

COUNTY OF ULSTER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 27, 2019 Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk (Chair)
Margot Becker, At Large (Vice Chair)
John Sansalone, Gardiner
Eric Stewart, Marbletown
Mark Ellison, Esopus

Jim Mays, Olive
Emilie Hauser, Kingston
Mary O' Donnell, Saugerties (via phone)
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz
Ken Panza, At Large

Members Absent:

William More, At Large
Kristen Schara, Hurley

Sarah Underhill, Wawarsing

Guests: *Amanda LaValle, UC Environment*

1. **Called to Order- 6:35 pm** there was not a quorum until 6:45
2. **November/December Minutes-** Minutes were unanimously accepted with Mary O'Donnell abstaining as she was not in attendance.
3. **Presentation** Due to the winter weather, Melissa Everett from Sustainable Hudson Valley, the slated presenter to speak about Refrigerant Management could not attend. She will be rescheduled to join a subsequent meeting.
4. **Old Business**
 - I. Danskammer update

Discussion regarding public scoping comments drafted by Ken P. and circulated via email with the group.
Motion, by Margot B. to accept Ken's letter and sign the letter as a concerned party. Ayes carried with John S. abstaining.
5. **New Business**
 - I. Election of Officers

Discussion. Tabled until next month.
 - II. UC Climate Action Plan

Draft Plan was presented by Amanda LaValle. Any EMC member is invited to submit comments. In addition, a meeting at the UC Dept of Environment (17 Pearl St) was organized for Tuesday March 5th at 1pm for additional discussion.

III. Areas/topics to consider in the new year. Tabled until March.

6. Dept of the Environment Update

- I. Department of Environment has been charged with overseeing the implementation of the plastic bag ban. There is money budgeted for contractual services to support this effort. As of 2/27, firms were being interviewed to help with the education campaign around the ban. The ban goes into effect July 15th, 2019.
- II. The Department's Annual Report has been completed and will be shared with the EMC.

7. UC Legislature and Other Updates

- I. Legislative Report- Dave Haldeman attended committee meeting held on 2/7 (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/legislature/committee/energy-and-environment>) He noted there were a couple of amendments to the Plastic Bag law that were passed which included making the enforcement date January 2020.
- II. Other Updates
 - a. Dave noted he is continuing to reach out to Rosendale, Lloyd, and Marlborough for representatives to serve on the EMC
 - b. Composting Legislation Working Group- Margot B provided an update on this group which is helping to explore and support potential mandatory organic waste diversion legislation in Ulster County. Group is exploring legislation which would apply to entities that generate over 2 tons of organic waste per week of which there are 25 identified in Ulster County. (See <http://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/food/organic-resource-locator> for mapping and additional information on the methodology for identifying these generators.)
 - c. Refrigerant Management Forum held 2/26. Emilie H. provided an update on this workshop as refrigerants are a powerful GHG and refrigerant management is widely viewed as one of the most effective "climate solutions" and is #1 on the drawdown list (<https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/materials/refrigerant-management>). Local disposal and recycling is very important as is training of HVAC technicians to properly handle materials. There are opportunities for municipalities to better handle this material as well as grant funding through the NYS DEC.
 - d. Saugerties Go Green Fair will take place on May 4th

8. Roundabout

In the interest of time keeping the meeting brief due to the weather, a formal roundabout was foregone.

9. MOTION to adjourn, made by Mark Ellison, seconded by Jim Littlefoot 7:55 pm