Ulster County EMC

Draft Meeting Notes

September 30, 2015

Members in Attendance:

John Sansalone, Gardiner

Emilie Hauser, Kingston

Virginia Starke, Hurley

William More, At Large

Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley

Steve Noble (chair)

Amanda LaValle, UC Dept of the Environment

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

**Green Infrastructure Tour of new SUNY Ulster Site**

Amanda provided an overview of the STRIVE project at the former Sophie Finn Elementary building and site. The goals of the project include reusing an existing building in the community, improving its energy efficiency and stormwater management. The tour highlighted the use of LEDS for interior and exterior lighting, water fountains that provide filling stations for reusable water bottles, energy efficient windows placed to enhance the use of natural light, and electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot. Examples of stormwater reduction techniques used at the site include: disconnection of roof runoff downspouts from the combined storm sewer system and directing the flow to bioretention areas; a “green wall” consisting of modular plant containers; and the use of a permeable surface for a new parking area behind the school

**Ulster County Dept. of Environment Update**

A forum titled ‘Implementing Sustainability in Local Government’ is scheduled for Oct. 22nd from 3-6 PM. Topics include reduction of carbon footprint, energy conservation and efficiency, implementing renewable energy and offsetting emissions through Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Prior registration is requested.

A variety of programs were offered during Creek Week. The final count of programs and attendance are not yet available. Some were cancelled due to weather.

The NYS Conference of the Environment will be held in Ithaca, Oct. 14th-16th. The theme is collaboration. Scholarships are available.

A local law was adopted to establish a green fleet policy for UC operations. The new policy involves a number of different steps to reduce emissions, decrease costs, and increase efficiency. These steps include:

downsizing of vehicles; optimizing vehicle use; incorporating efficiency into bid specifications; maximizing vehicle efficiency through maintenance and operation; eliminating vehicles; where possible encouraging the use of transit systems, bike riding, walking, & telecommuting. The UC fleet usage will be analyzed based on vehicle usage and fuel consumption using a credit card system for refueling. Each employee will enter their PIN and odometer reading when refueling. Driver training will include eco-driving techniques such as reduced idling.

The UC electric vehicle charging stations support the green fleet policy and the NYS goal of providing 3,000 public and workplace charging stations statewide by 2020. They encourage employees and the public to adopt electric vehicles and are a draw to the local area for tourists that own electric vehicles. So far there have been 110 charging sessions at UC stations, many by people from outside the area. A resolution was passed to govern parking at electric vehicle charging stations.

**Member Roundabout**

Saugerties (Mary O’Donnell via email) - Their Creek Week kayak tour had 12 participants. The CAC is hosting a forum featuring Sustainable Saugerties and Solarize Saugerties on October 13th at 7 PM.

Emilie Hauser – The Kingston Library is being honored by the Ulster County Library Association for their sustainability program. An article about the initiative by Emilie was published in *JLAMS*, the journal of the NY Library Association. The next step is to analyze emissions for the past year. The Solarize Kingston program ended. They do not have the results tabulated yet. The CAC is still working on their Natural Resource Inventory. The CAC is exploring the issue of direct venting of wood/pellet stoves in densely populated neighborhoods. It is possible that there is an ordinance in place that would be enforced by the fire inspector. The Climate Change Adaptation Sea Level Rise Task Force is looking at how to measure program progress. The NYSDEC is providing a free flood plain training workshop in Albany on Oct. 13th.

Kristen Schara – The CAC continues to work on their Open Space Plan. The NYSDEC notified the town of the intention of buying a lot that is contiguous with current DEC owned land. This purchase would provide public access to DEC owned lots that have been surrounded by private property.

John Sansalone – Gardiner continues to work on a watercourse protection law. The NYS Attorney General continues to advocate for the banning of microbeads. Some states (5 or 6) have banned the use of microbeads. The NYWEA publication *Clear Waters* has articles available online. The Water Environmental Federation (WEF.org) had an article on microbeads. BPA is showing up in water near plastic manufacturing plants. An ASCE report on waste water treatment gave infrastructure in NYS a “D-“grade. A public hearing concerning a ban of microbeads is scheduled for Oct. 14th. There is a citizen science project to measure the amount of microbeads present in water samples. Microbeads absorb toxic substances which harms aquatic wildlife when the microbeads are ingested.

William More – Last weekend the DEA published a schedule of dates for collection of pharmaceuticals. A listing of dates and drop off locations are available on the DEA and UCRRA websites. A draft set of guidelines concerning pharmaceuticals were published last week for comment. The proper handling of PCB’s and heavy metals in building alteration and demolition is an issue.

Meeting adjourned 8:15.