

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

DATE & TIME: April 2, 2024 – 4:30 PM
LOCATION(S): Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, 232 Plaza Road, Kingston, NY
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Hewitt
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Lizvett Bost, Legislative Administrative Assistant; Tyron Rogers, Legislative IT Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Hewitt, Deputy Chair Walls, Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Litts, Nolan and Stewart
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Collins, Kovacs, Maloney, Roberts, Jay Mahler (Legislature Deputy Clerk), Tyron Rogers (Legislature IT Specialist), Marc Rider (Executive Director UCRRA), Amanda LaValle (Deputy, County Executive), Steve Rice, Steve Ellman, Melanie Forstrom (Cornell Executive Director), Leslie Zucker (Cornell - AWSMP Coordinator), Melinda Hirzog (Cornell - Healthy Communities Issues Leader), Christian Malzatski (Cornell - Agriculture Program Leader).

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

Chair Last Name called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM

Motion No. 1: **Motion to Adopt the minutes of the March 5, 2024 Meeting**
Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Voting in Favor: Chair Hewitt, Deputy Chair Walls, Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Litts, Nolan and Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Committee Members met at the Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell Executive Director Melanie Forstrom gave a presentation.

Resolutions for the April 16,2024 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 157 – Creating And Funding Position For The Climate Justice Fellowship - Amending The 2024 Ulster County Budget - Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary – This Resolution creates a new position titled "Climate Justice Fellow" for an annual salary of \$53,700 and annual benefits of \$26,284.00 within the Department of Youth Programs beginning June 1, 2024, which is to be reimbursed in the amount of \$37,000.00 by NYSERDA's Climate Justice Fellowship.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 157**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Voting in Favor: Chair Hewitt, Deputy Chair Walls, Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Litts, Nolan and Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 158 – Moving Climate Corps Interns To The Youth Bureau - Amending The 2024 Ulster County Budget

Resolution Summary – This Resolution reduces total funding for Climate Interns in the amount of \$26,908.00, reclassifies all funding for Climate Interns into the Department of Youth Programs, and accounts for a maximum reimbursement by NYSERDA's Climate Core Intern Program in the amount of \$18,743.00.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 158**

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Voting in Favor: Chair Hewitt, Deputy Chair Walls, Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Litts, Nolan and Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 159 – Declaring Ulster County’s Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) For The Construction Of A Public Safety Radio Tower And Appurtenances To Be Located At 1915-1925 Lucas Avenue In The Town Of Rosendale – Department Of Emergency Services

Resolution Summary – This Resolution declares Ulster County as Lead Agency of the new Public Safety Radio Tower located on lands jointly owned by the towns of Rosendale and Marbletown located at 1915-1925 Lucas Avenue as part of Capital Project No. 482 - Countywide Radio System, and requires the Ulster County

Legislature to conduct a coordinated review and to circulate its Notice of Intent to serve as Lead Agency, together with the EAF and accompanying documentation to all interested and involved agencies.

Motion No. 4:	Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 159
Motion Made By:	Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Litts
Voting in Favor:	Chair Hewitt, Deputy Chair Walls, Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Litts, Nolan And Stewart
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	7
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Resolution Adopted

Reports

- UCRRA – Executive Director, Marc Rider – Gave a hazard waste update.
- Solar Mapping Training –
 - Legislator Greene highlighted the value of Clean Energy Communities program and advocates for its continued funding.
 - Chair Hewitt will be meeting with Director Marc Rider in a week or two.
 - Chair Hewitt stated the Solar Mapping Training is still happening this week and this Thursday is the fourth Week of training, Legislator Greene and Chair Hewitt will give more updates of training at next Committee meeting.

New Business

- Climate Smart Trainings
- RAPID Act (Renewable Action Through Project Interconnect and Deployment Act)
 - Legislator Roberts thinks that this will be amended or at least come up with another action plan, He just wanted to test the waters with the EES Committee and more research on it if moving forward with it or opposing it.
 - Chair Hewitt expressed concerns about greenwashing and calling a giant project somewhere in the Catskills that captures energy and calls itself a hydro plant could be dangerous for our environment, and it looks like there is a lot of support for RAPID Act and mostly what County Executive Metzger said it changes the jurisdiction of which agency deals with large projects.
- Legislator Roberts proposed a 24-hour recycling center, citing the convenience of open-all-night facilities when he visited in Florida. Chair Hewitt liked the concept.

Old Business

- Parks, Public Spaces & Recreation Department – Chair Hewitt is in the process of meeting with a few people soon and there is not much to report as far as progress except getting feedback for now.
- CMRR Emissions -Legislator Nolan would like an update on air quality monitoring and how much biodiesel would be needed and where to get it from.

- Deputy County Executive Lavelle shares details on Catskill Mountain Railroad's use of air quality monitoring devices in designated corridor.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Lizvett Bost, Legislative Administrative Assistant
Approved: April 30, 2024

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