

ULSTER COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## Minutes for the EMC Meeting of June 26, 2019

A quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at 6:35 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.

With great sadness, the EMC shares the news of the unexpected passing of John Sansalone, a 28-year member of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council.

### Municipal Members Present

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus  
Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk  
Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston  
Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz  
Jim Mays, Town of Olive  
Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties  
Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley  
Eric Stewart, Town of Marbletown

### At Large Members Present

Margot Becker  
Kenneth Panza  
Virginia Starke

### Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

### Guests

William Reid, CEO, Danskammer, LLC

Michelle Hook, VP of Public and Government Relations, Danskammer, LLC

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes of **April 24, 2019** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved by unanimous consent.

Minutes of **May 29, 2019** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved by unanimous consent.

## Speaker/Presentation

Mr. William Reid, CEO, Danskammer, LLC, presented the plans and justification for the proposed upgrade to the Danskammer power plant. A copy of Mr. Reid's presentation is attached.

Danskammer Energy, LLC filed a proposal with the PSC to repower its existing Danskammer generating station in the Town of Newburgh, a 532 MW natural gas peaking plant. The repowered facility will be a natural gas combined cycle generator of up to 600 MW, which will interconnect with the existing 115 kV electric transmission infrastructure and natural gas pipeline.

## Old Business

### Bring Your Own Bag Act

Ulster County's "Bring Your Own Bag Act" requiring shops and businesses to stop offering plastic bags and to charge a five-cent fee for paper bags goes into effect on July 15, 2019. Ulster County is the first county in the state to pass a ban on single use plastic bags.

The Bring Your Own Bag Act involves a full ban on single-use plastic bags at all covered stores, coupled with a required fee, which is charged to the customer and recorded on their receipt, for recyclable paper bags. The ban-and-charge model is designed to encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags.

The Ulster County Department of the Environment has launched an educational campaign for consumers and businesses to understand the purpose and requirements of the act. Announcements are being made through social media, radio spots, brochures, flyers, refrigerator magnetics, and newspaper ads. Two internes working for the department are engaged in outreach to retail stores.

Several town environmental commissions, including Saugerties, Esopus, Marbletown, are promoting the Bring your Own Bag Act by running local informational campaigns, and in some case, offering logoed, recyclable bags.

A kick-off for the Bring your Own Bag Act will be held at Kingston Plaza, noon, on Friday, July 12, 2019. Hannaford is offering 1,000 recyclable bags in support of the promotion.

### Recycling/Composting/Waste Management

Nothing new to report – a discussion of some current initiatives.

### Danskammer Energy Center

The Town of Marlborough received a \$20,000 beautification grant from Danskammer Energy, LLC.

Report on the status of the Danskammer stipulation process attached.

## New Business

### 850 Route 28 LLC Site Plan / Special Use Permit Application

A developer has proposed building a 240,000 square foot concrete manufacturing facility in the Town of Kingston on land adjacent to the Bluestone Wild Forest and a 208-acre woodland recently acquired by the Open Space Institute (OSI). The project is currently under review by the Town of

Kingston Planning Board, and concerns have been raised about the potential impacts the project could have on the Bluestone Wild Forest and OSI property.

The Town of Kingston Planning Board previously issued a Negative Declaration for a Type 1 SEQR action, but they are being asked to consider significant new information that has been submitted about serious environmental impacts to neighboring properties. The EMC approved a letter addressed to the Town of Kingston Planning Board requesting that it rescind its Type I SEQR negative declaration and reopen the SEQR for full consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

**The Following Motion was Offered:**

*Move to send the referenced letter concerning the 850 Route 28 LLC proposed concrete manufacturing facility located adjacent to the Catskill Park's Bluestone Wild Forest and property owned by the Open Space Institute (OSI) to the Town of Kingston Planning Board.*

**Moved by** Kenneth S. Panza. **Seconded by** Mary O'Donnell.

After some discussion, it was decided the last paragraph of the letter should be strengthened to include a specific request to reopen the SEQR process.

The question was called:

**Voting in favor of the motion:** Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus; Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk; Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston; Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz; Jim Mays, Town of Olive; Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties; Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley; Eric Stewart, Town of Marbletown; Margot Becker; Kenneth Panza; Virginia Starke

**Those opposed: None. Those abstaining: None.**

**The Motion Carries.**

(The final copy of the letter to the Town of Kingston Planning Board is attached)

## 2019-2020 Goals and Objectives

Margot Becker, At-Large Member, discussed her progress in documenting the programs, accomplishments, and achievements of Ulster County's EMCs and CACs. A draft Excel spreadsheet was distributed that summarized the submissions from the towns.

## Report from Department of the Environment

(See report on Bring Your Own Bag Act under old business.)

June 18, 2019, Ulster County Executive Patrick Ryan signed Executive Order Number 1 of 2019 that establishes ambitious new goals for the County's ongoing efforts to combat climate change, including community-wide greenhouse gas emissions targets and the adoption of the Ulster County Climate Action Plan. Executive Order #1 of 2019 is attached.

June 20, 2019, Ulster County Executive Patrick Ryan signed Local Law #20 of 2019, called "Skip the Straw," which requires restaurants to ask before providing customers with a plastic drinking straw. By mid-September, customers of restaurants and fast-food establishments in Ulster County will need to ask for a plastic straw.

## In Memoriam John S. Sansalone

Dave Haldeman, Chair, lead a remembrance of John Sansalone's contributions to the Environmental Management Council. A moment of silence was observed in John's memory. Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Ulster County Department of the Environment, had placed a small bouquet of flowers where John usually sat during the meetings.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm by unanimous consent.

The next EMC meeting will be held on July 31, 2019; the August meeting of the EMC has been canceled.

Respectively submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary

## Attachments

Mr. Willian Reid's presentation explaining the Danskammer power plant upgrade.

Danskammer Energy Upgrade Report for June 26, 2019.

Letter to the Town of Kingston Planning Board in reference to a proposed cement manufacturing facility.

Executive Order #1, Achieve 100% Renewable Energy by 2030.

John S. Sansalone, Obituary.

John S. Sansalone, in memoriam, New York Water Environment Association.