

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: February 3, 2020; 6:15 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Al Bruno, Peter Criswell, Laura Petit (departed 7:20) and Mary Wawro
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: David Gordon, Legislative Counsel; Evelyn Wright, Deputy County Executive; Charles Landi and Tim Rose, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); David Haldeman, Ulster County Environmental Management Council (UCEMC)

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:20 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked those present to introduce themselves.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes of December 5, 2019
Motion Made By: Legislator Wawro
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit & Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Tim Rose, UCRRA Executive Director and Charles Landi, UCRRA Board member and Treasurer, gave an update on the status of the draft 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP). Public comments were addressed by Cornerstone, the engineers who helped draft the plan. Those comments will be reviewed and edited by the UCRRA Board before the plan is submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Once the plan has NYSDEC approval it will come before the Legislature for approval.

For the benefit of new members, Chairwoman Greene explained the role of the Ulster County Solid Waste Planning Commission (SWPC) in coordinating input from the Legislature in the preparation of the draft LSWMP. She outlined the SWPC ongoing efforts to achieve zero waste goals.

Mr. Landi shared a letter from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) notifying the UCRRA that their comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2018 qualified for GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and an

Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA). Mr. Landi credited the work of Amy Lopiano, UCRRA's Chief Accounting Clerk, for this GFOA recognition.

Resolutions for the February 18, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 13: Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary: This resolution would confirm the appointment of an individual recommended by the Minority Leader to the Board of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 13**
Motion By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion: Chairwoman Greene pointed out that the committee would consider two resolutions for UCRRA board appointments tonight and neither had a candidate's name listed in the resolution. Resolution No. 13 states that the appoint the committee should consider the recommendation of the Minority Leader and at this time she did not have his recommendation; the seat was currently held by Charles Landi; she is unaware of any other applicants for consideration.

Legislator Bruno felt the legislature should address how appointments are made and take any politics out of the process. He recommended appointments be made based on the candidates qualifications.

There was a brief discussion about how the UCRRA Authority was originally established; the language designating one seat as the "Minority" seat being a part of that Authority; any changes to that Authority language would require action by New York State.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Amend Resolution No. 13** by removing "TBD" and adding the name of Charles Landi.
Motion By: Legislator Wawro
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Amendment ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Greene called for a vote on **Resolution No. 13 as amended:**

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro
Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 14: Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary: This resolution would confirm the appointment of an individual to the Board of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 14**
Motion By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: There was a discussion regarding the qualifications of Katherine Beinkafner, Ph.D., the current UCRRA Board member and her desire to continue to serve on the UCRRA Board.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to Amend Resolution No. 14** by removing “TBD” and adding the name of Katherine J. Beinkafner.
Motion By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Amendment approved**

Chairwoman Greene called for a vote on **Resolution No. 14 as amended:**

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted as amended**

There was a brief discussion about the UCRRA potential plans for the new land they recently purchased. These plans will include expansion of composting. Other projects under consideration are a new administration building and conversion of the existing administration building to expand educational opportunities, a residential drop off area and more household hazardous waste opportunities.

Resolution No. 15 - Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Soil And Water Conservation District Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution would reappoint Legislator James Delaune to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board (SWCDB) and appoint another Legislator to be determined (TBD)

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 14**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion: The committee did not know of another Legislator who could be added to the resolution at this time. Chairwoman Greene suggested appointing Legislator Delaune for now. Members of the committee will speak to their respective caucuses to find a second legislative representative to serve on SWCDB and either amend the resolution at the February 18th session or prepare another resolution in the future.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 40 - Amending Capital Project No. 519 – Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution will amend the 2020 Capital Fund Budget for the installation of gas lines at the Ulster Count Law Enforcement Center.

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 40**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: There was a discussion about funding for Capital Projects, how project costs are projected and how projects are put out to bid.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 56 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes Agreement With Marlborough Solar, LLC For Solar Energy Systems Pursuant To Real Property Tax Law Section 487

Resolution Summary: This resolution will authorize the execution of payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for a solar project in the Town of Marlborough, County of Ulster and the Marlborough School District.

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 56**
Motion By: Legislator Wawro
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: There was a discussion about PILOTs. Chairwoman Greene explained that because Solar projects like this one are tax exempt, these are actually reverse PILOTs.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 79 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Creighton Manning Engineering, L.L.P. – Department Of Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution will approve the execution of a contract with Creighton Manning Engineering, LLP to conduct a transit electrification study and will be funded 67% by the State of New York and 33% by the County of Ulster. This study will assist in the development of a comprehensive plans for electrification of the Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) fleet and inform capital planning, operational needs and climate action efforts.

Motion No. 9: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 79**
Motion By: Legislator Warwo
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 37 - 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 35 Quarry Road, Saugerties, New York – Emergency Communications / Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution will declare Ulster County’s intent to act as Lead Agency under SEQRA for the construction of a radio tower at 35 Quarry Road, Saugerties as part of Captial Project 482 to establish and develop a Countywide Radio System for emergency and first responder services.

Motion No. 10: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 37**
Motion By: Legislator Warwo
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: There was a discussion of the responsibilities of serving as Lead Agency under SEQRA and how to ensure transparency and communication with all interested and involved agencies.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

New Business:

There was a discussion of open seats on the Recycling Oversight Committee.

Chairwoman Greene reminded members on Thursday February 6 at 6 pm, Danskammer Energy, LLC is hosting an informational meeting at their offices at 181 South Plank Road, Newburgh. She discussed local concerns for this project and enumerated the elected officials and municipalities in Ulster County and the Hudson Valley that have expressed concern and taken stands in opposition to the project.

Mr. Haldeman told the committee the EMC has a representative that is following the Danskammer project closely.

Chairwoman Greene discussed concerns a resident and bee keeper expressed regarding New York State Department of Transportation spraying of herbicides along State highways such as NYS Route 32. She asked that a recent correspondence from a representative of Assemblyman Kevin Cahill’s office sent to her regarding this practice be shared with the members of the committee. Chairwoman Greene requested that Counsel Gordon look into what steps Ulster County could take to stop this practice.

Old Business:

Climate Smart Committee update

Chairwoman Greene explained the makeup of the Climate Smart Committee and asked for a member of the Energy & Environment Committee to serve in the open seat last held by Legislator Brian Woltman.

There was a discussion of Climate Smart efforts in various communities and how to encourage municipalities to take the Climate Smart Pledge that have not done so already. Chairwoman Greene complemented Amanda LaValle, Coordinator for the Department of the Environment, for her quick response to a request to update the map of Climate Smart Communities (CSC) in Ulster County.

Chairwoman Greene also announced the creation of a Facebook page by an ad hoc group of CSC representatives to share information. She said this Facebook page will not require any oversight by County staff.

Chairwoman Greene asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: March 2, 2020