

Ulster County EMC

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Dave Haldeman (Chair), Shawangunk

John Sansalone, Gardiner

William A. More, At Large, Kingston

Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley

Emilie Hauser, Kingston

Virginia Starke, Hurley

Amanda LaValle, UC Dept. of the Environment

Guests: Judith A. Karpova and Tim Ganon, Rochester ECC

Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz

Cindy Lanzetta, Marlborough

Jim Mays, Olive

Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

Ms. Lanzetta motioned to approve the April minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Mr. Littlefoot. Motion carried unanimously.

Dept. of the Environment Report

NYS DEC and OGS (Office of General Services) is organizing a bulk buy, which municipalities can participate in for plug-in hybrid sedans. Specifically, they will be purchasing Chevy Volts and anticipate an order of around 125+ vehicles. They are hopeful that this volume will reduce the purchase price significantly. If municipalities are interested in participating, they must let DEC know by May 31st. Contact Brendan Woodruff [518-402-9159](tel:518-402-9159) | brendan.woodruff@dec.ny.gov ASAP. Also, there should be an announcement in the coming months about funding for municipalities to install EV charging stations. It is expected that there will be municipal credits to pay for charging stations.

As part of a proactive effort to ensure the safety of drinking water in UC facilities, the County Health Department ordered water sampling and testing by an independent, certified drinking water lab. The testing was completed in 26 of the UC's locations and the results indicate elevated lead levels in 18 of these locations. This includes both county owned and county leased facilities. UC is in the process of re-testing and testing additional facilities. However, for many years most county facilities had bottled water provided. And within the past year, the County was transitioning to filtered bottle filling water fountains. The samples from the filtered water fountains were a (non-detect) meaning lead was below 1 part per billion. (Standard is 15 ppb or .015ppm). The stations automatically monitor water usage and indicate when filters need replacement. See more at: <http://ulstercountyny.gov/information-leadwater-testing-and-actions-ulster-county-facilities> Stations are Elkay units <http://www.elkay.com/bottle-filling-stations>

A webinar regarding Climate Smart Communities Grant Program will be presented on Friday, June 3rd from 10:30 am – 12:00pm.

A new source of funding to address climate change is offered through the [2016 Consolidated Funding Application](#). The [Climate Smart Communities Grant Program](#) is a competitive 50/50 matching grant program for municipalities to conduct climate change adaptation or mitigation implementation projects, or to undertake eligible actions as part of a strategy to achieve Climate Smart Communities Certification (see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76483.html>) If your community has passed the resolution they are eligible for grant monies.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority ([NYSERDA](#)) announced the launch of a new web-based information source for climate-related information developed by New York State in partnership with federal, university and public-private organizations. The [New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse](#) has aggregated links to extensive climate-related information including flood maps, data on sea level and temperature changes, and other information to aid

in planning for future extreme weather events. This information can help prioritize future community and conservation planning efforts in the State. (See <https://www.nyclimatescience.org/>)

Applications for the current round of competitive Hudson River Estuary Grants are due by 3pm on June 30, 2016. There are two funding opportunities, Local Stewardship Planning and River Access and Education. See <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5091.html> for more information. To view and download the Requests for Applications (RFA), visit the [NYS Grants Gateway](#) and search for "Hudson River Estuary." Descriptions of eligible projects, applications, eligibility requirements, and instructions for registering and prequalifying in the Grants Gateway are included in each RFA. Funding for these grant opportunities is provided by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, Hudson River Estuary Program. Local Stewardship – NRI's, etc.

An electric vehicle tourism flyer will be handed out at the UC arts and crafts fair. Feedback via the tourism booth and the UC website will be used as a measure of the level of interest in the program.

Marbletown is sponsoring a Trash Fest. There will be a series of events from throughout the month of June.

Creekweek forms are available online. Event announcements submitted by June 17th it will be included in the Hudson Valley Ramble publication.

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region Material Management Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month. The public is welcome to attend. They focus on solid waste issues such as legislation, paint stewardship and composting. Ms. Lanzetta will send information to be posted.

New Business

The Kingston Climate Smart Committee is sponsoring a drive electric event on Sept 17th. The UC Dept. of the Environment is exploring the use of biodiesel for heavy equipment for the Kingston. It is already in use for bus transportation. Using a 5% blend does not require any conversion of equipment. Other municipalities that may be interested should contact the department. The price for renewable energy credits bought by UC can be extended to any municipality in UC. The estimated cost for Woodstock would be \$300, for example. There is training offered for building inspectors regarding the new NYS building code. There will be PSC hearings on May 27th regarding the Renewing the Energy Vision (REV) initiative at Kingston City Hall at 2 pm and 6 pm. The REV includes nuclear and natural gas in addition to renewables.

