

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: July 6, 2020; 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 9943 4460 3589
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Fawn A. Tantillo. Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Legislators Al Bruno, Peter Criswell and Mary Wawro
ABSENT: Legislator Laura Petit
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Tracey Bartels; David Gordon, Legislative Minority Counsel; Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright; Frederick Wadnola and Charles Landi, Board Members and Tim DeGraff, Controller of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); David Haldeman, Ulster County Environmental Management Committee (EMC); Joshua Cohen and Kate Kurera, Environmental Advocates of New York.

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:20 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: **To Approve the Minutes of June 1, 2020**
Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

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: Minutes Approved

Resolutions for the July 21, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 242 -Approving Ulster County’s Local Solid Waste Management Plan

Resolution Summary: This resolution will approve a 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan

Motion No. 2: **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 242**
Motion By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Chairwoman Greene, the sponsor, requested the committee hold off on voting until the next meeting.

Disposition: **No Action**

Resolution No. 243 -Urging New York State Legislature To Increase Recycling And Reduce Municipal Waste Management Costs By Expanding the NYS Returnable Container Act.

Resolution Summary: This is a memorializing resolution urges NYS Representatives to expand the Bottle Bill to include liquor, wine and other glass drink containers.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 243**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 243**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

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

New Business:

- **New York State Constitution Green Amendment**
-

Old Business

- **2020 Annual Report per Resolution No. 451 of 2019**
 - **Solid Waste Planning Commission**
 - **Climate Smart Committee update**
-

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

Motion to Adjourn
Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 7:37 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo and Laurie Lichtenstein
Minutes Approved: August 3, 2020

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Transcript**

DATE & TIME: July 6, 2020; 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 9943 4460 3589
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Fawn A. Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Legislators Al Bruno, Peter Criswell and Mary Wawro
ABSENT: Legislator Laura Petit
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Tracey Bartels; David Gordon, Legislative Minority Counsel; Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright; Frederick Wadnola and Charles Landi, Board Members and Tim DeGraff, Controller of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); David Haldeman, Ulster County Environmental Management Committee (EMC); Joshua Cohen and Kate Kurera, Environmental Advocates of New York.

Chairwoman Greene 00:01

Everyone is nicely labeled so we can see who's present.

And I would like to start by calling the meeting to order. This is the July 6, 2020 meeting of the Ulster County legislature Energy and Environment Committee.

And we did sort of unofficially call the roll, but I think I can just announce that myself, Mary Wawro, Al Bruno, Peter Criswell, and Laura Petite are all present. Because this is being recorded and we have, you know, a visual record. And then is anyone prepared to help us show a flag so we can... There's Fawn...

Committee Members 01:16

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Chairwoman Greene 01:34

Thank you.

Legislator Bruno 01:40

I'm not sure why every time I tip my camera up to say the pledge my video goes out.

Chairwoman Greene 01:47

Everyone one can you see your name there all right.

Legislator Bruno 01:50

I'm still there... it's just

Chairwoman Greene 01:55

Okay. Have folks had a chance... have committee members had a chance to look at the minutes of the June 1 meeting? And if so, I would call for a motion to approve those minutes.

Legislator Bruno 02:13

I'll make that motion.

Legislator Criswell 02:16

I'll second it.

Legislator Bruno 02:18

And I have to say, if I can, while I made that motion, I was pretty impressed with it. We had a complete transcript of it as well. It's the first time that's happened.

Chairwoman Greene 02:30

Yeah, there's some silver linings with this COVID crisis, you know, that's one of them. So, just to acknowledge that and the excellent work of Laurie Lichtenstein.

Legislator Bruno 02:51

Great job.

Chairwoman Greene 02:52

And we have a motion on the floor. All in favor?

Committee Members 02:57

Aye. (All members)

Chairwoman Greene 02:58

All right. Anyone Opposed? (None)

The motion to approve the minutes is carried.

