

ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Minutes for the EMC Meeting of July 31, 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 Margot Becker Vice-Chair.

Municipal Members Present

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus
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
Sarah Underhill, Town of Wawarsing

At Large Members Present

Margot Becker
William More
Kenneth Panza

Department of the Environment

Nick Hvozda, Deputy Coordinator
Ben Ganon, Resource Technician

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of **June 26, 2019** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved by unanimous consent.

In Memoriam John Sansalone

Dave Haldeman, Chair, received the following thank you note from Elena Sansalone.

"Thank you for your note and kind words about our brother, John. It gives us great comfort to know that he had an impact on the local environment - a cause that was dear to him. Please share our appreciation with the members of the UCEMC and keep up the good work. We saw the minutes of your June meeting - so nice to see that John was remembered there. Thanks."

Speaker/Presentation

No speaker at tonight's meeting.

Old Business

850 Route 28 LLC Site Plan / Special Use Permit Application

EMC's letter concerning the 859 Route 28 LLC's application for a steel and concrete fabricating facility was sent to the Town of Kingston Planning Board with copies to Pat Ryan, County Exec. and Tracey Bartels, Legislature Chair.

The July 15, 2019 public hearing on the application was discontinued before it started when town officials announced the audience size exceeded the meeting room's 150-person capacity. The next scheduled Town of Kingston Planning Board meeting is Thursday, August 29, 2019.

William More, At-Large Member, requested that a representative from the Town of Kingston or from the developer, 850 Route 28 LLC, be invited to present the project plan at the next EMC meeting.

Recycling/Composting/Waste Management

Proposed county composting law has been postponed for further consideration.

The Recycling Oversight committee has not met recently.

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is planning an expansion of its composting operations. The agency owns 41.83 acres used for operations and last year, purchased additional parcels of 28.02 acres and 50.63 acres. The agency began food waste composting in 2012 and has expanded to allow the processing of up to 2,500 tons per year in a 90-by-125-foot area. The plan is to move the current operations from the east side of the property to a 200-by-200-foot area on the south side.

Danskammer Energy Center

Stipulation conferences were held on July 15, July 17, July 22, July 23, and July 30, and the stipulation process is near an end. The EMC submitted comments concerning the existing coal ash landfill, the 600,000 gallon #6 fuel oil storage tank, the required 30,000 gallons of aqueous ammonia, and the estimated one million gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.

EMC also submitted comments concerning Danskammer LLC's preparedness for a forecasted six-foot rise in sea level and anticipated storm surges at the site.

Aqueous Ammonia

William More, At-Large Member, asked about the need for 30,000 gallons of aqueous ammonia at Danskammer. Aqueous ammonia is used to control nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions.

A 19 percent solution of aqueous ammonia will be injected into the flue gas, upstream of the SCR catalyst (Selective Catalytic Reduction technology), where it will mix with NOx in the presence of the SCR catalyst to form nitrogen and water vapor. Ammonia that does not react will pass through the HRSG¹ and out the stack, a phenomenon called ammonia slip.

2019-2020 Goals and Objectives

Discussion about the list of activities accumulated and published by Margot Becker. Further consideration is scheduled for the EMC's September meeting.

New Business

The state Department of Environmental Conservation on July 1, 2019, ordered Saugerties dump owner Joe Karolys to "immediately begin removing all solid waste" from his three illegal C&D debris dumping sites. Ulster County Health Commissioner Dr. Carol Smith issued a cease and desist

¹ Heat Recovery Steam Generator – In the HRSG, heat from the exhaust gas is used to convert water into steam and then to superheat the steam for use in a steam turbine.

order July 24 against Joseph and Rachel Karolys of Route 212 in Saugerties to stop “a practice of bringing offensive material, inclusive of contaminated construction and demolition debris, into Ulster County using unpermitted hauling trucks.”

The following Motion was made:

Move to send Jim Mays’ letter for the Ulster County Environmental Management Council to convey its appreciation and support for the actions taken by the agencies in regard to the illegal waste disposal facility operated by Joseph and Rachel Karolys on their several properties in the Town of Saugerties.

Moved by William More. **Seconded by** Jim Lightfoot.

A discussion ensued about the appropriateness of complementing agencies for taking action and about the officials the letters were to be sent.

The question was called.

Voting in favor of the motion: Jim Mays, Town of Olive; Sarah Underhill, Town of Wawarsing; Margot Becker; William More.

Those opposed: Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus; Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston; Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz; Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties; Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley.

Those abstaining: Eric Stewart, Town of Marbletown; Kenneth Panza.

Those in favor of the motion, 4. Those opposed, 5. Those abstaining, 2.

The motion fails.

It was agreed by the council that the letter should be reworked and submitted for approval at its next meeting.

(Local Law number 10 of 2012, Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law, is attached.)

Report from Department of the Environment

Nick Hvozda, Deputy Coordinator, introduced Ben Ganon. Ben is a new hire in the department replacing Mandy Wolfson, who recently retired.

Bring Your Own Bag Act

The roll out of the Bring Your Own Bag act is going smoothly, thanks to the work and preparation performed by the Department of the Environment. Some questions have arisen about the differences in the county and state plastic bag bans, and how the transition to the state law will be handled.

The department has three interns that have been distributing information at farmers markets, local events, and with business owners. There’s been substantial advertising on radio, in print, and on social media.

A job well done!

Climate Action Plan

Graphics work for the climate action plan is in process, and when completed, the final edited version of the plan will be published.

Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee

Dave Haldeman, EMC Chair, submitted a report about the July 11, 2019 meeting of the Ulster County Energy & Environment Standing Committee meeting.

- There is a concern that dumping of toxic C/D materials is occurring on private land (I didn't hear where) and no enforcement activity is occurring. A letter will be sent to the state DEC.
- Proposed amendment to law #4, *Skip the Straw* law, to state, "a local law requiring restaurants and fast food service establishments provide plastic beverage straws, stirrers, plastic cutlery, and condiment packets only upon request," and to be implemented at the same time as the original law concerning plastic straws. Public hearing scheduled for August 13, 2019 at 6:20 pm.
- Proposed law #5 concerning mandatory composing of food scraps by large generators. Public hearing tabled pending working out several legal issues.
- Discussion concerning mandatory rules for construction of roofs on county buildings and SUNY so that they are constructed to be able to bear the weight of solar installation.
- Note: it appears that porous paving (parking lots etc.) are not holding up as well as would be expected.
- Mentioned the future use of CO2 in concrete production
- Mentioned composting with maggots yielding eatable high protein meal

Council Member Roundabout

Cancelled.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectively submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary

Attachment: Local Law number 10 of 2012, Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law

The August meeting of the EMC has been canceled.

EMC's next meeting will be on the last Wednesday in September.