

Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes February 26, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM

Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chair, At Large
Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk
Catherine Quick, Esopus
Virginia Starke, Hurley
Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley
Joe Liuni, Rosendale
Ann Brandt, At Large, Woodstock

Aaron Bennett, UC Dept. of Environment
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz
William More, At Large, Kingston
Cindy Lanzetta, At Large, Marlborough
Emilie Hauser, Kingston
Henry (Hank) Bartosik, Wawarsing

Guest: Michele Bergkamp, Ulster County Resource
Recovery Agency (UCRRA)

January 2014 Meeting Minutes were approved as amended.

UCRRA Organics Recovery Program

Michele Bergkamp, Recycling Coordinator for the UCRRA, provided an overview of the agency's composting program. Transport and disposal is the largest cost factor for the UCRRA. All UC waste not composted or recycled is transported approximately 250 miles for disposal in landfills. UC throws away about 40 million lbs. of food scraps per year. The UCRRA's composting facility has been operational for about 1 year. Using a forced aeration process allows the facility to compost such items as meat, fish, dairy, and waxed cardboard in addition to traditionally composted items such as fruit scraps, and woodchips. Plastics are not accepted. So far, about 500 tons of waste has been diverted from landfills. UCRRA is looking for one or two town transfer stations with a good recycling record to join this program. It is currently open to commercial haulers who pick up from commercial customers. Most of the waste comes from restaurants that have been able to save on disposal costs through smaller dumpsters and/or less frequent pickups. The tipping cost for garbage is currently \$103/ton; food waste costs \$33/ton. The resulting product is screened to 3/8 in. and is tested for pH, organic matter and traceable pathogens. The compost is available to landscapers for \$43/ton. Smaller quantities cost a minimum of \$20. Tours of the facility are available. This is one of only 2 facilities in New York State outside of NYC.

Michele also announced that there will be a UCRRA truckload sale at the Hudson Valley Mall parking lot on April 26th. Items such as rain barrels and composting bins will be available for purchase. A hazardous waste collection day is scheduled for May 3rd.

Ulster County Dept. of Environment Update

A list of proposed projects for the New York Rising Community Recovery program is available online. Ten communities will be awarded \$3 million each. Public feedback was solicited and the proposed projects can be viewed online. The plans must be submitted by March 31st.

Training sessions for town DPW's regarding MS4 regulations are taking place. The program year ends in March and annual reports are due June 1st.

UC has filed a resolution with the Legislature to obtain funds available as a result of the consent order between the DEC and the DEP regarding the Lower Esopus. UC will use the monies for fish stocking, and for consultants to aid in creating the Lower Esopus Management Plan and a SEQR for water releases needed to avoid adding alum. The consultants will be chosen by the end of May.

There is an emerald ash borer workshop scheduled on April 10th for municipal officials and highway supervisors to provide the latest procedures for removal and disposal of ash trees. Aaron will send a flyer.

A listing of Environmental Notice Bulletins (ENB'S) and grants available will be posted on the UC website.

Member Roundabout

Virginia Starke – The Hurley CAC was awarded a grant from the Hudson Valley Greenway to finish their Open Space Plan.

Ann Brandt – Woodstock is restarting the Tree Commission.

Henry Bartosik – Wawarsing will be issuing a draft Open Space Plan for public comment.

Emilie Hauser – The UC Legislature was looking into a ban on plastic bags.

Joe Liuni – The Rosendale CAC has selected Naja Kraus as the new chair and Kelli Havranek as vice-chair. The CAC is now back to 9 members.

William More – The DEA will be sponsoring a prescription drug collection day in April.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.