

# Ulster County EMC Meeting Minutes September 24, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM

## Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chair, At Large  
Cindy Lanzetta, At Large,  
Kristen Schara, At Large  
Emilie Hauser, Kingston  
Virginia Starke, Hurley  
Catherine Quick, Esopus

John Sansalone, Gardiner  
Amanda Lavallo, UC Dept. of Environment  
Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz  
Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties  
William More, At Large

## **Ulster County Dept. of Environment Update**

Updated listings of Environmental Notice Bulletins (ENB'S) and grants available are posted on the UC website.

One Energy Renewables is looking for a large scale solar site to provide a source for Renewable Energy Credits (REC's). Representatives from the EPA produced a study which analyzed landfills in Loyd, Town of Ulster , and New Paltz for possible large scale solar installations. According to Central Hudson, optimal sites for large scale solar projects are located near substations and have a local load/user for the output.

MEGA (Municipal Energy Gas Alliance) has reached a purchase agreement with Solar City for institutional solar installations. NYSERDA will provide funding. NYSERDA also has other programs to promote opportunities for institutional solar installations. Solar City has announced that it is building a solar panel manufacturing facility in Buffalo.

Central Hudson has a program to retrofit outdoor lighting with energy saving LED fixtures for commercial, non-profit and municipal installations. The program will pay up to 70% of the replacement costs for parking lot and perimeter lighting (street lights are not included). The reimbursement rate is based on the amount of energy savings. Customers work with preapproved contractors. LED lighting can save 75% of the energy used by traditional lights. Financing is available. Monies available are limited and the program will end when funding has been committed. William Moore pointed out that municipalities must document disposal of old bulbs. Stewart's is installing LED's at their locations for a combined cost savings of \$8 million.

The Cornell World Development Conference was held. Topics addressed included water infrastructure, water resources, and economic development. Susan Christopherson, Chair of the City and Regional Planning Dept. at Cornell, presented an overview of the risks and benefits of transporting oil using trains, barges and/or pipelines. Oil train transport from the Bakken Oil has risen exponentially in the last 1.5 years. Grain shipments are being postponed because of oil shipments. According to her research, using trains vs. pipelines transports oil faster. However, barges are safer.

## **Old Business**

Creek Week - Steve requested that he receive feedback on the events that were held, including attendance numbers. He reported that 15 people participated in a kayak tour and 170 people took part in the Ashokan Reservoir Fishing Day.

## **New Business**

The New York State Association of Conservation Commissions Conference on the Environment is scheduled for Oct. 2-4 in Binghamton. The topic is on climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency. Cost to attend is \$95, including meals.

Steve asked for ideas for future EMC speakers. Suggested topics included UC Emergency Services Hazardous Mitigation Plan, watershed conference speakers, town supervisors, flood plain restorations, local wetland and watercourse protection laws, the Farm Hub, stream restoration projects being done in UC, alternatives to traditional stream management, Trout Unlimited, energy updates to historic structures.

## **Member Roundabout**

Cindy Lanzetta – The revised NYS Open Space Plan is available for comments. Public hearings are scheduled around the state including Bear Mountain SP on Oct. 21. The UCRRA has a new website.

John Sansalone – The proposed wetland and watercourse protection law for Gardiner is being revised. The EPA ruling will prevent NYS from using Clean Water Act funds for the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement project.

William Moore – The US DEA has proposed changes to pharmaceutical management regulations. Pharmacies will have drop boxes to keep unused medications out of groundwater. Medications have been found in water treatment plant discharges, some of which is the result of excrement, but also from disposal.

Kristen Schara – The Hurley CAC is sending out a survey to educate and elicit input from residence about open space issues. .

Virginia Starke – The turbidity of the Esopus measured in Hurley is very low.

Amanda Lavalley - She has been comparing water gage readings at Lomontville with reservoir release data and has found discrepancies. It appears as though water is being lost, possibly seeping into the groundwater. The proposed Niagara Bottling plant may use up to 1.75 million gallons/day from the Kingston Water District system. Some would be discharged into the creek as wastewater. The 400,000 ft<sup>2</sup> plant would be built on Tech City property just above the floodplain level. Thirty acres of forest will be cleared

Jim Littlefoot – The town of New Paltz is planning to build a new Town Hall near the Highway Dept. building. Wildberry, owners of Rocking Horse Ranch, purchased 68 acres near Ohioville Road and Rt. 299 to build a waterpark resort. The plan calls for 300+ hotel rooms, a culinary school and a conference center.

Mary O'Donnell – An informational meeting on the emerald ash borer is planned. The Saugerties Open Space Plan has been completed. There are some tasks for the CAC resulting from the plan.

Emilie Hauser – The Kingston CAC is working on an Open Space Plan and a comprehensive plan. Many new projects are being incorporated into it and there will be hearings after it is approved by the steering committee. Hudson Landing is working with the Kingston Land Trust on open space promenade area. Members of the Climate Committee will be appointed by the mayor. Julie Noble will be coordinating it.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.