plan Program
- Lower Esopus Stream Plan workshop in 2 months
- Community Green House Gas Program assistance
- Arbor Day Tree Program – Sign up applications in April.
- Draft Hazardous Mitigation Plan with FEMA available
- Michelle Gluck to cover for UCDEC in February mtg.

Legislature Report: Energy and Environment Committee

- Vicki Lucarini to attend/represent EMC in future.
- Motion: Dave Haldeman to compose/format letters “Strong Packaging Reduction” and “Expand the State’s Bottle Bill” for UC Legislature.
 - Motion Bill Moore/Mark Ellison **Approved**

Old Business

- UC EMC will not be hosting 2024 NYSACC Conference in 2024. Maybe 2025?
- Tug Hill will be the host. Maybe send a delegation from EMC via DEC funding.

New Business

- **None**

Council Member Roundabout

Shawangunk – Dave- Open Space Walkkill to Gardiner Grant, Peter Karas

Town of New Paltz- Rob- None to report

Olive – Simon- Working on Community Solar, Heat Pumps Grants, Comprehensive Plan, Central Hudson, and 6 Chocolate Labs ready in March

Esopus – Mark- Questions regarding interactions with Planning Boards, Town Board support- Challenges by project planners

Rosendale – Penny- 3 Community campaigns, Heat pumps, EV stations, Solar, Composting

Rochester— Jim- Community Preservation Plan, CSC recruitment, contaminated dumping from LI

Hurley – Kristen- Awaiting NRI grant (HVEP), Climate for Climate Action, funding for revising Comprehensive Plan, Community Solar, Super fund site, Highway garage, CS schools Participation, NYSERDA CAP Inventories grants, investigating community preservation fund, Clean energy/heating and cooling pts

Town of Ulster – Vicki- Dealing with deforestation by Central Hudson, Tree plantings via DEC

Wawarsing – Sara- Rail Trail work, Solar array near wildlife e corridor – 2 parcels, WECC,

Gardiner – Roberta- Preservation of Wetlands/Streams, Concern over warehouse near Modena

At Large – Bill- North-South power line access via road dumping ground in 14 mile ROW

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted

Mark Ellison, for Neil Rindlaub, Secretary

Next Meeting – February 28, 2024, at **6:30 PM** at SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus on Mary’s Ave.