Ulster County EMC

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Cindy Lanzetta (Vice Chair), Marlborough

John Sansalone, Gardiner

William A. More, At Large, Kingston

Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley

Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk

Emilie Hauser, Kingston

Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz

Amanda LaValle and Alanna Henneberry, UC Dept. of the Environment

Guests: Larry DeWitt, Rochester CAC; Jim Mays, Olive CAC

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.

Dave motioned to approve the January minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Emilie. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

The nominations for the EMC officers for 2016 +are:

Chairperson – Dave Haldeman, John motioned, William seconded.

Vice Chairperson - Cindy Lanzetta, John motioned, Emilie seconded

Kristen Schara - Secretary, Dave motioned, William seconded

The slate was unanimously approved. The committee will vote next month

Omega Institute Retreat – An application was submitted to participate in a Strengthening Communities Summit at Omega Institute. The dates considered include May 6-8, May 8 -12 - choosing 2 consecutive nights, June 15-17, July 1-3. The committee favors the May 6-8 slot due to timeliness. The application provides for 8 attendees and 2 staff members. Emilie suggested a subcommittee be formed to design an agenda for the sessions. Goals for the summit include: Review strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats (challenges) (SWOT); Review and revise mission and current function; Develop one- and five year goals and objectives; Develop a membership/recruitment strategy. Activities may include: Team building exercises; A SWOT analysis; Talks by invited guests from local government such as the UC legislature and the UC Executive; Brainstorming key environmental issues; Brainstorming methods membership and recruitment; Synthesis of results to map out goals; Meet with a NYCON (NY Council of Nonprofits) representative regarding motivating members and new recruits. The summit will be free to attendees. John motioned to accept the May 6-8 date. Emilie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave, and Emilie volunteered to form a subcommittee and to work with Amanda to create an agenda and move the process forward.

**Ulster County Legislature Update /Dept. of Environment Update**

Amanda shared the annual report for the department. They would like to know how to get more information to CAC’s and local governments. This will be a topic of the retreat. Amanda will forward a digital version to EMC members and create a draft of the annual report for the EMC to circulate for comment. Alanna provided a packet of information; DEC ENB’s that are possibly relevant to members, minutes from the UC Climate Smart Committee meeting, resolutions from the legislature regarding environmental issues including the UCRRA board appointments, Saugerties Solarize campaign information. On March 22nd the UC Planning Board will provide a solar zoning workshop to clarify the legal impacts and issues. Fred Wadnola, Jack Hays and Brian Devine were appointed to the UCRRA Board. A solar energy farm is going to be installed on the Town of Ulster landfill. Alanna has created a draft version of a Facebook page for the EMC. The NYS DEC announced that they are going to do a group purchase of electric vehicles. There may be a way to get a free charging station

**New Business**

Dave motioned that the EMC postpone discussion of new membership until the summit. John seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Alanna will work to get the Facebook page active and so that EMC members can provide comments on information should be included. Alanna requested ideas for a logo. Dave has some that could be used. John suggested that the old EMC newsletter may be a resource.

**Member Roundabout**

John Sansalone – John reported on the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA)annual meeting. There were several papers presented concerning green infrastructure projects including how to integrate gray infrastructure with green. The annual NYWEA legislative forum will be on May 10th Albany. Chairs of the senate and legislature are expected to be available to discuss their initiatives. The Government Affairs Committee will have calls every 2 weeks keep informed on issues. John talked to the highway dept. supervisor regarding a large driveway through a federal wetland. They changed the forms to ensure that applicants are in accordance with regulations. The forms will now be part of site plan approval. There may be further action needed to remedy the project impacts. A wetlands law would require a water resource professional to approve site plans. USGS has found intersex fish (small mouth bass) in the Wallkill River in New Jersey.

Kristen Schara – They are continuing to work on their Open Space Plan. They are planning a BioBlitz in the spring, possibly along the Hurley section of the O&W Rail Trail.

Emilie Hauser – Kate Hudson of Riverkeeper attended a meeting to discuss the Pilgrim Pipelines project. A 100 year old law requires a 2/3 majority approval by the legislative branch for pipelines built through a city. The pipelines may not pass through Kingston, however. They are working on grants to inventory trees in the city to analyze planting and maintenance. Newburgh has a digitized tree inventory. Look on the DEC website to sign up for newsletters.

William More – USDEA is having a pharmaceutical drop off day April 30th. Look on the website for locations. This is an effort to reduce pharmaceutical waste in water and illegal management of controlled substances. Most sheriff stations and town police stations will take unused items. These locations are also on the website. The chemical PFOA has been found in the Hoosic Falls water supply. NYS DEC has declared it to be hazardous waste. There is a project funded by federal government to provide filters under superfund status. William toured a NYC DEP ultraviolet treatment plant in Westchester. It is considered the largest in world.

Larry DeWitt – Rochester and Wawarsing have been awarded a $50,000 to perform a joint open space plan. They will be evaluating RFP responses from consulting firms and expect to announce a winner next month. They are interested in reaching out to neighboring towns with open space plans. Larry is also interested in information regarding large solar installations.

Jim Mays – Olive has just formed a new CAC. RUPCO recently had a workshop on solar energy. They are working on a pollinator project which will include planting annuals. They are working to revise their NRI which was originally done several years ago. The NRI was published by a local press.

Emilie made a motion to adjourn. Dave seconded. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 8:48.