

**Ulster County Environmental Management Council
Monthly Meeting, Howard C. St. John room, SUNY Ulster
Feb 23, 2011 6:00pm**

Attendance:

Chair: Steve Noble

John Sansalone, Gardiner

Municipal Representatives:

Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk

Virginia Stark, Hurley

Joe Liuni, Rosendale

Catherine Quick, Esopus

Joe Damrath, Saugerties

Cindy Lanzetta, Marlborough

At-Large Members:

Ex-Officio Members:

Guests:

Amanda LaValle, Dept. of the Environment

Call to Order and Welcome: Steve Noble called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Minutes:

Cindy mentioned the resolution on 1/27 regarding the Lower Esopus Creek Waste Channel Discharge may have missed a word, but at this time, there was no support to make any wording changes. John Sansalone and Joe Damarath excused themselves from the conversation. Minute Approvals motioned by Hank B., Seconded by Cindy L. Joe D. and John S. Abstained.

12/8 Notes: www.nysacc-ny.org has presentations from the 2010 Conference on the Environment.

Department of the Environment

Update: Aaron Bennett working on ucenvironment.org updates. County has launched a SustainableUlster.org website for municipalities and residents, a one-stop resource site and is complete with NYSERDA and Central Hudson Rebates. Municipal lighting program – Providing towns free audits and upgrades. The county has audited six buildings and will provide over \$140,000 in lighting and will save \$40,000 in annual lighting bills. A suggestion was made that Central Hudson/Alliance Energy and County attend a supervisor's association meeting. Town of Shawangunk has also taken advantage of this program. www.savingscentral.com.

Aaron is also working on a county wide Recreation Map and hopefully can be part of the tourism brochure and printed separately. Includes water/creek access, rail trails, hiking trails, open space, parking areas. Will cover the entire county, something that hasn't been done yet. The DOE will send finished maps to different stakeholders for additional areas to be added over time. Southern Ulster Alliance has also done trail planning. Those that have trail planning initiatives, should contract greenway.

Lower Esopus Creek Update/Old Business:

NYCDEP turned off turbid releases on 1/28 and did a clear water flush and on 2/2, stopped releasing all water. The County has said the DEP should have an independent study of impacts of the sustained water release and that ongoing monitoring should encourage. County is looking at future downstream community type dialogue and the needs of the Lower Esopus Creek and its communities. There is an 18 billion Gallon snow pack and there is currently a 30 billion gallon capacity.

There are many concerns about flooding and a release strategy needs to incorporate that. DEC issued an order of Consent regarding a variety of concerns regarding the releases. Please feel free to contact the DOE regarding any thoughts or issues with the Lower Esopus.

Election of Officers: Virginia and John nominated Steve Noble for Chair, seconded by John, all were in favor, with Steve abstained from voting; Vice Chair: Cindy Lanzetta was nominated by Cathy Quick, seconded by Virginia Starke, with all in favor; Secretary: John Nominated Lillian Green, Hank B. Seconded. All in favor.

CAC Earth Day Activities

Town of Rochester is looking to partnering with other institutions. Kingston's Nature Center provides free tree's each year. Town of Shawangunk, provided trees during the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

CreekWeek 2011

CreekWeek 2011 is Sept 17-25th. Steve will create a flyer.

Roundabout:

Hank – Wawarsing: Met with DEP regarding leaks in the Delaware Tunnel. Discuss water infiltration equipment used in numerous households. The presentation was discussing a 1.2 million dollar project to inject lime into the water starting at the intake and would seal cracks in the tube. This is just a feasibility study. Residents will have to wait a couple more years while a study needs to be conducted.

Dave – Shawangunk: The town board is working to prohibit smoking in all outdoor areas. Also discussing outdoor wood boilers.

Joe – Ulster County Sportsmen Federation: Joining with the county on the lawsuit regarding the Lower Esopus Creek. They had just stocked the LE with walleye and probably lost them all.

-Rosendale – Tuesday, March 8th they are having a stormwater seminar for those in the field with environmental backgrounds. Send Joe a note for the details. April 12th they will be showing “Dirt” at the Rosendale Theater. The Theater has allowed the commission to use it four times during the course of the year. The Rosendale ECC is interested in towns joining together to show movies and have a speaker. Earth Fest is Saturday, May 21st at the Rec Center and Energy Expo. Free Event, and lots of activities. Rosendale also presented and accepted their NRI

Cathy – Town of Esopus: DOS Coastal Review Specialist discussing Cable in the Hudson River. This project is a large project and those along the Hudson River should be concerned.

Cindy – Hudson Valley Greenway Update – theDailyGreen.com website, voting for the best trail system, and best new parks, so you can vote for the NYS Greenway.

Virginia – Hurley: Townofhurley.com: Draft Open Space Plan was completed by the Hurley CAC and will go to the town board for their review and public meeting to approve the plan and added to the town comprehensive plan. Also looking at parks in the town. Hurley would also like to measure the turbidity in the Esopus.

Steve – Kingston: The Kingston CAC is reviewing applications for the Climate Analyst Position which will start in March of 2011. The CAC also applied for technical assistance for climate planning. Kingston also created a Complete Streets Advisory Council and is going to begin working on a Natural Resources Inventory.

John – Gardiner: Put the final touches on the aquifer law for the town. It will hopefully move to the public process.

-National Engineers Banquet, they had a speaker who focused on model offshore wind power in the Gulf of Maine. Ideally there would be a complete wind farm and would offset one nuclear power plant. Wind is a huge asset in the Northeast

-DRBC meeting in Liberty regarding fracking, TU, Sierra, Audubon, Catskill Mtn Keeper and a request was made to extend the comment period and cumulative impact studies.

Joe – Saugerties, Adopted by Saugerties and Saugerties is interested in banning smoking in parks and reviewing a wetland ordinance for the town. Contention over the villages’ water supply.

Motion to adjourn by John and seconded by Virginia.

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm