

COUNTY OF ULSTER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

December 5, 2018 Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk (Chair)
John Sansalone, Gardiner
Sarah Underhill, Wawarsing
Eric Stewart, Marbletown
William More, At Large

Kristen Schara, Hurley
Mark Ellison, Esopus
Jim Mays, Olive
Emilie Hauser, Kingston
Judith Karpova, Rochester

Members Absent:

Margot Becker, At Large (Vice Chair)
Mary O' Donnell, Saugerties

Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz
Ken Panza, At Large

Guests: Amanda LaValle, Nick Hvozda

Called to Order- 6:35 pm

Presentation Natalie Feldsine, Mohonk Preserve. Presentation will be shared with EMC members. Presentation was on plant life, associated points of interest with each plant and data concerning the possible effects of climate change.

October Minutes- Motion made (by Mark Ellison and Seconded by Sarah Underhill) to accept the October minutes (with corrections). Motion carried.

Old Business

I. Waste Management Seminar follow-up, where do we go from here?

Discussion regarding the efficacy of the waste management seminar in reaching one intended audience which was municipal elected officials and decision makers. No actions.

II. Power plants- discussion of adding our name to letter requesting longer review period for Glidepath

Discussion regarding provided letter, which is essentially a request to extent the public comment period as part of the SEQR process. Discussion regarding sending our own letter versus adding a signature to another group's letter. **Motion** made (Dave H.) to not sign on to the group letter but rather draft a letter from the EMC, requesting an extension of the comment period, referencing our previous letter, and reiterating pertinent points from the first letter. Seconded by Mark E., Carried. [NOTE: On 12/4 Project sponsor has informed town the DEIS is not complete and will not be ready till later this spring, in part due to the complexity of the project.]

New Business

- I. Discuss possibility of asking UC Energy and Environment Committee to consider air quality/emission standards for the county.

Discussion. No action taken. Possibility of discussing with the committee at a future meeting seemed most well-received idea.

- II. Areas/topics to consider in the New Year.

Discussion. This should be “homework” for EMC members for the New Year.

- III. Getting representatives from Rosendale, Lloyd, and Marlborough to serve on the EMC

Discussion. Some indications that Rosendale will soon be sending a rep. No indication from other towns.

- IV. Need a member to be EMC representative to attend UC Legislature E&E Committee meetings.

Discussion. Committee meets first Thursday of the month. Eric Stewart expressed willingness to share some of this duty with Dave H. who has historically done it. They will coordinate on this effort.

Dept of the Environment Update

- Dept of the Environment is the Water Quality Coordinating Agency (WQCA) for Ulster County. The Department is in the process of reconvening the Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC), the group of various departments and agencies throughout the County that are involved in water quality management. In the past, one of the participants has been the EMC, and the Dept is seeking a volunteer from the EMC to be part of this process.
- Finishing an update to Ulster County government operations greenhouse gas inventory. Also working on a Climate Action Plan for County government operations.
- Department of Environment has been charged with overseeing the implementation of the plastic bag ban. There is money budgeted for contractual services to support this effort. The ban goes into effect July 15th, 2019.

Roundabout

In the interest of time, the roundabout was forgone. However, several announcements were shared.

The Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance is in the midst of reforming. Marbletown, Rochester and Wawarsing seem to be participating in meetings at this time. Other Rondout watershed communities are encouraged and invited to participate and attend. Reach out to Eric Stewart for more information.

There will be a roundtable regarding the Danskammer power plant proposal in Newburgh hosted by Danskammer Energy Center. According to the project sponsors the meetings will be “staffed by project experts who will provide information and answer questions about the project directly to attendees. Handouts with more information on the project will also be available. Subject matter experts will be available to discuss topics such as: environmental work and surveys, construction techniques, project siting and the regulatory approval process.” Meetings on December 17th and 18th. More information <http://www.danskammerenergy.com/news>

MOTION to adjourn, made by John Sansalone, seconded by Mark Ellison 8:45 pm