

**Energy & Environment Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: February 1, 2018 at 5:30
LOCATION: Office of the Legislative Chairman, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Mary Wawro
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Manna Jo Greene, Joseph Maloney and Brian Woltman
ABSENT:
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Tim Rose, UCRRA; Gary Capella, UC Soil & Water

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at 5:35 and lead the pledge of allegiance and then asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes of December 11, 2017

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: Legislator Bartels wanted to note that she was not at that meeting and it is her personal policy not to vote on minutes she did not attend however because of the new term changes to the committee she would vote to approve them today.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Maloney and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved.

Mr. Rose discussed progress on a feasibility study the UCRRA commissioned to explore creating a regional solid waste authority with Greene and Sullivan counties that they are calling GUS (Greene, Ulster, Sullivan). Formal presentations will be made to each of the three counties in March.

Mr. Rose told the committee about issues with single stream recycling. China recently stopped taking many kinds of recycling because of contamination. He explained that currently it is costing UCRRA more to dispose of single stream recycling than to dispose of garbage. They have funding in reserve to cover the added cost. This is a national, even worldwide problem. He is in communication with his peers around the state, Congressman Faso, and will keep the committee informed as the situation progresses.

The committee discussed recycling issues.

Legislator Greene mentioned an article in the newspaper that incorrectly reported that three landfill sites were under consideration for GUS. The draft report only discussed the UCRRA ongoing maintenance of three closed landfills. Corrections were sent.

Legislator Bartels, who was invited to a meeting where the draft report was discussed by the UCRRA Board said she felt it was a mistake to hold that meeting in executive session. She believes GUS may be a positive step to self-reliance for solid waste disposal and is looking forward to the ongoing discussion. She believed the fact that it was held in executive session lead to the misinformation by the reporter.

Legislator Greene agreed that she did not see a need for them to have gone into executive session.

The committee discussed that it was the decision of the UCRRA Board of Directors and the best ways to move forward with the discussion

Mr. Rose explained some of the economies of scale that GUS could provide and details of how each county could be represented if they all agree to proceed.

Legislator Bartels said that under the County's mandatory recycling law the county is required to have a Recycling Oversight Committee and noted that the committee had not met for several years. She detailed the 11 member makeup of the Recycling Oversight Committee from the local law and suggested the Energy and Environment Committee make recommendations to the Chairman of the Legislature for appointments to this committee.

Chairman Wawro would like to set up a tour of the UCRRA for the committee later this year.

Soil and Water

Mr. Capella distributed some basic information about Ulster County Soil and Water including the history of the program, projects and services, newsletters, makeup of the Board of Directors, various tools and collaboration available through them, where their offices are located and seasonal programs they manage. There are three main components they oversee: Agriculture programs, stream restoration programs and storm water management. He detailed how services are provided.

Legislator Bartels said that reappointments for the Soil and Water Board are due. She discussed how the board is set up currently and how it could be set up in the future.

Legislator Greene praised the staff of Ulster County Soil and Water and all that they accomplish with such a small staff.

Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 21 - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2018 Appropriation – Legislature

Resolution Summary: This resolution would authorize the Chairman of the Legislature to execute a contract with Ulster County Soil and Water for 2018

Motion By: Legislator Greene

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Maloney and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved.

Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 23 - Confirming Reappointment Of Member To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary: This resolution would confirm the reappointment of Frederick Wadnola to the UCRRA.

Motion By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Bartels feels there should be interviews before such appointments. She reminded the committee that she had the same concern when Mr. Wadnola was not interviewed before his last appointment. She feels it is a critical time for the UCRRA with the consideration of GUS and that it is important to have a sense of the potential candidate's vision for the future of Solid Waste and what technologies a consolidated agency might include. She is not prepared to approve any board member without an interview.

Legislator Maloney agreed and said he felt more interviews for department heads and board members should be interviewed. He feels it is important for any board member to be on record with their priorities and is on record to rate their performance.

Legislator Wotlman asked when Mr. Wadnola's term expires. It was explained that on this board members serve until an appointment or reappointment is made.

Mr. Maloney wanted to be sure Mr. Wadnola knows that this is no reflection upon him personally.

Motion By: Legislator Bartels moved to postpone Resolution No. 23 until March and ask Mr. Wadnola to come in for an interview.

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene, Maloney and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved.

Legislators Greene and Maloney were excused to attend the Public Works and Capital Projects meeting at approximately 6:40.

New Business

Proposed Plastic Bag Ban

The members discussed the merits of a proposed local law to regulate the use of "single use plastic carryout bags" and a resolution slated for introduction in March that would set a public hearing on that proposed local law.

Legislator Bartels shared the initial draft of plastic bag legislation that has been under consideration by the Energy and Environment Committee since 2016. She discussed her desire to build consensus for support of the legislation and detailed the issues that were under consideration, a copy of the NYS Governor’s report and the pros and cons of several issues and approaches.

The current proposal sponsored by Legislator Donaldson was submitted without discussing or incorporating the issues that were being considered by the previous Energy and Environment Committee. Legislator Bartels discussed this with Legislator Donaldson in broad terms.

Mr. Rose said could ask the UCRRA Board if they would publically support the ban. He described the problems these bags create in their operation.

Legislator Bartels said that before the next meeting she would cross reference her original draft with the one proposed by Legislator Donaldson so one proposal can be submitted.

Memorializing Letter to Public Service Commission on Smart Meters

The committee discussed Legislator Heppner’s memorializing letter supporting the option for utility customers not to use Transmitting meters better known as “smart meters” that was circulated earlier this week.

Climate Smart

The Climate Smart Committee has developed an aggressive agenda for 2018 and needs to finalize board appointments..

Environmental Initiatives

Legislator Bartels suggested the committee review some environmental initiatives such as the Green Fleet Policy and Green Building Policies to see if they need to be updated and if policies are being followed.

Meeting Time

The committee changed the start time of the meetings to 6:00 going forward.

Paperless

Legislator Maloney wanted to research going paperless. The committee asked for a report in March on progress toward getting pads for the legislature at the March meeting.

Chairman Wawro asked if there was any other business, hearing none

Motion to Adjourn

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| Motion Made By: | Legislator Lapp |
| Motion Seconded By: | Legislator Heppner |
| No. of Votes in Favor: | 3 |
| No. of Votes Against: | 0 |
| Time: | 7:45 pm |
| Respectfully submitted: | Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk |
| Minutes Approved | March 8, 2018 |