

ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Minutes for the EMC Meeting of August 26, 2020

A quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened by Zoom video conferencing at 6:40 PM by Margot Becker, Vice-Chair.

Municipal Members Present

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus
Jim Mays, Town of Olive
Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties
Eric Stewart, Town of Marbletown
Sarah Underhill, Town of Wawarsing

At Large Members Present

Margot Becker
William More
Kenneth Panza

Department of the Environment
Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

Guests

Brad Tito, NYSERDA Program Manager, Communities and Local Government

Julia Blelock, Chair, Woodstock Environmental Commission

Mark Varian, Climate Smart Gardiner

Misha Fredricks, New Paltz

Simon Strauss, Olive Conservation Commission

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator

Susan Gillespie, Citizens for Local Power

Jeff Domanski, Hudson Valley Community Power

Joel Herm, Current Hydro

Zura & Victor Capelli, Hurley

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of **July 29, 2020** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved as corrected by unanimous consent.

Correction to the minutes of July 29, 2020 from Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties

The paragraph under the heading Carbon Tax should read:

“Mary O’Donnell, Town of Saugerties, reported the Saugerties CAC Climate Smart Task Force considered the Citizens Climate Lobby carbon tax and decided not to recommend its endorsement to the Saugerties Town Board. The carbon tax proposal is too complicated for the CAC and Town Board to make an informed decision, and consideration of Federal Law is beyond the board’s immediate interest.”

Speaker/Presentation

Brad Tito, NYSERDA Program Manager, Communities and Local Government, presented NYSERDA's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program to the EMC.

A video recording of Brad's presentation will be made available.

Report from Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

Community Solar RFP

The county completed its review of the responses to an RFP for community solar, and selected East Light Partners in Saugerties. The intention is that municipalities can also take advantage of these proposals.

County Solar Installation in Saugerties

The County is reviewing final offers for its solar installation in Saugerties.

Culvert Assessment

The field work assessing culverts in Woodstock, Saugerties, and Town of Kingston is about complete, and a meeting with town highway departments will be organized to present the results.

Ashokan Release Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Impact Statement for releases from the Ashokan Reservoir into the lower Esopus is expected soon.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee

Continuing discussion about a solid waste plan and SEQRA requirements.

Council Member Roundabout

Saugerties, Mary O'Donnell

Saugerties took Climate Reality's 100% Committed pledge.

Climate Smart Saugerties is hosting an EV charging station class

Continued sampling to determine the effectiveness of harvesting invasives from the Esopus Creek.

Marbletown, Eric Stewart

Town Board has not voted on the 100% renewable plan developed by Tom Konrad and Sustainable Hudson Valley.

Working on incorporating Stretch building codes into local ordinances.

Wawarsing, Sarah Underhill

Planned river sweeps and cleanups have been canceled.

Esopus, Mark Ellison

Town Board considering changes to formalize the Environmental Board.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm by unanimous consent.

Next Meeting

Wednesday September 30, 2020 via Zoom at 6:30 pm

Respectively submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary

Attachments