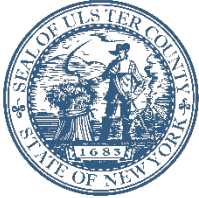


**ULSTER COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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



**Meeting Minutes**

Regular Monthly Meeting **October 27<sup>th</sup> 2021, 6:30 PM**  
Via Zoom

<https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/j/97442549615?pwd=ZHB6NVJ2MFFlvRTFiS3ZJeVFzdWNmUT09>

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

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*“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 **6:39 p.m.** by David Haldeman, Chair.

<b>Municipal Members Present (7)</b>	Dave Haldeman, Chair, Shawangunk Emilie Hauser, Vice-Chair, Kingston Mark Ellison, Esopus Neil Rindlaub, Gardiner Kristen Schara, Hurley Eric Stewart, Marbletown Simon Strauss, Olive
<b>At Large Members Present (2)</b>	Roberta Clements Jim Mays
<b>Ulster County Staff</b>	Nick Hvozda, Department of the Environment Amanda LaValle, UC Planning Department
<b>Guests</b>	Melinda Herzog, CCE of Ulster County

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here:

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

## **Announcement**

Dave Haldeman, NYSDEC refused to permit two gas fired power plants Danskammer and Astoria

## **Discussion/Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the **September 29<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the EMC were presented, discussed, and adopted.

**Motion to approve: Mark Ellison, Neil Rindlaub**

**Voting to approve the minutes:** Unanimous consent

**Voting in opposition to the minutes:** None

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**Introduction of Speaker/Presentation**

*Melinda Herzog, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County.* Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) has been working with Ulster County communities to complete a Climate Smart Resiliency Planning tool which satisfies New York State's Climate Smart Communities Program PE7 Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience which is worth 6 points in the program.

*Contact information:*

**Melinda Herzog**

Healthy Communities Issue Leader  
845-340-3990 ext. 342  
mmh62@cornell.edu

**Announcements**

Dave H.: Saturday 10/30, Interfaith Council will ring church bells from 1:00-1:30 to support climate action. Multiple churches in the Hurley, Kingston area will be participating.

Roberta C.: Gardiner ECC is holding a presentation (include information here). Roberta sent out information. They will be doing a showing of a movie by the DEC on the subject of invasives. The date is TBD. It will be from the Gardiner Town Hall by zoom.

**Report from Department of the Environment**

Nick Hvozda, Interim Director

Notice of award from HREP for our Natural Resources Inventory Planning grant

MS4 Training: 10/27 at 10:00 am

**Report from UC Planning**

Amanda LaValle, Deputy Director

Report on event at Glenford Dike on the ART. Initiative of a local non-profit: the Overlook Center. Dedication of sign. Joined by tribes of Ramapo – Lenape. Renewal of the Nichols Treaty ceremony occurred with County Clerk. The treaty has been renewed 20 times since the treaty was signed (per the stipulation of the treaty). There was an exchange of gifts. Discussed lost communities of the Esopus

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Lower Esopus: currently drafting an RFP for the Stream Management Plan for the lower Esopus. There was an article published in the Times-Union about the DEIS and the Ashokan Century project (<https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/turbidity-issue-Ashokan-reservoir-16565890.php>). They might consider engineering measures that would help. There will be a separate environmental review for the Ashokan Century project (which is not specifically about protecting the Lower Esopus). However, now is the time to do something with the engineering controls to protect the Lower Esopus.

Note related to construction of marijuana facility in Ellenville: Changes on the regulation of wetlands as of this year. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory guidance is changing and may affect upcoming projects. The definition of isolated vs. not isolated is changing. The Army Corps jurisdictional determinations only last for 5 years. A new determination may be required.

UC Transportation Council is doing a transportation vulnerability study. 15 month process with the contractor, GZA. Identifying hazards and assessing vulnerability of local and County (not State) transportation system assets and making recommendations on prioritizing risk mitigation decisions. Cambridge Analytics is a subcontractor. Impact to towns and villages because they will be assessing local infrastructure.

Q from Emilie Hauser: is there a role for CAC's at marijuana facility in Ellenville? It is a 400,000 sf facility, all indoors. This project is not different from a water/wetland perspective than other types of development. Initially site plan was on undeveloped portion of site, but due to wetland constraints they are considering building on the pad site (20 acres). Former Channelmaster site. Stormwater SPDES permit: post construction measures only required for new disturbed land. May not need a construction SPDES permit depending on nature of development.

Q from Eric Stewart: sites for dump in the Town of Ulster? No official determination or new beyond what has been reported in the press. UCRRA has worked with a hydro-geologic consultant to develop a list of sites, but they are not planning to publish it at this time. There are many other factors that will have to be assessed for the SEQR process.

Emilie Hauser: this is forward thinking because Seneca Meadows is closing. There was an assessment done in the 1990's, that produced a report of potential sites, but many site may not be available.

What happens when Seneca Meadow's closes? Shipping by rail, or zero waste initiatives, municipal composting. The Solid Waste Management plan covers some options for alternatives to landfills. Rockland County has had a composting facility for sludge that UCRRA is utilizing. There was a good talk at the NYSACC meeting about Extended Producer Responsibility.

Q from Roberta: waste incineration – is there a way to filter the stacks? Emilie Hauser, there are pollution removal devices, but not carbon dioxide. It is regulated by the DEC. There is a Dutchess County incinerator that has been operating for 30 years and is available for tours.

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**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Emilie Hauser, City of Kingston: there are five proposals on our ballot this year from NYS to change the constitution that everyone has the right to clean air and clean water.

**Legislature Report – Energy & Environment Committee**

The committee voted on a resolution to hold a public hearing for an amendment to the UC Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act at the November session.

**Council Member Roundabout**

<p>Town of Marbletown Eric Stewart</p>	<p>-Marbletown board passed the NYStretch Code -ECC held electric vehicle test drive and solar tour of new facility on Rt 209 -ECC will take part in the solar mapping project led by Manna Jo Greene -Marbletown and Rosendale have voted to purchase a generator to use the combined town hall as an emergency center, warming center -CCA passed in 2019, now working with HV Community Power to create community choice solar, opt-out program for community solar -The Roundout Creek Watershed Alliance recently held 4<sup>th</sup> annual summit, with speakers. Riverkeeper, Hudson River Estuary Program participated. -Eric Stewart is running for County legislature, District 18</p>
<p>Jim Mays</p>	<p>-Bluestone development in the Town of Kingston: the EIS is being prepared simultaneously with development of the site. Litigation is pending, potentially involving the Town of Kingston. The new landowner appears to be not adhering to the stop work order.</p>
<p>City of Kingston Emilie Hauser</p>	<p>-the Danskammer announcement is amazing news -C: Bitcoin mining presentation from Rep. Kelles from Cayuga Lake area. Environmental concerns due to energy needs to mine Bitcoins. There is an initiative/assembly bill to create a moratorium. In some cases, fossil plants are reactivated and used to provide electricity -Regulating smaller wetlands and small watercourses: Emilie attended a presentation on how to create a committee and law. Potential initiative for EMC or Water Quality Coordinating Committee</p>

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	<p>Discussion on new members at CACs: there was emphasis on writing grants to benefit CAC functions</p> <p><u>-Kingston:</u> Climate Action Plan rollout is on Zoom on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 12pm and 5pm, community workshops</p> <p>-EngageKingston.com is a good website maintained by the City that lists nearly every project that the City is working on. Climate Action plan is on the website for comments</p> <p>-City of Kingston is doing a re-zoning project, multiple firms hired. Key dates are in early November (4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>): stakeholder meetings, design charettes. They are using a form based code approach. The CAC will be very engaged in the process.</p> <p>-Discussion on Kingston roundabout – pros/cons, pedestrian considerations, energy savings, snow removal</p>
<p>Town of Hurley Kristin Schara</p>	<p>-Landfill discussion: Town of Hurley board believes there are two sites in the town that are on the list. The board passed a resolution opposing any landfill siting in Hurley</p> <p>-Town board is committed to building a new highway garage: current garage is old and is in proximity to closed landfill. The garage was built over previously landfilled area. Mold problems, methane encroachment issues happening. Project will start next year near the existing site. The fate of the existing garage is unknown. In the vicinity of Morgan Hill on Dug Hill. From Amanda: Woodstock used geothermal heating when they developed their highway garage and significantly reduced energy use.</p> <p>-Working on Climate Smart Communities: Greener Living Event and Car Show held a few weeks prior. Owners displayed vehicles (9 people). Dealerships were not available. It was better having owners talk. Planted a pollinator garden and had presentations.</p> <p>-NY Stretch Code adoption: they are currently stalled due to lack of support from Town Supervisor and Code Enforcement officer</p> <p>-NYSACC conference: NYSACC is putting together a resource library for codes, CAC work, NRIs, ordinances, etc. This would be a great resource for small towns to avoid starting from scratch each time.</p>
<p>Town of Gardiner Neil Rindlaub Robert Clements</p>	<p>-Gardiner ECC is supporting an effort for a Community Preservation Fund, money from a fee on real estate sales above the median house price. Funds to be used for open space preservation. Writing a letter to support.</p> <p>-Working on a trees preservation policy. Trees are being cut as town roads are improved.</p> <p>-Drinking water protection: well sampling at 7 wells. Paying to investigate the presence of PFOA/PFAS in drinking water.</p> <p>-Group in Gardiner is developing a trail network near their transfer station</p>
<p>Town of Olive Simon Strauss</p>	<p>-2 CAC members are participating in solar mapping project with Scenic Hudson</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Looking for a grant for an open space inventory to meet</li> <li>-Focusing on an education program for energy efficiency in homes to help NYS meet CLCPA goals</li> </ul>
<p>Town of Esopus Mark Ellison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Melinda Herzog/CCE worked with Esopus and Lloyd on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a very valuable program.</li> <li>-Will be talking with the Town of Lloyd rep about EMC participation</li> <li>-Still working on the NYStretchCode, it will go before the board within the next month</li> <li>-Working on greenway trail</li> <li>-Issue of tax relief for Champlain-Express project from Ulster ID raised: there is no benefit to Ulster County or any community along the line</li> </ul>
<p>Town of Shawangunk Dave Haldeman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-First solar site in town: went through all boards, but developer wanted a PILOT. The town denied the request and the development did not occur.</li> <li>-It is difficult to find a repair company for an existing residential solar array or its components. Most companies are only doing new construction or industrial projects.</li> </ul>

**Date of Next Meeting**

Regular date is the day before Thanksgiving. The next Wednesday is December 1st.  
Unanimous consent for December 1st.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm by unanimous consent.