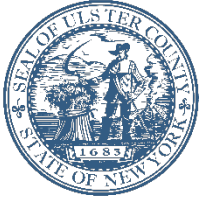


**ULSTER COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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



**Meeting Minutes**

Regular Monthly Meeting *February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.”*

With a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at **6:35 p.m.** by David Haldeman, Chair.

<b>Municipal Members Present (6)</b>	Mary O’Donnell (Saugerties, T) - MO Dave Haldemann (Shawangunk) - DH Emilie Hauser (Kingston) - EH Kristen Schara (Hurley) - KS Mark Ellison (Esopus) – ME
<b>At Large Members Present (1)</b>	Roberta Clements - RC Bill More – BM
<b>Ulster County Staff (3)</b>	Nick Hvozda, Department of the Environment - NH Amanda LaValle, Department of Planning – AL
<b>Guests (1)</b>	Phil Erner, Legislator District 6 - PE Judith Enck, Beyond Plastics - JE Melissa Iachetta, Climate Smart Kingston Fawn Tantillo Ann Silverman

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here:

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

**Introduction of Speaker/Presentation**

*Judith Enck, Beyond Plastics. Judith has held top influential environmental positions in state and federal government and is a Senior Fellow and visiting faculty member at Bennington College, where she runs the Bennington College Environmental Action Fellowship. She founded Beyond Plastics in 2019 to end plastic pollution through education, advocacy, and institutional change.*

Through her presentation, Judith proposed a list of suggested initiatives for Ulster County:

*Suggested Initiatives for Ulster County*

- Meals on wheels use reusable packaging
- SUNY New Paltz removed plastic soda bottles out of facilities

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- Publicize NYS ban on plastic bags and polystyrene food containers
- End single stream recycling to promote more source separation (only markets for #1 and #2)
- Ulster County 10 Year solid waste plan recommendations – raise a flag: don't build a bio hi-tech biomass facility (section 7.11 of LSWMP) and export waste. An example would be the proposed "Hughes Energy" facility autoclave process for fiber/paper making

## Q & A

AL: The Infrastructure act has money for source separation equipment – how do you see this money flowing?

JE: It will probably go through the DEC via the EPA

AL: We are planning money for food security and

JE: Meals on wheels – we are writing a manual for the use of reusable trays. There is a built-in return system.

MO: In Westchester County, we do comingled recycling, which is confusing because anything can go in, but there are restrictions in other places. How is that ok?

JE: Westchester has an incinerator which is where it is probably going. Really only #1 and #2 plastics can be recycled.

FT: Why can't we standardize plastic containers to use #1 or #2 plastic only?

JE: It would require a Statewide or National effort to make this happen, but it would probably be challenged legally. There are other efforts to focus on reduction of plastic for food packaging, extended producer responsibility and expanded bottle bills.

FT: Is there any effort to educate the world about plastic pollution?

JE: US is #5 for putting plastic into the ocean, but we export a lot of plastic

There are negotiations in Nairobi happening for an international plastics treaty. I recommend watching a documentary called "The Story of Plastic." Look on PBS.org, there is a Frontline special on "Plastic Wars" An uplifting movie is called "Microplastic Madness"

PE:

JE: We work with a group called Oceana. They released a poll that 81% of Americans Production, use and disposal. Plastic production is the environmental challenge of our time.

Judith Enck email: [judithenck@bennington.edu](mailto:judithenck@bennington.edu)

## Announcements

- DH: Next month UCRRA is speaking to the EMC;
- EH: the League of Women voters is hosting an event on the Future of Solid Waste with Manna Jo Greene, Laura Petit and Kathryn Beinkafer
- DH: T/V New Paltz and Rosendale are in contact about the possibility of sending a rep to the EMC.

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- DH: Consider elected positions of Chair and Vice Chair for 2022. Does anyone want to take the role of Chair
  - MO: nominate Dave Haldeman as Chair
  - ME: nominate EH as Vice-Chair
- Motion to vote: DH and EH
- Motion to approve nominations: MO, KS
- All members present voted yes, motion approved

### **Discussion/Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of January 26<sup>th</sup>

Motion to approve the minutes ME, MO

Minutes approved

### **Report from Department of the Environment (Nick Hvozda)**

- The County now has three electric buses on the road serving routes in the City of Kingston
- The DoE is accepting application for Arbor day tree planting events.
- The DoE has hired Heidi Emrich as Environmental Planner. She will be working primarily in the Ashokan Watershed doing flood hazard mitigation outreach and technical support.
- We are planning a presentation by Bard graduate students on our Climate Adaptation plan municipal toolkit for the April EMC meeting.
- The County's Non-toxic pest management committee met to discuss the Catskill Mountain Railroad's application to spray herbicide in 2022 along the County's rail right-of-way.

