

Ulster County EMC Meeting Notes January 28, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM

Members in Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chair, At Large

Cindy Lanzetta, At Large, Marlborough

Kristen Schara, At Large, Hurley

Catherine Quick, Esopus

Joe Liuni, Rosendale

Ben Ganon, Rochester

Tim Ganon, Rochester

Amanda Lavalley UC Dept. of Environment

Guest: Alanna Henneberry, UC Dept. of Environment

Jim Littlefoot, New Paltz

John Sansalone, Gardiner

William More, At Large, Kingston

Mary O'Donnell, Saugerties

Emilie Hauser, Kingston

David Haldeman, Shawangunk

Henry Bartosik, Wawarsing

Virginia Starke, Hurley

Meeting notes from the December, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Ulster County Dept. of Environment Update

Alanna Henneberry was introduced as the new Deputy Coordinator for the UC Dept. of the Environment. Her duties will include supporting CAC's and ECC's. Aaron Bennet will concentrate on flood mitigation planning in the Ashokan watershed as an environmental planner.

Many sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives were cited by the UC Executive in The State of the County Address, including: energy efficiency; vehicle conversion of sheriff's vans for prisoner transport; reduction of emissions by all UCAT busses by using a biodiesel blend; and installation of electric vehicle charging stations at county facilities for employee and public use. Sites for EV charging include: Ellenville; Golden Hill, the county office building, the county courthouse, UC Jail, SUNY Ulster, UC DPW, the Probation Dept. and the Business Resource Center. Installation is expected to be completed in the spring. Users will need to obtain approval via an access card or smart phone to charge their vehicles and usage will be tracked. There will be 2 wands per station centered within 4 accessible parking spots. Each wand provides 7.3 kw/hr on a 220 VAC line.

In addition, UC government operations are now considered carbon neutral through the purchase of carbon credits to compensate for emissions from county owned buildings, vehicles and from employee's commutes to work. A 4 MW solar installation is being planned, possibly at SUNY Ulster. Remote net metering will be used to offset county facilities' power load throughout UC. A 4 MW system provides electricity for about 656 average sized homes.

Municipalities can still take advantage of NYSEDA programs if siting constraints are met. The output from the solar array must be used to offset usage to qualify. Federal solar tax credits will be reduced by 30-70% soon. NYSEDA tax credit programs are also being reduced.

New Business

Officers for the UC EMC for the 2015 year were nominated as follows: Chairperson – Steve Noble (by Virginia Starke); Vice Chairperson – Cindy Lanzetta, (by Steve Noble); Secretary – Kristen Schara, (also by Virginia).

William More seconded the slate of candidates. Each officer serves a one year term with no compensation. The slate was approved by unanimous vote of the committee.

Member Roundabout

Steve Noble – Steve requested submissions for Creek Week events for this September. Last year there were over 30 programs and 200 participants. The idea of a river walk, which consists of walking or boating along a riverbank to perform a visual survey of stream quality, discharges, etc., was suggested. These have been done successfully by Rosendale and Riverkeeper. Creek Week overlaps with the Hudson Valley Ramble.

John Sansalone - Gardener's local watercourse law is still being worked on. Next Week the NY Water Environment Association annual meeting and exhibition will be held. Topics include waste water and water supply issues. Refer to www.nywea for a program listing.

Mary O'Donnell – There will be a meeting of the coalition opposed to the Pilgrim Pipeline on Saturday. Opponents at the Saugerties Town Board meeting asked the town to pass a resolution opposing the pipeline. The board was asked to invite representatives from the company to address questions about the project. Mary asked if UC would be willing to sponsor a meeting to address questions and would the pipeline be on the UC Legislature agenda. The CAC is working on a brochure to explain their open space plan to the public and working on the next steps to implement the plan. Virginia asked Mary to bring a copy of their brochure to the next EMC meeting.

Catherine Quick – Shari Aber has been appointed as the new chair of the Esopus Environmental Board. Concerns over transport of oil using barges and trains have taken precedence over the proposed pipeline. They are also working on the farmer's market, recycling, composting yard waste and a community garden.

Ben Ganon – There was a meeting to discuss GMO's.

Joe Liuni – Riverkeeper and the UC Sportsmen's Association are working together to check habitats in the Rondout and Wallkill. Some of the fish stock added to the rivers has been flushed downstream. Rosendale is interested in the Solarize campaign promoted by Catskill Mountainkeeper. They are also working on an emissions survey of town vehicles.

Virginia Starke – The Hurley CAC is working on a revised Open Space Plan. Woodstock Land Conservancy requested assistance regarding their planned BioBlitz. The town is working with Lime Energy to replace outdoor lighting LED lighting fixtures. Refer to the Central Hudson website for program details.

William More – the EPA is performing outreach programs, such as training first responders, regarding transfer of oil from North Dakota which tends to be very volatile. A new disease has been identified which is spread by lone star tick bites. The disease results in allergic reactions to red meat. A case was identified recently on Long Island. There is also training regarding pesticide application in response to the increase in insect borne diseases in the US.

Henry Bartosik – Fourteen people have been appointed to reevaluate the Comprehensive Plan based on the Open Space Plan.

David Haldeman – Shawangunk has raised transfer station fees in response to increased fees for recycling and solid waste. They are working on a river walk on the Wallkill and 8-9 conservation easements. All new development is encouraged to set aside acreage for open space. Dave volunteered to talk to the EMC regarding pharmaceutical interactions with the environment.

Cindy Lanzetta – Two CAC members have been appointed to the Planning Board. The CAC is assessing street lighting. The UC Legislature is setting up a material management subcommittee. Dutchess County is studying

the feasibility of composting. The NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling will be meeting Feb. 4th to discuss regional issues. The UC Legislature will be discussing a proposed ban on single use Styrofoam containers (Local Law 12). Interested people are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Jim Littlefoot – New Paltz is planning to build a sewer plant near the high school. There will be a bond vote to cover repairs of the middle school. The Village still needs to determine where they will get water while the DEP tunnel is shut down for repairs.

Emilie Hauser – The Kingston CAC solicited advise from others who have done Open Space Plans. They have hired an intern from SUNY New Paltz to help with GIS maps and data. Hudsonia provided a habitat summary. Amanda and representatives of the UC Planning Board met with the CAC to review mapping tools available. The CAC suggested a resolution regarding the Pilgrim Pipeline. A hearing regarding the Draft Comprehensive Plan was postponed. The Cary Institute is hosting a presentation on Feb. 22nd regarding personal care products in the water supply. Clearwater has asked the city to support extended cleanup of PCBs in floodplain areas of 100 downstream communities. Clearwater advocates using the GE dredging facilities. This year is slated to be the last year of dredging by GE. The Niagara Bottling Plant proposal is being reviewed.

The UCCRA has facilitated the disbursement of pharmaceutical drop boxes throughout the county.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21.