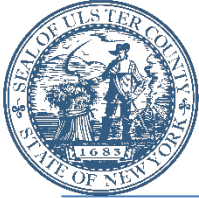


**ULSTER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Emilie Hauser, Vice-Chair
Vacant, Secretary



Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting *March 30th, 2021, 6:30 PM*

Via Zoom

“The purpose of the Council shall be to review and advise the county and local governments on present and proposed methods of using, protecting and conserving the environment for the benefit of all the people.”

With a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at **6:36 p.m.** by David Haldeman, Chair.

Municipal Members Present (5)	Dave Haldemann (Shawangunk) Emilie Hauser (Kingston) Mary O’Donnell (Saugerties, T) Mark Ellison (Esopus) Simon Strauss (Olive)
At-Large Members Present (3)	Roberta Clements Bill More Jim Mays
Ulster County Staff	Nick Hvozda, Department of the Environment
Guests	Phil Erner, Legislator District 6 Maddie Feaster, Scenic Hudson

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/environmental-management-council/emc-meeting-dates-minutes>

Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability from the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) gave a presentation on the UCRRA Organics Recovery Facility and provided updates on the composting operation and the Partners in Composting program.

Q&A

Compost is available for sale at \$30/ton.

The compost inputs are woodchips and food waste. UCRRA produces woodchips on site using municipal yard waste.

The Town of Rochester brings organics to UCRRA. There are composting operations at other town facilities, however, they use private haulers and composting facilities.

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A model that works well across the State is to have staging areas for collection of food scraps. However, UCRRA does not offer hauling/pickup services so the town will have to make arrangements to deliver it to UCRRA.

Compost tipping is \$20/ton compared to \$130/ton for municipal waste so it is in the town's best interest to promote divert municipal waste to composting.

Transport can be as simple as a box truck or pickup truck. There are many different options that a town can use.

UCRRA is exploring other ways to assist Towns with the transportation of organics to the UCRRA facility. However, another goal is to help towns with setting up their own composting facilities.

Waste Management provides organics hauling service, but only in large volumes. There are about 12 private companies that provide organics pickup services in the area. All partners have the responsibility to ensure source separation of organics material. There is a lot of community engagement and education required to separate organics properly.

Landfill update: Seneca Meadows is not necessarily closing; however their permit is expiring. They are requesting an extension and expansion that allows another 15 years of operation. Tim DeGraff stressed that the Agency isn't necessarily planning to continue sending waste to Seneca Meadows for this period, but the option is there as a contingency. The agency has done a mapping study, not a feasibility study to site a landfill at a particular location. It was an attempt to determine areas where a landfill could not be sited and eliminate them from consideration.

The Agency has not offered a hazardous waste cleanup day from commercial sources, including conditionally exempt small quantity generators. They maintain lists of hazardous waste cleanup firms that commercial entities can use as a service.

They host 4 events per year for residents that are available free of charge. The costs are offset through DEC funding.

The NY state paint product stewardship law is forthcoming and will make it easier for New Yorkers to dispose of paint.

Maddie Feaster, Community Organizer for Scenic Hudson, presented on the NY/NJ Watershed Protection Act, a proposed federal bill that Scenic Hudson has been working on for many years.

The Act authorizes \$50M annually through fiscal year 2027 to fund watershed activities in the Hudson River Estuary. There is currently no other dedicated federal program to fund watershed restoration work. The grant program will be overseen by US Fish & Wildlife and will be accessible directly to local communities. Scenic Hudson is requesting resolutions and or letters of support from local communities. The tributaries to the Hudson River are covered under this

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program.

Waterways/waterbodies vs the watershed: the Act covers communities land-use and shorelines. It will help to build green infrastructure, habitat restoration, etc.

The grants will be a 25% local match cost share.

Specific metrics for goal achievement are generally in alignment with programs that are already in place in the Hudson River Estuary/Watershed. This will provide additional funding for projects areas that are already determined.

To support the Act, send letters of support or resolutions to Maddie within the next two months.

Announcements

None

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 23th were approved unanimously.