We have two resolutions and they're both solid waste related. And then we do have some new business and some old business. But for purposes of discussion, do I hear a motion for purposes of discussion from Resolution No. 242: Local Solid Waste Management Plan?

Legislator Bruno 03:40

I'll make a motion for discussion.

Chairwoman Greene 03:43

Okay.

Legislator Petit 03:44

I'll second that motion.

Chairwoman Greene 03:46

Okay, great. Thank you. Alright, So, I don't know if the committee, most of the committee, or several community members are also on the Local Solid Waste Planning Commission and we've had several meetings about the plan. And I want to open this for discussion. I have my own feelings, but I when I chair a meeting, I really like to listen and hear from others. So, I would encourage...

Al, please, go ahead Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno 04:24

My first gut feeling on this plan is we're being asked to approve a plan that is based on a revenue stream, or a stream of refuse that the bigger the stream, the more money they make, so the better it's going to be. While at the same time, the Zero Waste Management Plan is kind of, a lot of us are on that same committee, and it's almost like it's counterintuitive to what the Zero Waste is trying to do.

Legislator Petit 04:59

Chairwoman Greene? I tend to agree with that. You know, I am impressed that that they did listen to some of the comments. Fawn had sent me a redline version where they had gone through and addressed... And multiple times throughout the document, it does refer to waste reduction, and perhaps even Zero Waste.

Legislator Bruno 04:59

So, I mean, I think while it's a great plan, I read through it, it's daunting. And I've got to give them credit as a lot of work that went into it. However, it almost seems counterproductive to the Zero Waste. I think we need to address Zero Waste and moving towards Zero Waste in this plan as well. If that makes any sense to anybody or not.

Legislator Petit 05:50

At last week's Solid Waste Meeting we had asked board members if they would give us our assurances that they would create, follow, go into a Zero Waste reduction-type program. And we didn't get a commitment.

And within a couple of days, the (Daily) Freeman had an article, that you know, was without a doubt, the Agency trashes the idea and the county policy was an atrocity.

So, I think that we need to, you know, look at the Solid Waste Management Plan, but until we have a standalone Zero Waste document, and as a contracted vendor for the county, I would expect the RRA (Resource Recovery Agency) to implement it. But we need that standalone document so we can assure that we've laid out our wishes, as a county, and it's in a written program, or plan.

Chairwoman Greene 06:52

Thank you. Who would like to speak next?

Well, hearing no one and seeing no hands, I will state my feelings about the matter as someone who did share the Solid Waste Planning Commission and really tried to hear everyone's concerns, suggestions, the pros and cons. And there were probably five different issues.

The one that I think was outstanding was the need for a more detailed plan to approach Zero Waste. To work on waste diversion, as Legislator Bruno pointed out. And that Legislator Petit has worked very hard with the Recycling Oversight Committee, and also others.

I know she had the assistance of Emily Hauser from the Environmental Management Council. Emily also worked for the UCRRA (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency) for at least five years, maybe closer to 10. So, she has good background.

I had informally, actually I think we did put in a written request, but not a specific, "if you don't do this, we won't take action on the plan," but we made a very strong request to the RRA that they commit to working with the Recycling Oversight Committee and with the appropriate county departments.

And I see that Deputy Evelyn Wright is here, and the county departments that are listed in the Zero Waste Community Policy include Energy, or rather, the Department of the Environment and the Planning Department, but that might also extend to Economic Development, and possibly even the idea in terms of promoting economic development that will support our commitment to waste diversion.

But primarily, that we develop, what I would like to call a Zero Waste Implementation Plan that has as much detail, and as careful of a timeline as the Local Solid Waste Plan. And so, that request was extended, but it was not acted upon.

Unless anyone has an objection. My suggestion, as sponsor of Resolution No. 242, is that we not act tonight on that resolution. But to be sure that there is a meeting where members of the legislature can be in direct communication with the UCRRA for the purpose of getting an agreement. They would have time between now and their next meeting to develop a resolution for a jointly developed, collaboratively developed, Zero Waste Plan that would be completed... I'm going to call it a Zero Waste Implementation Plan, that would be completed by the end of this year.