The current MS4 report summary provides the status of 6 minimum control measures. UC will assist municipalities with efforts such as mapping culverts, and will provide education to highway departments on best practices. The STRIVE center demonstrates new storm water practices. Ms. LaValle provided copies of 2 new educational brochures: "A Summary of Ulster County's Rood Service Waste Reduction Act" regarding the polystyrene ban and "Menu For A Cleaner & Healthier Environment" a guide on stormwater pollution prevention for the food service industry.

The Solid Waste Committee of the League of Women Voters asked the UC Health Dept. for a list of the chain restaurants that are complying with the new law. They found nearly 100% compliance. The league started a Facebook page and they are encouraging people to post examples of local restaurants that are complying. Ms. Lanzetta will send a link.

The UC Energy and Environment Committee meets at 6 pm on the second Monday of the month at SUNY Ulster. Mr. Haldeman will attend the next meeting in June. Committee members will be asked to sign up to attend meetings on a rotational basis. Attendees will solicit input from the legislators regarding issues EMC should address and report to them our activities.

Some municipalities have been exploring a fee on plastic shopping bags. The Village of New Paltz has a fee.

Future tasks for the EMC include a sponsorship of a training session for elected officials, CAC's and ECC's, possibly covering climate smart community certification. This could be done in concert with the UC Climate Smart Committee. The EMC can also work to encourage towns to form CAC's and to appoint representatives to the EMC.

Old Business

Omega Institute meeting highlights included renewing connections with the legislature, talking about the process of what the EMC does, networking among EMC members, listening to new ideas, sharing the history of the EMC, and a tour of zero

waste facility at Omega,. Mr. Haldeman asked that EMC members review the retreat notes. In addition to attending the UC Legislature Energy and Environment Committee, Ms. Lanzetta will be the EMC liaison to the UC Planning Board. A training session on grant writing was also suggested.

Mr. Haldeman sent a letter to members of the state legislature in support of used pharmaceutical collection at pharmacies.

Rochester Gardiner, Wawarsing and Shawangunk are looking into using landfills for solar. The EPA does the assessment.

Member Roundabout

Tim Ganon/Judith A. Karpova –The ECC was asked to comment on a draft a new building code for solar installations. Issues with private vs. commercial projects are to be addressed. There is support to have large installations but the cost of decommissioning is a concern.

John Sansalone – From the NYWEA Legislature Forum - a bill has been introduced to allow the DEC to set water quality limits on microorganisms that are currently mandated by law. The oil spill notification bill has been withdrawn. The next NYWEA conference is scheduled for June 6th-8th. The ECC is addressing an issue with landowner regarding of zoning restrictions for cutting lumber. A proposed subdivision is on an area that is 40% wetland.

Mary O'Donnell – The agenda of the Town Board meeting on June 15th will include an amendment to the zoning law for solar installations. The law would allow large solar installs in districts zoned for medium and light industrial use. The law is available for review online. Coverage by solar panels would only be allowed on 70% of the parcel. The town is exploring a solar installation to net meter town loads. They have a proposal and they need to pick a site. They are also looking at community solar installs. Solarize Saugerties has had 5 workshops and 2 solar open houses. The program will end next month. The DEC runs workshops to train grant writers.

Emilie Hauser – There is a possibility that landfills can be used for solar. Grants Gateway must be used for Hudson River Estuary grants.

Kristen Schara – The Hurley BioBlitz was held on May 21st. Ms. Schara will provide a copy of the species list when it is finalized. Work on the Open Space Plan continues.

Jim Mays – The town is dealing with the rising cost of operating their transfer station. The fees do not cover the costs. The CAC discussed ways to encourage recycling. They decided to explore holding a public event with a recycling theme, and to try to encourage local artists to make use of recycled material in their art.

William A. More – If your community is taking down commercial buildings there is information available from the DEC regarding disposal of demolition debris. Pesticide application at commercial sites requires a certified applicator. All drugstores must post sign, in color, discouraging consumers from flushing drugs. EMC members are asked to look for the signs and alert management of noncompliance.

Dave Haldeman – The Community Compost Company has a drop off at the Town of Gardiner for compostable material. They will do a presentation at the town. The town supervisor is interested in getting natural gas into the prison and the high school which be supplied from connections to pipelines in Orange County. They are looking to have interns help with the studies that would have to be done.

Cindy Lanzetta – a solar zoning program will be provided to town officials and boards. Committee chairman will get training credits to attend. The webinar is available online. The UC Planning Board has been discussing a boiler plate zoning code that towns can adopt. NYS along with PACE are putting together this code.

Mr. More made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Littlefoot seconded. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 8:20.