Report from Department of the Environment (Nick Hvozda)

- The County's Arbor Day program is open for applications throughout 2022. The Towns of Saugerties, Marlborough and Shawangunk are participating. The application form can be accessed here: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/climate-smart>
- Europa McGovern has been appointed as the Deputy Director of the Department of the Environment, effective March 28th.
- A group of 4 students from a Bard college graduate class will be presenting on the municipal toolkit portion of the County's climate resilience/vulnerability assessment project at next month's meeting.

Report from Planning (Amanda LaValle)

No report

Old Business

- Recycling Oversight Committee: nothing to report

New Business

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- Dave Haldeman made a motion to offer a letter of support for the NY/NJ Watershed Protection Act.
Discussion of the potential downsides of supporting the act with regard to how federal funds would be used. The council agreed on the need to ensure the federal funds are being used toward projects that support the correct goals with metrics.
The council agreed to send a letter of support.

The council agreed to propose a resolution of support from the County Legislature to the Energy, Environment and Sustainability committee.

Dave Haldeman raised the possibility of the EMC organizing a public awareness/education seminar on farmland and open space protection

Legislature Report – Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee

Dave Haldeman has a conflict on the regularly scheduled meeting date of the first Thursday of the month. Emilie Hauser will assist Dave in attending these meetings. Dave will attend the meeting on the 7th.

Council Member Roundabout

City of Kingston Emilie Hauser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Day event is May 14th at Forsyth Park • City is still awaiting a report on food waste from the HV Regional Council • There is a fundraiser rummage sale to fund a coordinator for Repair Café on 22-24 April at the New Paltz United Methodist Church •
Town of Esopus Mark Ellison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New appointment to the board • Earth Day celebration coming up on April 23rd. Env. board will be distributing saplings, seeds and MS4 pamphlets. Food trucks • Participating in the Greenway grant to cleanup and improve shoreline trails • Clean sweep and river sweep on May 7th • Restarting a repair café • Reviewing charging station proposals. Had a presentation from a EV provider. • Working on a Climate smart resiliency assessment and the solar mapping project
Town of Shawangunk Dave Haldeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending Wallkill rail trail north, there is potential use of asphalt millings • At the recent St Patrick’s parade, the town environmental committee handed out 750 seedlings to the public. The town purchased them from

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Saratoga nursery and repackaged them prior to handing out Planning for EV charging station at the town hall
Town of Saugerties Mary O Donnell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCA program has approximately 70% enrollment. They are reaching out to those who have opted out of the program and offer that they can opt in at any time. Their program is 100% renewable. They are requesting the names of the individuals who opted out from the CCA administrator. The PSC does not prohibit this but there may be data security limitations. Received a \$1000 grant for planting linden trees at Cantine Field on Apr. 30th. They also applied to the UC Arbor day program. Completing annual report which includes a GHG inventory, but data access is limited due to Central Hudson billing issues
Simon Strauss,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied for bronze cert. in Climate Smart Communities Received \$5K for Solarize program - using toward a community energy efficiency program in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension. Community Building Energy Efficiency program hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension at the Olive Free Library - 530-630pm. Tuesday, June 14th Pollinator program in progress with local schools Working to create a park on town acquired floodplain land in Boiceville The high school is looking for EV charging stations
Jim Mays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bluestone project on Rt 28 is going into litigation after Town of Kingston approval. Per Bill More, the DEC has issued fines and a stop work order over violations at the nearby waterway
Bill More	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New proposal for solar PV at the Kingston exit of the NYS Thruway. Potential concern from glare Asphalt millings are being made available as materials for driveways. Town review should ensure these are considered clean asphalt millings.

Extra Discussion

- Phil Erner offered the value of the Scenic Hudson solar mapping tool for doing site review of solar projects
- Marc Ellison shared an opinion piece of a board member regarding CHPE: <https://therivernewsroom.com/chpe-not-the-green-energy-we-want/>

Date of Next Meeting

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April 27th, the speaker will be Bard students from the Politics of Solutions course in the Center for Environmental Policy.

Tentatively, the meeting will be held as a hybrid in-person/remote meeting at the usual location at SUNY Ulster. There was a discussion about whether a quorum can be attained if members of the Council do not attend in person. The Department of the Environment will determine the policy from the Legislative office and share with the Council prior to the meeting in April.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm