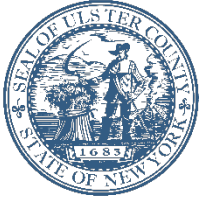


**ULSTER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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



Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting *December 1st 2021, 6:30 PM*
Via Zoom

<https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/j/97442549615?pwd=ZHB6NVJ2MFlvRTFiS3ZJeVFzdWNmUT09>

Meeting ID: 974 4254 9615 | Passcode: 278571 Call in: +1 646-558-8656 US (New York)

“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.”

Without a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at **6:35 p.m.** by David Haldeman, Chair.

Municipal Members Present (6)	Dave Haldeman, Chair, Shawangunk Emilie Hauser, Vice-Chair, Kingston Mark Ellison, Esopus Neil Rindlaub, Gardiner Simon Strauss, Olive Sarah Underhill, Wawarsing
At Large Members Present (1)	Roberta Clements
Ulster County Staff (3)	Nick Hvozda, Department of the Environment Michael D’Arcy, Department of the Environment Amanda LaValle, Department of Planning
Guests (1)	Brent Wasser

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here:

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

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 27th meeting of the EMC were not discussed/approved.

Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

Brent Wasser did a presentation about his farm, named the Willow Pond Sheep Farm, located in Gardiner. They have been tending to the farm for about 5 years now. They are mainly a sheep dairy farm, one of seven in the state of New York. One of their main farming practices is rotational grazing (decrease parasite prevalence and keep food supply fresh). The dairy facility

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has been operational for less than 2 years (originally a meat farm). Dairy products are processed directly on the farm, which is a state inspected dairy facility, and they generate grade A dairy products of milk and yogurt. They work with the Hudson Valley Sausage Co. to create their meat products. Ewes typically produce two lambs in March. They run lamb tours in the spring. Sheep produce less milk than cows and goats but produce milk with higher fat and protein content. They plan to milk 36 sheep starting next season. They use coloring on the ram to see which ewes have been mated with. The presentation ended about 20 mins after the meeting was started and the floor was then opened up for questions by Dave Haldeman.

Q & A

Q: Neil Rindlaub, Town of Gardiner, asked about keeping fresh grass when invasive species are common in this day and age.

A: They mow the fields that are not being grazed at the time to remove undesired plant species. They also frost seed on days when the ground thaws for plants to better take to the ground.

Q: Neil Rindlaub, Town of Gardiner, also asked about idea brainstorming for his farming practices.

A: Brent's wife is on the board of the Dairy Sheep Association of America, to whom they ask questions, but that network is widespread across the states, but there is not much local knowledge on sheep dairy farming. Brent also completed an apprenticeship on dairy farming in Ghent, NY.

Q: Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk, asked about biodynamic farming.

A: Biodynamic farming establishes a cohesive farm organism for better flowing energies and resources.

Q: Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk, also asked about farming during climate change, especially in relation to methane, and how it shapes Brent's future as a sheep farmer.

A: Meat and dairy products need to be enjoyed in moderation. Farming practices that help are keeping permanent pasture land in rotation, and an enhanced focus needs to be turned towards animal welfare.

Q: Mike D'Arcy, UC Dept. of Environment, asked about the energy efficiency steps taken during barn and facility construction.

A: Barn is kept unheated in winter and water comes from the ground in which they use a lot of water for drinking and cleaning. They use all LED lighting in each of the 3 lighting fixtures. They heat their water with propane which is fossil fuel burning but is more efficient energy production than using electricity to heat. The entirety of the creamery is insulated, therefore not drawing much need for heating and cooling systems.

The Q&A ended about 35 minutes into the meeting.

Announcements

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Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk: Virginia Starke retiring from EMC. Dave sent a thank you note for all the contributions

Contact with other ECCs: Marlboro ECC hasn't met in 1.5 years. New Paltz has not had meetings, but the chair just had a baby, so they may be resuming within the coming months.

Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston: Now is the time to engage with UCRRA and others about landfill siting for potentially 2 speakers. This would allow EMC members to engage with their towns.

Very important topic, wasting gas and producing greenhouse gases.

Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston: Interested in learning about small wetland protection, small waterbody protection. The Water Quality Coordinating Committee may be working on a presentation.

Report from Department of the Environment

Michael D'Arcy was introduced as the Department of the Environment's Environmental Outreach Manager. He discussed his role by describing waste reduction practices as well as introducing the Ulster County Green Business Challenge.

Roberta Clements, at-large member, asked about transporting food waste from the city for composting.

Michael D'Arcy responded by saying he needs to look at how energy efficient this process would be to see if it is a practice worth undertaking, and hopefully local community composting programs develop across the state to lessen the use of food waste transportation.

Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston, asked about the food waste law.

Michael D'Arcy responded by saying that it is more of Europa McGovern's area of expertise but gave a brief explanation as to how the hierarchy for compliance of food waste and donation develops in regard to both state and county laws.

Old Business

Amanda LaValle, UC Dept. of Planning, briefly spoke about the WQCC meeting that occurred earlier this week and mentioned that the guest speaker was a new member of the Hudson River Estuary program.

Rt 28: Amanda LaValle, UC Dept. of Planning, the DEC has issued site violations. It appears that the stop work order previously reported was not a formal stop work order.

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New Business

Nothing to report

Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee

Nothing to report

Council Member Roundabout

City of Kingston Emilie Hauser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday December 3, 2021 12-1 pm A REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY FOR NEW YORK’S (MID) HUDSON VALLEY see SHV website -Tuesday December 14, evening LWV MHR Cindy Bell’s presentation on the UN Climate Summit in Scotland (COP26) -Grant for community preservation plan in work -Anti-idling law coming into effect -Large fence at Kingston point beach may prevent movement of animals. CAC provided comments on the project about spacing in the fence.
Town of Gardiner Neil Rindlaub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is an issue of nitrates infiltrating into groundwater due to inadequate septic designs -Roberta is working on a GIS mapping project for an NRI with Vassar interns -Sunday at noon: another presentation about invasive species
Sarah Underhill, Town of Warwarsing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discussion of marijuana growing facility at old Schrade facility -Development planned on old Nevele property just south of Ellenville. The town board is reviewing a plan for a resort complex.
Town of Olive Simon Strauss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CAC is focusing on solar code -Open space inventory -Pollinator garden
Town of Esopus Mark Ellison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presented NY stretch code to town board (again) and are hoping to have it approved by the end of the year. -Esopus has appointed Shannon Harris as liaison to Hudson 7 -Town of Esopus is working on charging stations and welcomes information sharing
Town of Shawangunk Dave Haldeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sending recommendations to Town Board for stream buffer protection for presentation in January. Dave Tompkins from town board can send a copy of the presentation upon request. -Recommendation to the planning board to request carbon neutral

Report from UC Planning

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Amanda LaValle, Deputy Director

Working with stakeholder groups who wish to be part of the Ashokan Release working group. Drafting a scope for a Stream Management Plan for the Lower Esopus. There is \$2M available for planning and implementation in the lower esopus watershed.

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program is part of the conversation about the management plans for the Lower Esopus but have to walk a tight line in regard to their current management practices and programs.

Ulster County Parcel Viewer has been updated with aerial imagery from 2021.

Extra Discussion

There was some discussion at the end of the meeting about getting information from across the county on creating databases and developing a way for information to be more easily shared on topics that some members may not be as keen on understanding (ex: charging stations, climate smart communities' actions). This should be made easier when updates are received from municipal ECCs and CACs about meeting dates and membership.

Date of Next Meeting

End of January

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm by unanimous consent.