

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

DATE & TIME: June 1, 2023 – 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Chelsea Villalba, Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Deputy Chair Gina Hansut and Legislators Aaron Levine, Joseph Maloney (arrived 3:23 PM) and Eric Stewart
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Phil Erner; Nicholas Hvozda – Department of the Environment; Heidi Emrich; Executive Director Greg Ollivier, Board Members Andrew Ghiorse, Jim Gordon – Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); David Gordon, Esq. – Legislative Counsel; Amanda LaValle – Deputy County Executive; Dana Hall, Mid-Hudson Energy Transition

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and Deputy Chair Hansut led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: **MOTION to APPROVE the Minutes of the May 4, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion:

None. Hearing none, Chair Greene called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine, Maloney & Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Chair Greene recognized Dana Hall of Mid-Hudson Energy Transition to highlight the differences between community solar, Community Choice Aggregation, and Community Distributed Generation.

Resolutions for the June 13, 2023 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 5 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2022, A Local Law Providing For The ~~Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County To Clean Water, And For The Rights~~ Protection And Restoration Of The Hudson River, Also Known As Mahicannituck, And For The Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County And The River To Clean Water And A Healthy And Productive Ecosystem, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 18, 2023 At 7:00 PM

Resolution Summary: This Resolution sets a public hearing on July 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM on Proposed Local Law No. 12 of 2022.

Motion No. 1: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 5**

Motion By: Legislator Levine

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion:

Chair Greene recognized Legislator Phil Erner, sponsor of the resolution, and Counsel Gordon to discuss amendments made to the resolution, outlining anti-degradation, Ulster County’s role as an advocate for natural resource restoration and the physical restoration of the Hudson River, and a precautionary principle to restrict unforeseen and damaging consequences. Legislator Stewart expressed support for the resolution. Legislator Maloney inquired about how this resolution will be implemented, and Counsel Gordon explained that annual Department of the Environment reports to the Legislature are requested. Discussion between Chair Greene and Legislators Maloney and Stewart discussed an amendment setting September 30 as the due date for annual reports from the Department of the Environment to the Legislature. Deputy Executive Chair Greene recognized Amanda LaValle to discuss the operational role the Department of the Environment assumes and using caution in considering county resources and staffing. Legislator Erner requested that this resolution be passed to set a public hearing. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Greene called the question.

Motion No. 2: **MOTION TO AMEND PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 12 OF 2022 AND Resolution No. 5 AS PRESENTED**

Motion By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion:

None. Hearing none, Chair Greene called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine, Maloney & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

Motion No. 3: **MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution No. 5 AS AMENDED**

Motion By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: None. Hearing none, Chair Greene called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine, Maloney & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 79 — Urging New York State To Approve And Implement An Opt-Out Community Distributed Generation (CDG) Program In New York

Resolution Summary: This is a Memorializing Resolution to State Legislature to approve and implement an opt-out CDS program in New York.

Motion No. 4: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 79**

Motion By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion:

None. Hearing none, Chair Greene called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine, Maloney & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

Chair Greene recognized Jim Gordon to share with the Committee a presentation on reasons the UCRRA should become a County department, citing volunteer board member inexperience and the necessity of landfill citing. Mr. Gordon expressed that through zero waste efforts, Ulster County could support agriculture and sustainability.

Legislator Maloney expressed his opposition to the UCRRA becoming a County department.

Legislator Stewart inquired about what percentage of waste received by the UCRRA is compostable, to which Director Ollivier replied 30%-60%.

Resolution No. 348 – Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary: Confirms an appointment to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board.

Resolution No. 349 – Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary: Confirms an appointment to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board.

Motion No. 5: **MOTION TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 348 & 349**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion:

None. Hearing none, Chair Greene called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine, Maloney & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Nos. 348 & 349 BLOCKED**

Discussion:

Deputy Chair Hansut read a statement from Chair Bartels, informing the Committee that a press release would be published to advertise the vacant positions of the UCRRA Board and a special meeting to interview applicants was requested. The Committee decided to take no action on the Resolution.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN ON Resolution Nos. 348 & 349**

Resolution No. 350 — Conveying Parcel Of County-Owned Real Property Acquired Pursuant To Article 11 Of The Real Property Tax Law For Unpaid Taxes To The Town Of Shandaken – Department Of The Environment

Resolution Summary: Conveys a surplus parcel of foreclosed land in Shandaken to the town to be used as a seasonal plow turn-around for \$100.

Motion No. 6: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 350**

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion:

None. Hearing none, Chair Greene called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine, Maloney & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 363 — Appointing Member To The Recycling Oversight Committee

Resolution Summary: Confirms the appointment of Leslie Surpenant as the Ulster County Environmental Management Council representative to the Recycling Oversight Committee.

Motion No. 7: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 363**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion:

None. Hearing none, Chair Greene called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine, Maloney & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Chair Greene tabled New and Old Business discussion items for the next meeting in the interest of time.

Chair Greene recognized UCRRA Board Member Andrew Ghiorse and Executive Director Ollivier to discuss ways to improve the efficiency of the UCRRA Board.

Chair Greene recognized Director of the Department of the Environment Nick Hvozda who shared with the Committee that he would be resigning from his position in the near future.

Legislator Stewart requested that Executive Director Ollivier provide a informational presentation on the landfill citing process to the Legislative Body in the near future.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 4:36 PM

Respectfully submitted: Chelsea Villalba, Legislative Employee

Approved: July 6, 2023