

**Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: April 1, 2025 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION(S): KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston, NY
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Sperry
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk & Tyron Rogers, Technical Support Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Stewart & Walls
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislator Litts
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Collins & Nolan; Director Dennis Doyle – UC Planning Department; Director Lisa Berger – UC Tourism Department; Michael Schreiber – SUNY Ulster County Community College; Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle; Executive Director Jake Wedemeyer – Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District; Executive Director Melanie Forstrom – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Chair Sperry called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and asked Legislator Walls to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to Approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton
Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Resolutions for the April 15, 2025 Legislative Session:

Chair Sperry asked for the members consent to take the three Resolutions pertaining to SUNY Ulster County Community College out of order.

Resolution No. 131 – Setting A Public Hearing On The Tentative Budget Of Ulster County Community College For The Year 2025 – 2026, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 20, 2025 At 6:45 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a public hearing on the Tentative Budget Of Ulster County Community College For The Year 2025 – 2026, to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:45 PM.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 131**
Motion Made By: Legislator Clinton
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 132 – Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) For Design, Testing And Construction Services For Clinton Hall Roof, Hasbrouck Hall (2000 Expansion) And Dewitt Library Lower Roofs (2000 Expansion) Related To The Capital Project No. 489 – Campus Roofs – Ulster County Community College And Amending The Capital Fund Budget – SUNY Ulster

Resolution Summary – This Resolution amends Capital Project No. 489 - SUNY Campus Roofs in the amount of \$5,048,900.00 upon approval of a Work Order with DASNY for design, testing, and construction phase services for the Clinton Hall Roof, Hasbrouck Hall (2000 expansion), and Dewitt Library lower roofs (2000 expansion).

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 132**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 134 – Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) Related To The Capital Project No. 696 – Water Service Line Replacement – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – SUNY Ulster

Resolution Summary – This Resolution amends Capital Project No. 696 - SUNY Ulster - Water Service Line Replacement in the amount of \$135,714.00 upon approval of a Work Order with DASNY for the expanded scope of work of a feasibility study.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 134**
Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 125 – Declaring Ulster County’s Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under The New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) For Adoption Of The Ulster County Agricultural And Farmland Protection Plan – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary – This Resolution declares Ulster County’s intent to act as Lead Agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for adoption of the Ulster County Agricultural And Farmland Protection Plan.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 125**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 127 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District – Department Of Environment/Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves a contract with UC SWCD in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the coordination and implementation of the Lower Esopus, Tidal Rondout Creek and Wallkill River watershed management plans from 6/1/25 – 5/31/26.

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 127**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walls

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 127**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt & Walls
Voting Against: Legislators Sperry & Stewart
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 2
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 128 – Appointing Lyle Nolan To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of New Paltz

Resolution Summary – This Resolution appoints Lyle Nolan, Town of New Paltz, to the Ulster County Planning Board for the term present through December 31, 2028.

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 128**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 129 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The SUNY New Paltz Venture Hub To Provide Entrepreneurial And Business Recruitment And Support – Department Of Economic Development

Resolution Summary – This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to amend an intermunicipal agreement with the Venture Hub at SUNY New Paltz to extend the terms of agreement for one year.

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| Motion No. 9: | Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 129 |
| Motion Made By: | Legislator Corcoran |
| Motion Seconded By: | Legislator Clinton |

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| Voting in Favor: | Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls |
| Voting Against: | None |
| Votes in Favor: | 6 |
| Votes Against: | 0 |
| Disposition: | Resolution Adopted As Amended |

Resolution No. 130 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$49,025.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Flint Media Inc. – Department Of Tourism

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves a contract amendment with Flint Media Inc. to extend the term of agreement through 6/30/26 for graphic design, editing, layout, photography services and advertising sales for the UC Travel Guide.

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| Motion No. 10: | Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 130 |
| Motion Made By: | Legislator Clinton |
| Motion Seconded By: | Legislator Corcoran |

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| Voting in Favor: | Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Stewart & Walls |
| Voting Against: | None |
| Votes in Favor: | 6 |
| Votes Against: | 0 |
| Disposition: | Resolution Adopted |

New Business None

Old Business None

Adjournment

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| Motion Made By: | Legislator Hewitt |
| Motion Seconded By: | Legislator Clinton |
| Votes in Favor: | 6 |
| Votes Against: | 0 |

TIME: 6:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Adopted: May 6, 2025

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>



Outlook

Watershed Coordinator

From lenbevhome@aim.com <lenbevhome@aim.com>

Date Tue 4/1/2025 11:17 AM

To Megan Sperry <Megan.Sperry@co.ulster.ny.us>

Cc Jay Mahler <jmah@co.ulster.ny.us>; Wedemeyer, Jake - NRCS-CD, Highland, NY
<jake.wedemeyer@ny.nacdn.net>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Legislator Sperry,