### **Report from Planning (Amanda LaValle)**

- Amanda discussed the need for holistic planning with respect to historic sites and facilities when evaluating renewable energy projects.

### **Old Business**

- DH is working with with the DoE to develop a strategy to update contact lists for CACs and ECCs.
- Recycling Oversight Committee: Margot Becker is the EMC contact on the committee but is now on the board of UCRRA. DH is currently filling in the role but will open it up to others from the EMC. He will continue serving in the role.
- ME initiated a discussion about the CHPE project. He participated in a webinar last week that was a public hearing for the CHPE project. There was a 50/50 split between those who

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support the project and those who oppose. The supporters mainly consisted of school districts. Opposition focused on environmental impacts and PILOT.

- DH: The sharing of information among this committee is good and we should continue to use this group for that purpose.

**New Business**

- None

**Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee**

- EH reported on the Energy, Environment and Sustainability meeting that was February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- There was a good amount of time with Charlie Whittaker of UCRRA speaking about MSW and how some materials are recovered on the tipping floor.
- UCRRA is limited by their permits to 2500 tons of food waste, but there is more demand. They are working to modify the permit to take in 5000 tons.
- UCRRA met with DEC about siting a landfill in Ulster County. They were told by the DEC to hire someone to review soils and groundwater; that is why they hired Hydroquest to do the study.
- They discussed appointees to the Recycling Oversight committee. There are some required members.
- There was action on confirming appointments to the Resource Recovery Agency.
- There was the appointment of an independent administrative hearing officer to allow UCRRA to enforce flow control and recycling laws.
- They set a public hearing on the sustainable green fleet committee.
- Rebecca Martin and Shannon Harris presented on the CHPE project
- EMC was not on the agenda, but reminded to include EMC as a reporting body
- The name has changed to Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee

**Council Member Roundabout**

<p>City of Kingston Emilie Hauser</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Electricity outage: the CAC is following wood smoke/air quality to understand the health effects which may be more in use during power outages. Also, we expect people to remove trees after the storm.</li> <li>-Citywide rezoning project meetings are continuing</li> <li>-Concern about tree removal and bluestone removal in Complete streets project areas</li> <li>-Kingston Meadows proposal is under discussion – the area is in the Esopus floodplain and there will be earthmoving required to get it out of the floodplain</li> <li>-Planning to comment on the Climate Act draft scoping plan</li> <li>-Following bottle bill and EPR act</li> <li>-Tree commission is asking for people to plant trees</li> </ul>
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	-City of Kingston is working on a Community Preservation plan and has hired a firm to complete the project.
Town of Esopus Mark Ellison	-Two/three new members for town Environmental Board which brings board up to 9 members -Meeting to discuss charging stations -Planning goals and activities for the year -Town hall opened up as a warming station during ice storm -I am participating in the County's NRI and municipal toolkit and will bring in a board member for the advisory committee
Town of Shawangunk Dave Haldeman	-Site visit to 7 acre plot for development proposal with a federal wetland on the property. The Army corps of engineers has the decision.
Town of Saugerties Mary O Donnell	-Saugerties applied for the Arbor day planting program -We applied for another tree planting grant for the Cantine field area -Formed the Winston farm review committee to review the proposal. The CAC will be an interested agency in the process. -The Climate Action plan calls for an annual report – it is difficult to get accurate information on utility use with Central Hudson billing problems -Had a presentation from Eco Adapt, a nonprofit, that has identified Saugerties to participate in a program to identify climate vulnerability within the community. The CAC is considering whether to proceed. -Preparing for ongoing issues with milfoil in the esopus creek.
Town of Hurley Kristin Schara	-Town board discussed ice storm that was a wakeup for the town from a resilience perspective. The town hall lost power. They fielded many calls from seniors who were without power. Considering a generator at town hall. -Town has hired engineering firm to correct the problem with the leachate system at the closed landfill. The town was not successfully collecting the leachate and the tanks were overflowing and leaking leachate into the surrounding area. -Working to get Hurley board members signed up for the solar mapping project round that is starting in March. -Working with an intern from SUNY Ulster on climate action projects – and a community greenhouse gas inventory
Roberta Clements	-concerns about -committee forming to discuss solar on the landfill -Tree committee is progressing
Bill More	Nothing to report

**Extra Discussion**

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None

**Date of Next Meeting**

March 30<sup>th</sup>, speaker will be Angelina Brandt, UCRRA

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm