

## **Ulster County EMC Minutes**

**January 30, 2013**

Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm

Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chair, At Large  
Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk  
Catherine Quick, Esopus  
Virigina Starke, Hurley  
Kristin Schara, Hurley CAC Member  
Anissa Bejaoui, Marbletown  
Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning  
Joe Liuni, Rosendale  
Jorge Gomes, Rochester  
Henry Bartosik, Wawarsing  
Julie Noble, Kingston  
Amanda Lavalley, DOE  
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz  
John Sansalone, Gardiner

### **Department of the Environment Update**

Green Infrastructure

Ulster County Case Study County for DEC doing green infrastructure mapping, DEC has EPA grant to do a guidebook. Timeline is September 12-April 13. It is being coordinated by the Green Infrastructure Center in Virginia. Firm will do guide and maps in GIS for Ulster County. GICINC.org. Will go under review and be presented in March. Should be useful on the town scale. Ideally this will then go on County GIS Database.

MS4 Stormwater Program

Boundaries have changed post 2010 census. New urban areas include Hudson Valley Mall, Woodstock, Villiage and Town of New Paltz, part of Gardiner and additional areas in the Town of Ulster. It expands into parts of the City of New York Watershed. Includes requirements for SWPPP's, and outfall mapping

## **Old Business**

Membership update – Most members terms are up for renewal and is moving through the process with letters. A contact sheet was passed around for updates. If you are not on it or it is incorrect, please contact Amanda or Steve. Few new reps include: Rochester, Town of New Paltz, Marbletown and working on Saugerties and Lloyd. J. Littlefoot reported that the V. of New Paltz disbanded and merged with Town of New Paltz Conservation Board. Amanda sending letters to towns without Environmental Commissions. Maybe could have an at-large members. Current #'s include 11 Town Reps, 5 at-large . Six spots for at large available.

Ucenvironment.org – A variety of links to county's resources are on the website. Ads for creek week on it. S. Noble encouraged people to use the website more.

## **New Business**

*Election of Officers* – Previous slate of candidates were S. Noble, Chair; C. Lanzetta, Vice-Chair; A Brandt, Secretary. V. Starke made a motion to elect S. Noble Chair. All were in favor. J Sansalone made a motion to elect C. Lanzetta Vice-Chair, all were in favor. J. Noble made a motion to elect A. Brandt Secretary, all were in favor.

*Ulster County Planning Board Recap* – Goals from 2012 were to improve advising county government including legislature's environmental committee and planning board, especially on wide ranging county issues. D. Doyle indicated project reviews may be a heavy lift as they only have 10-30 days to review as is. There is liaison between boards established by charter. Chair of EMC is an Ex-officio of Planning Board, County Planner is an ex-officio of UCCEMC. There can be participation at meetings. Some plans have longer comment periods, ie comp plans, or regional plans. Recommendations and comments are welcome. One rule at local level requires majority plus 1 if Planning Board denies project for local municipality. Recently board commented on SEQRA forms and other state matters

Unified planning work program manages ~400,000 yearly in transportation projects, we could participate in Technical Advisory committees for projects.

Department of Planning and Department of the Environment have a great working relationship

Open Space Plans and Wetlands Plans for municipalities all go through the County Planning Staff (plans should also address where we should build and grow)

Municipalities should address issues back on the local level after review on the County level

D. Doyle also mentioned the Environmental Notice Bulletin, which has all SEQR actions, SPDES reviews, permit applications, and gets culled by the Planning Department for relevant info, which is also relevant to towns

D. Doyle recommended for CAC members to sit on their local Planning Boards as voting members to eliminate multiple advisory boards

He also mentioned that the County Planning hosts "Gateway Meetings" where the County Planning Board, the applicant, elected officials on the town level, the DPW, DOT, Health Dept all are present to discuss project proposals and that CAC members could be present for these meetings, which generally last 2-2.5 hours.

D. Doyle mentioned that LIDAR data is available for waterfront communities (from NYS), which shows storm surges and has great utility for planning and emergency management purposes. J. Noble mentioned that this data was used at the Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force meeting in December.

Finally, D. Doyle mentioned that the Regional Sustainability Plan, with 7 counties involved is out, and \$100 million dollars is available over 4 years and that all CAC members should review this plan. There will be another public meeting for this plan in the future.

#### *Sustainability Guide (Department of the Environment)*

A. LaValle distributed hard copies of the Ulster County Sustainability Guide that was recently completed. This was done by an intern through the National Association of Counties. It should be used as a guide for use on the town level. She really wants this to be shared with towns, perhaps in workshops. It was also offered that this could be a topic of a roundtable, perhaps earlier in 2013 than the normal annual roundtable, and CACs and town members could be invited. A tentative date of April 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Rosendale Rec Center was proposed.

There was a question about Flow Control in Ulster County and what that meant. S. Noble responded that as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, all Ulster County trash generated within the county has to go to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA). Tipping fees have risen due to a deficit that was being addressed by the net service fee. This incentivizes people to recycle. The current commercial tipping fee is about \$100 per ton and about \$80 per ton for towns. S. Noble mentioned that there is some talk about Flow Control for recycling, but only if enabling legislation changes.

S. Noble continued to describe the difference between Dual Stream and Single Stream recycling. He mentioned that Single Stream is great for haulers, home owners and recycling amounts increase. Presently Single Stream recycling is accepted by UCRRA, and is shipped as is to other separators, though

UCRRA is getting less revenue per ton for this. He mentioned that if flow control is enacted, that UCRRA might switch to Single Stream.

### **Round about (Information Sharing by CACs/Towns)**

J. Sansalone, Gardiner: The process of reviewing a local project proposal set the CAC back some time from doing their water resources law, though the time line is to present this to the board within 9 months.

D. Haldeman, Shawangunk: DPW is putting up a salt barn next to him in Shwankgunk; the town supervisor will not pass a "No Fracking Law" for the town.

V. Starke, Hurley: Hurley will be having their annual BioBlitz this year, hopefully with more children; the CAC has two new members; Riverkeeper is having their Riversweep on May 11 and she offered that people should get involved; she noted that the Lower Esopus Creek is now listed on the 303d list of the EPA, classifying it as now officially impaired.

J. Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz: Riverkeeper did tests from New Jersey to the Hudson River in NY and they want to do a presentation with maps when the EMC is ready to host them. They tested for enterococcus. J. Noble mentioned that Riverkeeper will be attending the Kingston CAC meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> to present the data collected on the Rondout near Kingston.

J. Liuni, Rosendale: April 13 will be the Symposium on Retrofitting for Resilience, sponsored by the USGBC, Upstate Council, BPI, the Rosendale Environmental Commission and NYSERDA. The event is from 12-5pm and is free. This will take place at the Rosendale Rec Center.

J. Gomes, Rochester: Currently has 3-4 vacancies on board. Held Farmers Market at par in October for small farmers. Having a community event to make last few Rail Trail Connections in town, inc on the Neville Property.

H. Bartosik, Wawarsing: Working on connecting Rail Trails and connecting to Catskill Preserve. All parties are cooperating. Moving on Open Space project, looking to hire a consultant.

J. Noble, Kingston: Climate Action Task Force is getting assistance from VHB for a prioritization exercise related to the Climate Action Plan. Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force held public meeting, mapping assets and will discuss vulnerabilities. Looking to increase facebook presence and have grown membership. Now up to 8. Riverkeeper is presenting at Kingston's March Meeting.

A. Lavallo, DOE: New Department head for Mental Health/Health Department. Wants to come to speak to us at some point.

J. Sansalone moved to adjourn, Hank seconded. Adjourned at 8:37pm.