

ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Minutes for the EMC Meeting of September 30, 2020

A quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened by Zoom video conferencing at 6:35 PM by David Haldeman, Chair. Meetings of the EMC are open to the public, but Zoom invitations are sent only to members of the EMC. If others wish to attend, please notify the secretary or the chair to obtain Zoom login instructions and passwords.

Municipal Members Present

Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston
Jim Mays, Town of Olive
Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties
Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley
Simon Strauss, Town of Olive
Sarah Underhill, Town of Wawarsing

At Large Members Present

Margot Becker
William More
Kenneth Panza
Virginia Starke

Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

Guests

Senator Jen Metzger, New York State Senate, 42nd District
Zura & Victor Capelli, Hurley

Announcements

The Town of Woodstock has been awarded CSC Bronze Level certification for 2020. There are now five Ulster County communities that have achieved Bronze: Marbletown, Saugerties, Woodstock, and the Town and Village of New Paltz.

Town of Gardiner has temporarily dissolved its Environmental Commission with the intention of reorganizing it by January 2021.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of **August 26, 2020** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and approved by unanimous consent.

Speaker/Presentation

Senator Jen Metzger, New York State Senate, 42nd District



"Jen" Metzger is a member of the New York State Senate, and has represented the 42nd district since 2019. Her district encompasses much of the Hudson Valley west of the river as well as portions of the Catskill Mountains. Metzger is a Democrat. Prior to her time as a legislator, Metzger served on the town council of Rosendale.

Metzger was born and raised in New York City. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1987 and earned her Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University in 2004. She is married with three children.

In 1988, Metzger began work as a public affairs coordinator with the United Nations, and later served as an instructor at the Walt Whitman Center for Culture and Politics of Democracy and Rutgers University.

In 2001, Metzger and her husband moved to Rosendale. She later chaired the Rosendale Environmental Commission and served as Deputy Town Supervisor. In 2013, Metzger was elected to the Rosendale Town Council, and was re-elected in 2017.

Metzger founded the nonprofit organization **Citizens for Local Power**.

Discussion

Senator Metzger briefed the EMC on the status of current environmental legislation, and then answered questions regarding CLCPA, Green Initiatives, Central Hudson grid and CDG constraints, refrigerants, the carbon tax, and the NY Streams Protection Act.

Report from Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator

- The Department drafted a map that shows the additional stream segments which would be protected under the NY Streams Protection Act, legislation currently being considered at the state level. A town-scale (vs a county scale) map is available upon request.
- Solar for UCAT garage roof.
- NYSERDA study for EV charging stations for electric buses. UCAT is planning on obtaining three electric buses.
- National Drive EV event in Kingston.
- Awarded contract for 2.4 MW solar array. Beginning interconnection study.
- Field work on culvert assessment is complete. Project should close out by the end of November.
- DEIS for lower Esopus water release.
- Eleven miles of the lower Esopus cleared for kayaking.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties, with the assistance of Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston, volunteered to prepare a letter urging Governor Cuomo to sign the NY Streams Protection Act.

Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee

Dave Haldeman, Chair. No report.

Council Member Roundabout

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectively submitted,



Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary