

ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Margot Becker, Vice-Chair
Kenneth Panza, Secretary

Minutes for the EMC Meeting of April 24, 2019

A quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at 6:40 PM in the Howard C. St. John Business Seminar Room, George Clinton Hall, on the campus of SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge, NY, by David Haldeman, Chair.

Municipal Members Present

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus
Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston
Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz
John Sansalone, Town of Gardiner
Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley

At Large Members Present

Margot Becker
Bill More
Kenneth Panza
Virginia Starke

Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator
Nick Hvozda, Deputy Coordinator

Guests

James W. Taylor, Jr., President & CEO, Taylor Biomass

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of **February 27, 2019** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved by unanimous consent.

Minutes of **March 27, 2019** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved, with comments, by unanimous consent.

- **John Sansalone, Town of Gardiner** - The description of Melissa Everett's presentation should include a reference to Ulster-Sullivan HeatSmart, a collaboration between Catskill Mountainkeeper and Sustainable Hudson Valley to educate consumers on improving energy efficiency and provide group purchase discounts.

Speaker/Presentation

James W. Taylor, Jr., President & CEO, Taylor Biomass

James Taylor was invited to explain the Montgomery Project,¹ which uses the proprietary "Taylor Biomass Gasification Process" as the foundational technology for a three-part, integrated system that converts the organic biomass portion of mixed solid waste (MSW) to electric power, through gasification. A copy of Mr. Taylor's presentation is attached.

¹ "The Montgomery Project," Available at http://www.taylorbiomassenergy.com/taylorbiomass04_mont_mn.html

The Montgomery Project will:

- Expand the Taylor Sorting and Separating Process to accept mixed solid waste (“MSW”), in addition to wood waste, and waste from construction and demolition debris (“C&D”) as inputs.
- Produce a stable, cost-effective, biomass-processed fuel supply from suitable feedstock, reducing landfill waste in the process.
- Use the biomass-processed fuel to feed its proprietary gasification process, producing a medium calorific value synthesis gas (syngas), capable of serving as a direct substitute for natural gas.
- Connect to the power grid as a first-generation MSW product, providing clean, renewable energy.

The project will generate a net 20 MW clean, renewable energy and produce enough electricity to power approximately 27,000 homes based 500 kwh/month usage per residence, with an estimated cost over 20 years of around 5 cents per KW.

Mr. Taylor plans to have the gasification plant operational by April 15, 2021. “We are negotiating with lenders and anticipating a first quarter 2019 financial closing for funding of the first portion of this project,” Taylor said.

Once operational, the facility is expected to process mixed solid waste, wood waste, and waste from construction and demolition debris. According to Mr. Taylor, its process is cleaner than direct combustion of municipal solid waste (MSW) because it is an indirect heating process in an oxygen-free environment that greatly reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Mr. Taylor stated its proposed gasification project in Montgomery, New York, has been approved for Tier 1 Renewable Energy Standard provisional certification by NYSERDA.

Old Business

Danskammer Energy Center – April Report (Attached)

- 1) EMC filed stakeholder comments on Danskammer’s preliminary scoping statement. EMC’s comments referenced sea level rise, alternative fuel storage, and removal of existing fuel tanks.
- 2) Intervenor Funds Approved. A pre-application intervenor fund of \$200,000 was established to enable municipal and local parties to better review the PSS and to participate in the stipulations process by allowing them to defray expenses for expert witnesses, consultants, legal representation, and administrative fees. EMC did not apply for intervenor funding.
- 3) Danskammer LLC has briefed the Ulster County Executive and Legislature, Town of Marlboro, and the Marlboro Central School District on its plans.

New Business

The following EMC officers for 2019 were elected by unanimous consent.

- Dave Haldeman, Chair
- Margot Becker, Vice-Chair
- Kenneth Panza, Secretary

Report from Department of the Environment

Mandy Wolfson is retiring. A card was circulated for council members to offer their best wishes.

Nick Hvozda, Deputy Coordinator, Ulster County Department of the Environment, was introduced to the council.

Plastic Bag Ban

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a law banning single-use plastic bags into law on Monday afternoon, Earth Day, April 22, 2019, at the Hudson River Maritime Museum. The state law is nearly identical to the *Bring Your Own Bag Act* adopted in September 2018 by the Ulster County Legislature, which made Ulster County the first in New York to ban plastic bags.

Although the state law preempts Ulster County's law, the state law doesn't go into effect until March 1, 2020. The Ulster County law goes into effect on July 15, 2019, leaving many unanswered questions about managing the transition to the state law.

County Ban on Pesticides and Herbicides

Ulster County has a ban, except with a waiver, on using pesticides and herbicides on county owned property. The only county property that received waivers has been the roadbed for tracks of the Catskill Mountain Railroad. Last year, the railroad was denied a waiver pending an improved and more comprehensive management plan regarding the application of pesticides and herbicides. A waiver was granted this year after approval of a three part management plan: pre-emergent, post-emergent, and mechanical removal.

Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee

Dave Haldeman, Chair, reviewed the agenda of the Ulster County Energy & Environment Standing Committee meeting of April 4, 2019.

Illegal Dumping of Construction Debris

Bill More, At-Large Member, reported there is a continuing problem of illegal dumping of construction debris, and that any possible infractions should be reported to the DEC New Paltz office.

Council Member Roundabout

Jim Lightfoot, Town of New Paltz

LED streetlights are being installed.

New Paltz Earth Day Fair on Sunday, April 26

Ken Panza, Woodstock

Updated Climate Action Plan to incorporate *Drawdown* solutions and hydroelectric power.

Expect to receive Central Hudson’s LED streetlight proposal in May.

Expect announcement of Hudson Valley Power CCA offerings in May.

Considering applying for EPA Green Power Partnership.

The Woodstock Environmental Commission planted a tree on Arbor Day with a plaque honoring Anne Brandt, a long serving member of the commission and Woodstock’s representative to the Ulster County Environmental Management Council.

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus

Expect draft Comprehensive Plan to be presented to the town board in May or June.

Environmental Board will be handing out reusable bags.

Environmental Board’s Storm Water Task Force will report on existing storm water culverts.

Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston

Meeting Announcements:

Presentation of Kingston Open Space Plan	May 14, 2019
Hudson River Environmental Society, 2019 Hudson River Symposium: Ecosystem Response to Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise in the Hudson Estuary	May 8, 2019
Back to the Garden: Nature’s Role in Human Health, Child Development & Resilience	May 3, 2019
Refrigerant Management- Reducing the Climate Change Impacts of Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases , Climate Smart Communities Webinar Series	May 9, 2019

John Sansalone, Town of Gardiner

Installing LED streetlights.

Continued development of wellhead protection law.

NYWEA Spring Technical Conference & Exhibition, "Developing a Sustainable Operator Workforce," Downtown Hilton & City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY	June 10-11, 2019
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Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley
CAC Discussion of wetlands

Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
Installation of LED streetlights in western Shawangunk
LED lighting for the police department and highway garage

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectively submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary
Environmental Management Council

Attachments

Danskammer Upgrade Report for April 24, 2019
James Taylor's Presentation to the EMC, April 24, 2019
Anne Brandt's Obituary, Woodstock's representative to EMC