

# Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes April 24, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM

## Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chair, At Large  
Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk  
Catherine Quick, Esopus  
Virginia Starke, Hurley  
Kristen Schara, Hurley  
Joe Liuni, Rosendale  
Amanda Lavalle, UC Dept. of Environment

Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz  
John Sansalone, Gardiner  
William More, At Large, Kingston  
Cindy Lanzetta, At Large, Marlborough  
Renno Bodziak, Town of Ulster  
Jorge Gomes, Rochested  
Anissa Bejaoui, Marbletown

## Guests:

Dan Shapley, RiverKeeper,  
Carmine Castaldo, RiverKeeper  
Tracy Brown, RiverKeeper  
John Lipscomb, RiverKeeper  
Glenn Hoffstatter  
Lynne Hoffstatter  
Manna Jo Greene

Joan Delatorre  
Justine Ditbeb (?)  
Emily Vail, NYS DEC

## **Old Business**

Minutes from the February EMC meeting were reviewed. C. Lanzetta noted that Joan Delatorre should be listed as representing Marlboro, not Marbletown. The minutes were approved with the change noted.

## **Department of Environment Update**

A draft of the Ulster County 2013 Stormwater Annual Report is complete and available online. The report is a summary of the activities of the county relating to the MS4 program. Note that the county also has updated storm water pollution prevention management plan. Town reports are by June.

## **Membership Update**

There are still EMC candidates waiting for approval from the legislature due to a miscommunication. Each town needs to request appointment from the county for their representative.

## **Sustainability Guide**

S. Noble would like volunteers to help with the workshop to introduce the procedures and resources contained in the new Ulster County Sustainability Guide. The dates of June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> are reserved at the Rosendale Recreation Center for the meeting. Municipal leaders and decision makers in departments such as purchasing are the target audience of the workshop.

## **New Business**

The EMC is accepting nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

### **Climate Smart Communities Committee**

Ulster County adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge and is seeking volunteers for a task force to help implement it. Those interested should contact the Ulster County Legislature Secretary at Krista Barringer at [kbar@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:kbar@co.ulster.ny.us). Or attend the next UC Legislature Environmental, Energy and Technology Committee meeting. The Sustainability guide and the UC website have links to the resolution. A. Lavallo will send a link.

**EMC Annual Report** - S. Noble will email a draft of the EMC annual report to EMC members for comment.

**Open Space Plan for Region 3** – C. Lanzetta reported that the DEC is holding meetings to update this plan.

## **Riverkeeper Presentation**

Representatives from the Riverkeeper organization presented results of a water quality study of the Hudson River. The ongoing study is a part of their Swimmable River Campaign to improve water quality. The study focused on measuring levels the *Enterococcus* bacterium as a way to assess sewage contamination. Data was taken monthly at 75 sampling sites in the Hudson River and its tributaries from the Albany area to New York City starting in 2006. Highlights of the study include: Sewage pollution is localized and highly variable over time; Twelve of 77 stations had unacceptable *Enterococcus* counts on more than 40% of dates sampled; There is a direct correlation between rain events and sewage level spikes. Detailed results analysis of the data can be found on the [riverkeeper.org](http://riverkeeper.org) website.

In addition to the study, the Sewage Pollution Right to Know Act, which will require public disclosure when sewer discharges could put public health at risk, will go into effect as of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

J Sansalone commented that the study should distinguish between human and animal waste. A DNA based test would be required. M. Greene commented that watershed groups would be helpful in raising awareness and to advocate for waste water infrastructure investment.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32.