I don't want to slow down the process, primarily because I'm keenly aware that we at best have five more years at Seneca Meadows. And I would really like to see the landfill feasibility study, the RFP (Request for Proposal) be developed and circulated this year. And that is indicated in the plan.

A lot of things have slowed down because of COVID. But the waste stream hasn't slowed down. And Seneca Meadows is still filling rapidly. And I know, I spoke with Chairman Wadnola, and I've spoken with most of the board members, and there is a very strong commitment to move forward with that element of the plan.

There were some mixed feelings about some of the other issues that were raised. I'm not going to go through each one. But in the discussion at the Solid Waste Planning Commission, there was an understanding that each one of the other issues could be worked through in the context of the Local Solid Waste Management Plan.

But, you know, if we're going to be successful, we have to work together. And I want to see the next headline regarding the RRA and the Legislature be one of agreement. That we agree to work together to achieve common goals.

And so, I don't want to slow things down, but unless somebody has a better suggestion, I think we really need to get a commitment from the UCRRA to work with the Recycling Oversight Committee and the others that I've just named in a collaborative manner.

And I want to say that we did work collaboratively on what is informally known as the Food Waste Composting Law. And we also started a collaborative process with agency staff, the board, several legislators, and a few community members to do Zero Waste planning. So, there is precedent, and I just think that we really need that commitment.

And I'm wondering, before I... I don't know that I should make that motion. Although as a sponsor, I can. But before we do, I would like to ask for comment, including from the Agency, because hopefully, it is just a month delay, but it is a delay, and I am keenly aware.

Peter, please.

Fawn Tantillo 14:59

Manna, I need to interrupt you first. We have a caller on a Samsung phone. I just have an FM J 327z. May ask who the caller is? We have a caller on the line. We're trying to identify the caller on the Samsung line.

Dave Haldeman 15:21

That might be me.

Fawn Tantillo 15:24

What's the name?

Dave Haldeman 15:25

Dave Haldeman?

Fawn Tantillo 15:27

Oh, it's Dave.

Chairwoman Greene 15:28

Apparently, David's doing what I'm doing. So, he's called in on his phone.

Fawn Tantillo 15:34

No problem.

Dave Haldeman 15:35

My wife has to take over the computer for a meeting.

Legislator Criswell 15:39

We're all adapting. That's what we're all doing these days. I just had a quick question. If this was such a priority on the Legislature's part, why wasn't this actually already addressed in the plan? Was there some reason that it... Was it avoided for some reason? Was it just not prioritized? I'm just curious, if the conversation has been going on, how long has this conversation been going on, Chairman Greene?

Chairwoman Greene 15:39

Okay.

The Solid Waste Planning Commission has been meeting, I would say roughly for about a year. The Recycling Oversight Committee has been meeting longer than that. And, of course, the Agency hired Cornerstone.

And I want to say there's a lot about waste diversion in the plan. It's not absent. It's just not as, in other words, they listed a lot of information, but they didn't take it to the stage of implementation, the way they did with the, what I consider residual waste technologies: the landfilling the biomass, exporting by rail. And municipal solid waste composting was set aside.

So, you know, I do think that there is you know, there's at least 10 pages of information. There's a substantial amount of information on waste diversion in the plan. But it's aspirational, not implementable. I think I was quoted as saying that.

And given the fact that we're in a climate crisis and that Solid Waste Management is part of the climate solution. You know, for example, the agency in terms of waste diversion, is composting. And they've been developing their food waste composting program over the past few years. And then we will add, in the next three years, close to 10,000 tons of waste to be diverted every year.

So, I think we're all really headed in the right direction and we have the same goal. I think what we need to do is map out a process to achieve that by the end of this year. That's, that's my suggestion.

Fawn Tantillo 18:37

Oh, finish Peter.

Legislator Criswell 18:38

I want to say thank you. That makes a lot of sense. And I think that vague does not work. So, we have to get as specific as possible if we really want to reach these goals.

Chairwoman Greene 18:52

Anybody from the Agency want to comment?

Frederick Wadnola 18:56

Yeah, Manna Jo, I'm just waiting.

Chairwoman Greene 19:01

Oh, I'm sorry if you had your hand up. I wasn't aware. Please. Are you ready to speak or should I see...?

Frederick Wadnola 19:10

I'm waiting on you, dear.

Chairwoman Greene 19:13

Okay. Does anyone want to speak before we recognize, Chairman Wadnola? All right, please.

Frederick Wadnola 19:23

Okay. All right. You know we had a conversation. And I think probably about a week ago, and I gave you a commitment that the board of the RRA is very supportive of Zero Waste. We've had three out of five members go to the workshops. The majority of the board is super supportive of the Zero Waste concept.

Our composting, as you noticed, and you mentioned earlier, we do over 10,000 tons. We've become the number one show spot for the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) in New York State. We had last year, a busload of people from China, who came to visit because the DEC wanted to see our operation there.

We've had several visitations from other states, from Connecticut and Massachusetts, come to see what we do in composting at the RRA. So, we're, we're very proud of the product that we produce and the food waste that we take out of the food stream and bring to our composting.

As you know, our executive director has terminated his employment with the RRA and has found employment with the county. So, we're in the process now of trying to make some plans where we're going to go from here. This coming Friday, we're going to have an Executive Session of the five board members. And we're going to talk about what our future plans are going to be to the end of the year, and just what is going to happen. So, at this point in time, I can't tell you because I'm not really sure. We have our Executive Session meeting on Friday, and for the board to decide in what area they're going to make changes and where we're going to go from there.

But I did give you a commitment. And I stand behind our commitment to support Zero Waste and so forth as we move ahead.

We're also looking at landfills. Charlie Landi and I have spent probably the last year-and-a-half looking around the county and talking to people, before the pandemic, about locations of landfills. And we're just waiting for things to open up so that we can get out and talk to the local supervisors and DEC. I have an appointment set up with the DEC as soon as they reopened their offices for a meeting with their staff to talk about landfills. And Charlie has done a lot of research on landfills. Katherine Beinkafner, who's a geologist on our board, has really helped us a lot in trying to find the right location for landfills and so forth. So, the board is really working to move ahead and trying to find solutions for the waste stream, but unfortunately, the pandemic really threw a wrench in our operation for a while. But, you know, we're hoping as things get better, we'll be back on the road looking. So, you know, all I can tell you is, be patient. We're going to move ahead.

Chairwoman Greene 22:49

Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno 22:51

Yeah, I've got a question, Fred.

Frederick Wadnola 22:53

Sure.

Legislator Bruno 22:53

You said you got to have an Executive Session to see where you're going forward. Maybe I'm wrong, I'm just trying to understand the Executive Session area. I thought that generally had to do with personnel.

Frederick Wadnola 23:05

It is. Since our executive director left, we were meeting this Friday to talk about where are we going to go. Are we going to go with a new executive director? Are we going to have in-house, people run the operation for a while, until the end of the year? Everything is in a state of flux right now. I don't know where we're going until we have this meeting. And I get the feeling of all the board members. We have five board members and we have five different trains of thought. So, we really need to get together and find out where we're going to go personnel wise. We're having a meeting this Friday.

Legislator Bruno 23:44

I can appreciate that. And thanks for the clarification. And at the same time, that just leads credence more so to postponing this, because we don't know what the final outcome is going to be, who's going to be leading this.

Frederick Wadnola 23:57

Right. We don't we don't know yet. No.

Legislator Bruno 23:59

Right. So, there's a lot of questions. And one of the things that kind of struck me, if I may.

Frederick Wadnola 24:05

Sure.

Legislator Bruno 24:06

Not only to the committee, but to, you know, Fred and Charlie, Charlie Landi and everybody. You guys have done an incredible job. And I personally want to say thank you for all the work that's been done.

But the Resource Recovery Agency, when we think about the name, it's the "Resource Recovery Agency," not the "Resource Disposal Agency." And that's the one thing that glares at me. That when I say that, when I hear that, I mean, I understand we need a landfill. I understand we need a place to put the stuff that can't be recovered. But we need to move forward with more so, I believe that the stuff that can be recovered, can be repaired, can be regenerated. And I think that's where we need to push more of our focus.

Frederick Wadnola 24:55

Well, you know, New York State has not done a good job. If you go into Southern states, you go in the Midwest and recycling companies are there, they can use the recycled plastics. They take the OCC the corrugated cardboard, and they reuse it and so forth. We have one company in the Mohawk Valley that does cardboard. New York State is not a good state for recycling because it's not supportive. And it's so difficult to do business in New York State with the with the companies that come in here for recycling. So, that's a major problem. You know, you have the recycled products there. You have to find markets for them. And that's one of the major problems that we have. We don't

have markets for all the plastic, for the glass, for the cardboard that we could recycle. We need to do a better job in New York State and bringing companies in to recycle the materials that we have available and reproduce them into, you know, viable products. And that's a major problem.

Legislator Bruno 26:03

Yeah. And Fred, I couldn't agree with you more. One of the things that struck me was a number of years ago, there's a company in Saugerties called Unity Creations who was doing just that with the tires, right? Not long after the Catskill tire fire, if you remember that.

Frederick Wadnola 26:18

Right.

Legislator Bruno 26:20

And that's one of... one small piece of it. Well, not very small, actually. And they completely transformed how they can dispose of tires. And they're located right in Saugerties. That being said, I mean, what do we need to do as a county to incentivize and to get people to bring those kinds of businesses here? I know you say New York is not very friendly when it comes to that. Well, Ulster County, we've been, you know, we've been cutting edge on many things in the past, we need to continue that. And I think it's on us to make that happen.

Frederick Wadnola 27:00

Get your economic development person that works for the county executive to start going out there and soliciting companies to come here.

Legislator Bruno 27:12

No argument here.

Frederick Wadnola 27:13

Yeah.

Legislator Bruno 27:15

Thank you. No argument.

Frederick Wadnola 27:16

It's tough to get companies to come because it's so difficult to do business in New York. If you go down South, you can see a lot of recycling companies are doing very well in recycling. In the Midwest, in some of the states are doing a wonderful job. It just it's very difficult in New York.

Chairwoman Greene 27:37

I see Legislator Bartels and Legislator Criswell have their hand up. I also want to say to Deputy Wright that you know, this has come up quite often recently with regard to waste diversion. And I know that in terms of economic development, I think if any of the legislators are on Economic Development, or attend the IDA meetings, I think, you know, that we'd have a great opportunity. I keep thinking it might be Tech City. But we certainly have great opportunity. And IDAs are sometimes given out to things that don't help the environment. Let's see if we can get an IDA to attract a recycling business. And quite a few of us went to see one in New Jersey that was very effective.

Legislator Bartels, and then Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Bartels 28:54

Thank you. I just want to circle back to the plan and say, I was listening to the to the meeting in the beginning on my phone, and Legislator Bruno had some astute observations in terms of the agency and the drive--you know, that dichotomy between the drive for waste and revenue, and how that intersects with diversion and the move towards Zero Waste.

Legislator Petit talked about that newspaper article. I was very disappointed to read some of the comments in the newspaper article. They certainly didn't feel the spirit of collaboration. It's no one that's not in this meeting right now, are the people who made it. But I think it's important that we actually... it needs to be more than an assurance.

And I'm not going to revisit the specifics that caused me concern. But as I spoke to various members, I was assured, oh, for example, on the rail, that's just a temporary solution. We're not looking at it as a full-time solution. But that's not what it says.

