

# ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair  
Emilie Hauser, Vice-Chair  
Kenneth Panza, Secretary

## Minutes for the EMC Meeting of March 31, 2021

A quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened by Zoom video conferencing at 6:34 p.m. by David Haldeman, Chair. Meetings of the EMC are open to the public, and if others wish to attend, please notify the secretary or the chair to obtain Zoom login instructions and passwords.

### Municipal Members Present

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus  
Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk  
Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston  
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  
Jim Mays  
William More  
Kenneth Panza  
Virginia Starke

### Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Director  
Nick Hvozda, Deputy Coordinator

### Guests

Paul Malmrose, PE, Vice President, Tighe & Bond, Civil Engineers  
Al Bruno, Ulster County Energy & Environment  
Michael Hartner, Chair, Town of Gardiner ECC  
Misha Fredericks, Town of Gardiner ECC  
Jeff Christensen, Rhinebeck

## Announcements

Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz, submitted his resignation from the EMC

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes of **February 24, 2021** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and adopted.

**Motion to adopt the minutes** of the February 24, 2021 meeting of the EMC offered by Kenneth Panza, Secretary, and Seconded by Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties.

Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston, objected to the minutes because of the inclusion of background information about the Champlain-Hudson Power Express beyond what was discussed at the February 24, 2021 meeting of the EMC.

Mary O'Donnell, Town of Saugerties, objected to the minutes because it did not record her question to Riverkeeper about the possibility of legal action.

**Voting to approve the minutes:** Mark Ellison, Dave Haldeman, Mary O'Donnell, Kristen Schara, Simon Strauss, Sarah Underhill, Margot Becker, William More, Kenneth Panza, and Virginia Starke.

**Voting in opposition to the minutes:** Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston.

The minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting of the EMC were adopted by a vote of 10 in favor and 1 opposed.

## Speaker/Presentation

Champlain-Hudson Power Express.

Paul Malmrose, PE, Senior Consultant, Tighe & Bond, Civil Engineers

Paul E. Malmrose, P.E, joined Tighe & Bond civil engineers in 2009 as Vice President. Paul has been involved in planning and design of more than 30 water treatment plants with capacities ranging from 8.5 to 285 million gallons per day and spanning the full range of available treatment technologies. He has also participated in planning, designing and operating several municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities, and is a nationally recognized expert on water treatment plant residuals and biosolids management and treatment. A registered professional engineer in three states, he has also been involved in the planning, design and construction of sanitary sewers, pump stations and storm water drainage systems.

Prior to joining Tighe & Bond, Paul was Vice President at CH2M HILL and recently served as the Planning and Design Manager for Program Management for the Chicago Department of Water

## Presentations

Paul reviewed two presentations with the EMC that were originally presented at the January 21, 2021 meeting of the Hudson 7.

1. A presentation by Transmission Developers Inc. (TDI) on the technical details and project plan for the Champlain-Hudson Power Express.
2. A response to TDI emphasizing the threat to the drinking water supply for the 106,000 residents of the seven towns that source their drinking water from the Hudson River.

EMC did not take any action on the project, but will reconsider at a future meeting.

## Report from Department of the Environment

Amanda LaValle, Director

**Silver Recertification** – Creating documentation required for submission to Climate Smart Communities to obtain recertification at the Silver Level. Request for recertification will be submitted Friday, April 2, 2021.

**Lower Esopus Turbidity:** Focused on responding to the issues in the DEIS and the public hearings.

**Report to Legislature:** Preparing Green Fleet, building, and other reports documenting energy usage and improvements in 2020.

**Updating the County's Storm Water Plan**

**Approved a limited waiver** to allow Catskill Mountain Railroad to apply chemical weed control.

An open meeting of the **Ulster County Water Quality Coordinating Committee** will be held of April 12.

## Old Business

### Ashokan Reservoir Water Releases into Lower Esopus Creek

**Public comment submission:** The state Department of Environmental Conservation extended by 90 days the comment period regarding New York City's request to permanently release up to 600 million gallons of muddy water per day from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Lower Esopus Creek. The deadline is now 5 p.m. June 16.

The City of Kingston and the towns of Saugerties, Marbletown, and Hurley are planning to submit comments concerning water releases from the Ashokan by the June 16 deadline.

### Ashokan Pumped Storage Proposal

The PowerPoint presentation about the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project presented by journalist Ginger Strand at the Town of Olive informational meeting held on March 18, 2021 is available on the Town of Olive website. The presentation contains all the information needed to respond to the application now before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The docket # for this application is P-15056.

The Town of Olive CAC submitted comments to FERC detailing the possible environmental destruction from the pump storage proposal based on the new NRI.

The towns of Olive and Woodstock have submitted requests for intervener status.

Woodstock and Olive have formed a joint environmental working group.

### Understanding the Difference between a Council and a Board

Mark Ellison, Town of Esopus, and Kristen Schara, Town of Hurley, have expressed interest in learning more about the differences between a Conservation Advisory Council and an Environmental Board. Emilie Houser will follow-up.

### Danskammer Update

By letter dated February 26, 2021, the Application filed by Danskammer Energy, LLC, as submitted on December 11, 2019, and supplemented on March 11, April 21, July 8, and November 18, 2020, was deemed compliant with Public Service Law §164, as of February 26, 2021.

Public statement hearings will be held virtually before the assigned Examiners on March 31, 2021. Those wishing to comment on any aspect of this proceeding will have the opportunity to make a statement on the record at the virtual public statement hearing.

A Motion to Strike filed January 8, 2021 by Sloop Clearwater, Orange RAPP, Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson, and the Sierra Club was denied.

## New Business

Emilie Houser offered to explore town laws that require septic tank inspection at time of property sale.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Panza", written in a cursive style.

Kenneth S. Panza, Secretary

## Attachments

Champlain-Hudson Power Express presentation by TDI to the Hudson 7, January 21, 2021

Response by Hudson 7 to TDI Champlain-Hudson Power Express, January 21, 2021