

Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget To Transfer Funds Within The Department Of The Environment To Establish A Staff Position Supporting Watershed Management Implementation And Authorizing Submission Of A Grant Application To Reduce County Costs

Referred to: The Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee (Chairman Hewitt and Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Litts, Nolan, Stewart, and Walls), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Collins, Hansut, Kovacs, Nolan, Roberts, and Uchitelle)

Chairman of the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee, Chris Hewitt, Deputy Chair Richard Walls and Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Nolan and Stewart offer the following:

WHEREAS, this Resolution has been submitted at the request of the County Executive on behalf of the Department of Environment; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to watershed and stream corridor protection including in the Lower Esopus Creek watershed for which a Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan (the “Plan”) was developed and adopted by the Ulster County Legislature in May of 2025; and

WHEREAS, to support the implementation of the Plan, the Legislature considered Resolution No. 127 of 2025 which would have authorized a contract with the Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District to support watershed plan implementation, but the resolution was subsequently withdrawn by the sponsors after organizational capacity concerns were expressed by the Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District board; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Environment has identified the opportunity to expand internal staff capacity to fulfill Ulster County’s longstanding commitments and to ensure continuity of watershed planning, coordination, and implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River Foundation has provided assurances to Ulster County for grant revenue from the Lower Esopus Implementation Fund to cover 50% of the position costs; and

WHEREAS, an additional grant funding opportunity through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) 2025 Hudson River Estuary Grant Program has also been identified which would further reduce County share of the position costs; Awards will be capped at \$75,000.00, and if awarded, requires a local match ranging from 15 – 30% of the project cost; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that the 2025 Ulster County Budget is hereby amended to increase the Department of the Environment personnel and fringe benefit lines for the purpose of creating and funding a new full-time staff position focused on the implementation and coordination of watershed management plans across the County; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the position of Watershed Coordinator is hereby created and the 2025 Budget is amended as follows:

CREATE

<u>POSITION #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
8090-xxxx	Watershed Coordinator (Full-Time, CSEA) *Annual Salary Annual Benefits (\$ 33,672.00) (F/T Salary to Year End Starting 7/30/25: \$ 30,186.00 Benefits to Year End Starting 7/30/25: \$14,320.00) Effective July 30, 2025	*\$ 70,979.00

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget is amended as follows:

	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
AA.8090.3552-3120.2189 (Rev. #)	Departmental Income	\$22,255.00
AA.8090.3552-1300.1300 (App.#)	Regular Pay	\$30,186.00
AA.8090.3552 -8000.8000 (App.#)	Retirement	\$4,845.00
AA.8090.3552-8010.8010 (App.#)	Social Security	\$2,310.00

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AA.8090.3552-8020.8020 (App.#)	Dental	\$450.00
AA.8090.3552-8020.8035 (App.#)	Hospital & Medical	\$6,657.00
AA.8090.3552-8020.8055 (App.#)	Optical	\$61.00
MM.9060.4102-3290.2801 (Rev.#)	Interfund Revenues - In	\$7,168.00
MM.9060.4102-4510.4565 (App.#)	Insurance Contractual – Dental	\$450.00
MM.9060.4102-4510.4566 (App.#)	Insurance Contractual – Optical	\$61.00
MM.9060.4102-4600.4660 (App.#)	Miscellaneous Contractual – Other	\$6,657.00

DECREASE

AMOUNT

AA.8090.3552-4300.4505 (App.#),	Professional Services Other Fees	\$ 22,254.00
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and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Acting Director of the Ulster County Department of the Environment, or designee, is hereby authorized to submit an application to the NYS DEC 2025 Hudson River Estuary Program due August 7, 2025 for funding to reduce the anticipated County share associated with this position,

and moves its adoption.

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Passed Committee: Energy, Environment and Sustainability on July 1, 2025

Passed Committee: Ways and Means as amended on July 10, 2025

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$22,255.00 - INCREASE 2025 GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTAL INCOME

\$22,255.00 - INCREASE TO 2025 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

\$ 7,168.00 - INCREASE TO 2025 HEALTH INSURANCE FUND
APPROPRIATION DOLLARS

\$ 7,168.00 - INCREASE TO 2025 INTERFUND REVENUES

(POTENTIAL GRANT REIMBURSEMENT – MAXIMUM AWARD \$75,000.00
WITH 15 - 30% COUNTY MATCH EQUAL TO BETWEEN \$11,250.00 AND
\$22,500.00)

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 15th Day of July in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 16th Day of July in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

[s] Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this
16th Day of July 2025.

[s] Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Approved by the County Executive this
25th Day of July 2025.

[s] Jen Metzger
Jen Metzger, County Executive