

**Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** November 2, 2023 – 12:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Manna Jo Greene  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Lizvett Bost, Legislative Employee, Tyron Rogers, Legislative IT Specialist, Amber Feaster,  
**PRESENT:** Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Tracey Bartels (in at 12:40pm), Legislators Levine (in at 12:40pm), Stewart, Maloney (in at 12:35pm)  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Erner, Legislative Counsel Gordon – Ulster County Legislature, Barbara Todd – Sustainable Hudson Valley, Deputy Director Europa McGovern – Ulster County Department Of Environment, Deputy County Executive, Environment & Public Works Amanda Lavalle

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM

Meeting started with the Proposed 2024 Budget & 2024-2029 Capital Program – Deputy Director Europa McGovern discussed the Budget for Department of Environment.

---

**Motion No. 1:** **Motion to APPROVE the Minutes of the October 5, 2023, Regular Meeting & October 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes**

**Motion By:** Legislator Hansut  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Greene, Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Bartels, Legislators Levine, Maloney, Stewart

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **MINUTES APPROVED**

---

**Resolutions for the November 14, 2023 Legislative Session:**

**Resolution No. 386** – Requesting Enactment Of A Senate Bill And Assembly Bill In The New York State Legislature To Amend Membership Of The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

**Resolution Summary:** The request pertains to urging the enactment of a Senate Bill and an Assembly Bill in the New York State Legislature. These bills aim to amend the membership structure of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

**Motion No. 2:** **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 386**

**Motion By:** Legislator Levine  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart

**Discussion:** Legislative Chair Bartels is open to discussing legislators' potential inclusion in the commission but notes that it hasn't been a focus of previous discussions.

Legislator Joseph Maloney suggests that the Reform Committee should include municipal representation, such as sitting supervisors or mayors, to provide new perspectives and ideas.

Chair Manna Jo Greene seeks to form a reform committee, with Legislator Joseph Maloney suggesting they send a request to the sponsor for comments.

Legislator Maloney also proposes appointing members to the UCR committee, with Jen March as the executive, and requests the Comptroller provide logistical parameters for official appointment.

Chair Manna Jo Greene suggests appointing herself as representative on new commission, with informally legislator Maloney as alternate.

Committee members discuss appointment of an alternate to attend meetings in place of a voting member.

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Greene, Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Bartels, Legislators Levine, Maloney, Stewart

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **NO ACTION TAKEN**

---

**Resolution No. 552** – Establishing A Policy To Replace Conventional Toilets With Composting Toilets At County Facilities

**Resolution Summary:** Replacing Conventional toilets with composting toilets.

**Motion No. 3: Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 552**

**Motion By:** Legislator Levine

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart

**Discussion:** Legislator Phil Erner proposes replacing all conventional outdoor public toilets with composting toilets by 2030, aligning with Executive Order 1 and 2023.

Legislator Gina Hansut suggests striking the resolution's mention of replacing all conventional outdoor public toilets, as some locations may not make sense.

Legislative Chair Bartels suggests striking ‘all’ and adding the words replace conventional outdoor public facility toilets with composting toilets, where appropriate

Chair Tracey Bartels questions the greenhouse gas emissions of composting toilets versus conventional toilets in a water-rich environment.

Legislator Phil Erner highlights the material, energy, and infrastructure considerations of waste management, especially for outdoor sites.

Legislator Phil Erner highlights the potential for composting facilities to provide fertility for local farms, without requiring water or electric hookups.

Chair Tracey Bartels seeks clarification on where compostable toilets would be placed in areas without existing facilities, and the associated costs.

Legislator Eric Stewart seeks budget amendment for composting toilets at trailheads.

**Motion No. 4: MOTION TO AMEND THE FIRST RESOLVE OF RESOLUTION NO. 552 AS FOLLOWS:**

RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Works, and other county departments as the County Executive may direct, shall plan to replace all conventional toilets with composting toilets, **where appropriate** ~~beginning with and prioritizing those at outdoor, public facilities;~~ and, be it further

**Motion By:** Legislator Stewart  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Levine

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Greene, Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Bartels, Legislators Levine, Maloney, Stewart

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Amendment Adopted

**Resolution Disposition:** NO ACTION TAKEN

---

**Resolution No. 607** – Authorizing The Department Of Planning To Submit An Application To The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Brownfields Program – Department Of Planning

**Resolution Summary:** that the Director of the Ulster County Planning Department is hereby authorized to submit online applications through Grants.gov for the USEPA Brownfields Program for funding up to grant’s maximum award amount.

**Motion No. 5:** **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 607**

**Motion By:** Legislator Levine

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Hansut

**Discussion:** Discussion ensued

**Motion No. 6:** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 607**

**Motion By:** Legislator Levine

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Greene, Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Bartels, Legislators Levine, Maloney, Stewart

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 611** – Confirming The Appointment Of Europa McGovern As Director Of The Department Of Environment

**Resolution Summary:** that the Ulster County Legislature hereby confirms the appointment of Europa McGovern to the position of Director of the Department of Environment.

**Motion No. 7:** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 611**

**Motion By:** Legislator Levine

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Greene, Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Bartels, Legislators Levine, Maloney, Stewart

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 612** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Environmental Management Council

**Resolution Summary:** that the Ulster County Legislature hereby confirms the appointment of the above-mentioned individual as a member of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council for the term indicated above.

**Motion No. 8:** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 612**

**Motion By:** Legislator Levine

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart

**Discussion:** Laura Hartman resigned from the Environmental Management Council who was no longer able to participate.

Legislator Maloney suggest in the future if there is a replacement, resignation letter should be provided.

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Greene, Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Bartels, Legislators Levine, Maloney, Stewart

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** RESOLUTION ADOPTED

---

Committee discussed creating a staff position to support schools in implementing climate solutions, with potential partnership with BOCES.

Chair Greene seeks funding for a full-time coordinator to support climate solutions in schools.

Legislative Chair Bartels expresses concerns about creating new positions for AI in schools due to limited funds and potential taxing jurisdiction.

Committee must act on budget amendment deadline, with special meeting on 20th and 21st.

Committee members discuss challenges in implementing climate-smart initiatives in schools due to funding and leadership issues.

Local libraries offer free educational programs on recycling and composting, which could be shared with school districts.

Legislator Joseph Maloney suggests using ARPA funds for a pilot program with BOCES.

Chair Manna Jo Greene expresses concern about using the Resource Recovery Agency for energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives due to lack of expertise in these areas.

**New Business** – Motion requesting a Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to appoint a Renewable Energy Implementation Task Force to create a plan that will ensure that Ulster County Generates 70% of its electricity from renewable resources by 2030 to help achieve one of the major goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

**Motion No. 9:** **Motion to Discuss Chair Greene to create Task Force**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Stewart  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Hansut

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Greene, Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislative Chair Bartels, Legislators Levine, Maloney, Stewart

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Old Business** Forming the UCRRA Reform Committee – Chair Greene Appt herself, Alternate Legislator Maloney

**Adjournment**

**Motion No. 10:** **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Levine  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 2:55 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Lizvett Bost  
**Minutes Approved:** November 2, 2023