

# Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes January 29, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM

## Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chair, At Large  
Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk  
Catherine Quick, Esopus  
Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley  
Joe Liuni, Rosendale

Aaron Bennett, UC Dept. of Environment  
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz  
William More, At Large, Kingston  
Cindy Lanzetta, At Large, Marlborough  
Emily Hauser, Kingston

October 2013 Meeting Minutes were approved.

## **Department of Environment Update**

An updated list of environmental bulletins compiled by the department was distributed.

New FEMA flood maps are available. There will be separate workshops for town officials and residents to review them. The maps are available online at the FEMA website.

NYCDEP is expected to fund land buyouts based on the new FAD (Filtration Avoidance Determination).

UC and NYCDEP have reached an agreement to allow access for a trail only on the 11.4 miles of rail right-of-way through the reservoir lands. The DEP will commit \$2.5 million to create trailheads and 3-5 access points.

A grant of \$400,000 has been awarded to the STRIVE conversion project at the former Sophie Finn school. The monies will be used for green infrastructure projects at the new SUNY Ulster satellite campus.

The NYDEC is looking to involve municipalities in the PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management) task forces to address the continued expansion of the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasives. The PRISMs are organized by region including the Catskills and the Lower Hudson. Kingston has completed inventories of many trees including street trees. The trees will be rechecked this year. Workshops in the spring are planned to provide an action plan to address the infestations.

The New York Rising initiative is providing grants to communities in designated reconstruction zones resulting from recent storm damage. The grants are to be applied to a prioritized list of projects in each community with the aim of enhancing disaster recovery resiliency. Projects include bridge replacements, emergency shelters, relocation of town structures and other infrastructure improvements.

## **New Business**

Officers for the UC EMC officers for the 2014 year were elected as follows: Chairperson – Steve Noble; Vice Chairperson – Cindy Lanzetta; Secretary – Kristen Schara

Annual reports for the years 2012 and 2013 were reviewed and approved as amended.

Steve requested suggestions for speakers for upcoming EMC meetings. Suggestions included Michele Bergcamp from the UCRRRA to talk about new initiatives for composting, town communications and recycling; Martin Brand, the new director of the DEC Region 3 office; representatives who could talk about proposed electric or gas transmission upgrades in our area; and Art Snyder to talk about issues related to climate change.

## **Member Roundabout**

The passing of Peter Seeger was noted and members shared remembrances of the activist icon.

Emilie Hauser – Emilie is working on a Natural Resource Inventory for the City of Kingston with a goal to add it to the comprehensive plan. Help with mapping may be available through the Dept. of Environment and Hudsonia. The Waterfront Flooding Task Force Report was passed by the city council and signed by the mayor.

Aaron Bennett – A new hydrography data set is available from UC Information Services. Funding will be available to local governments for updates to their hazard mitigation plans. Vulnerability studies as a result of climate change are encouraged.

William More – Wild boar and feral pigs have become a major problem, especially in the Southern Tier. The DEC is working to reduce their number although hunting will them will not be allowed because it causes the herds to scatter.

Joe Liuni – A new black bear management plan by the DEC will allow for an expanded hunting season. Hunting is still the main management method. Officials in Ithaca are looking for sharpshooters to reduce the deer population. Deer in many areas are causing destruction of landscaping and inhibiting new understory growth in wilderness areas.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09.