Our UCSWCD Executive Director Jake Wedemeyer apprised the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee of the Watershed Coordinator position. He was advised to consider UCSWCD's current contractual commitments for 2025, as well as UCSWCD's office structure and staff needs when taking on this new position. Mr. Wedemeyer pointed out the amended contract on February 5, 2025 did not address office space constraints and the most recent draft contract proposes a reimbursement structure can place the District at financial risk. Moreover, the contract does not provide compensation for UCSWCD's staff time, meaning the UCSWCD would be responsible for onboarding and overseeing a new hire at the County office building without adequate support.

At this time, the UCSWCD Board of Directors have not reviewed and approved a contract with the County since UC Planning and UCSWCD are still in contract negotiations. I am concerned that UCSWCD is taking on additional contract deliverables that they did not ask for, nor have the bandwidth to do based on current staffing shortages in 2025. Jake will be onboarding a key position for our NYC DEP contract at the same time UC Planning wants to hire the Watershed Coordinator Position. I do not see how this is feasible.

We are willing to help the County with this position, but not take on full responsibility for additional contract deliverables.

Sincerely,

Leonard Tantillo
Chairman
Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District

UCSWCD Projects for 2025

Agricultural Environmental Management – 8 agricultural best management projects on 8 farms to be completed by 12/31/25. Contract value for projects - \$199,706.25. \$65,000 for reimbursable staff time for Executive Director, District Technician and District Junior Technician.

Climate Resilient Farming Round 6 – Soil health practices for 5 farms to be completed by 12/31/25. Remaining contract value for projects - \$30,061.33. \$2,000.00 for reimbursable staff time. Executive Director and District Technician are Certified Crop Advisors and do the cover crop certifications.

Climate Resilient Farming Round 7 – Irrigation expansion and electrification project to be completed by the spring of 2025. Contract value for projects- \$26,873.00. \$5,000 for reimbursable staff time. District Technician and Junior District technician responsible for construction oversight.

Ag Non Point Source Round 27 – 2 agricultural best management practices (with contract extension) to be completed by 12/31/25. Contract value for projects - \$176,460.00. \$16,320 for reimbursable staff time. Executive Director, District Technician and Junior Technician responsible for construction oversight.

NYS Part B Conservation Project – Riparian plantings along the Esopus Creek on two farms to be completed by 12/31/25. Contract value - \$6,000.00. Reimbursable staff time through AEM program. District Technician and District Junior Technician responsible for project implementation.

Trees for Tribes – 4 riparian planting projects in the Lower Esopus, Rondout Creek and Wallkill Watersheds in partnership with the Orange County Land Trust and the NYS DEC to be completed by November 2025. Contract value approximately \$30,000.00. \$5,000 for reimbursable staff time. Executive Director, District Technician and District Junior Technician responsible for project implementation.

Local Cover Crop Program – Enrollment of 21 farm operations and approximately 950 acres, funding up to \$60,000 per year, cover crop certifications by 12/15/25. Reimbursable staff time through AEM program. Executive Director and District Technician are Certified Crop Advisors and do the cover crop certifications. District Junior Technician does field checks and photo documentation.

No Till Drill, Row Mulcher and Lime Spreader Soil Health Programs – The District rents 4 pieces of soil health equipment to Ulster County farmers in the spring and fall. Reimbursable staff time through AEM program. Equipment rentals from April through July and late August through November. Executive Director (as needed), District Technician and District Junior Technician responsible for rental agreements and delivering equipment.

Town of Marbletown Water Quality Study – Assisting the Town with mapping for water quality sampling. Staff time reimbursable with Part C funds and part of our annual performance measures. District Junior Technician assisting with this effort.

USDA-NRCS- No more engineering support for state funded projects as of January 2025 which increases the District's workload. No more office space is available since the federal remote employees are reporting to the Highland office. Executive Director working with private engineer and technicians on designs.

If contract deliverables are not met by 12/31/25 for AEM, CRF Round 6 and Part B, the District will have to return \$235,767.58 back to the state which will breach our contractual obligations with 14 farm operations.

NYC DEP SWP 101 Contact

Satellite office in Shokan, New York, Executive Director managing 5 employees.

Executive Director doing closeout on current \$12.2 million contract, entering \$17.4 million successor contract April 1, 2025, as well as doing quarterly financial reports with program assistant. **External audit in July 2025.**

Executive Director onboarding new Stream Project Manager in early May 2025.

No funds in the budget for a \$2,000 computer and \$5,000 for travel and training for Rosgen Level 1.