And for me, it's not that I don't trust Chair Wadnola at his word. It's that we actually have to put these things in writing. They need to be a part of the plan or an attachment to the plan. They need to live beyond this group of us, on both boards. And they need to set the tone, which is why some of us were, you know, I'm going to say, almost nitpickers on the details.

I think, it's the 10-year plan. I do think we have to get it right. And I think the move toward Zero Waste and the assurance of the Agency's commitment to that, needs to somehow be contained either in the plan directly, or as an addendum to the plan, that's signed off on. Or in some actual legitimate vote. Which didn't happen. Not only did it not happen at the last board meeting, then there were statements in the paper that were really countered to working together in a productive way. Which I know we are.

And I too am grateful for the work the Agency has done. But again, I think this is bigger than any one of us, or than either of our boards. And I think we all know how pressing it is in terms of the need to move quickly. So, I'm hopeful that we can actually make some of these changes, and get the assurance from the board, in a formalized manner. And then we can move this plan forward and get working toward the final solution that we need to be working toward.

Chairwoman Greene 31:44

So, I think at this point... Oh, I'm sorry, Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell 31:48

I just had a quick question about the market for recyclables. I actually don't know the market well. Are there any neighbors, neighboring states, where it's better than New York? And what would be the possibility? Would it be cost prohibitive to travel with recyclables? Would that make it not work? I again don't know the larger landscape. So, tell me.

Frederick Wadnola 32:11

The market is not good now, right now, for recyclables. It fluctuates on a weekly basis. You know, the cardboard can go anywhere from \$10 a ton to \$100 a ton. It's a very fluid market. And it's all predicated on the quality of the

cardboard, the quality of the plastics, whether you can get clear plastic, or the milk containers, which they like and, and stuff like that. So, in the market is very fluid, and it changes on a weekly basis.

Legislator Criswell 32:47

And are we doing business in New York State?

Frederick Wadnola 32:51

We do business in New York State with some of the metals. We have a firm in Albany that buys our metal. Well, we have a lot of plastics stored out at the RRA.

Legislator Criswell 33:02

Are we actually restricted to do business in New York State? Or if we found something in Jersey or someone that far afield, we could actually use them, possibly?

Frederick Wadnola 33:12

Yeah, we sell glass in New Jersey.

Legislator Criswell 33:15

Okay.

Frederick Wadnola 33:16

So, we have we have a market in New Jersey, which is drying up because the State of New Jersey is giving the company we do business with a hard time. And that company is trying to relocate in Pennsylvania. So, you know, I don't know where that's going to go, to be honest.

Legislator Criswell 33:34

Thank you, Tim, did you say something about that?

Timothy DeGraff 33:37

Yeah, I just wanted to add something generally speaking about our recycling. Technically, we don't do a lot of volume compared to other places. Ulster County, 180,000 people, but we still are rural from the standpoint of recycling volume. So, that kind of makes it a little more difficult than other places.

Chairwoman Greene 33:56

Tracy, did you want to add something?

Legislator Bartels 34:01

Yeah, I was just going to say that, you know, I think some of the challenges in recycling. We, you know, we all saw this happen for so long we were reliant on international markets, particularly China that were taking commingled contaminated recycling and paying us for it. And the backstory to why that stopped is, you know, too long to go into now. But when that stops, the market has dried up. And I think, you know, when Legislator Greene referred to the visit we took in New Jersey, which was primarily a plastic film, they were doing plastic film, recycling, they're doing lots of other things, but that's one of the one of the interesting things that they were doing.

You know, a lot of it, I think, has to do with not just creating, enticing the businesses that do the recycling to come to New York State, or to come locally. But it's creating the market for the product. Because the raw product is still cheap. So, it you know, a whole seismic shift really has to happen that hierarchy of reduce first, and then reuse, and then recycle.

Because as we continue to just buy things that we throw away, you know, individual drink bottles, and we just chuck them. You know, you get five cents for them, they end up getting to a market, and we're going to talk about the expanded bottle bill, but we really have to start thinking differently and see that back end all the way to its logical extension. Not just to the recycling plant, but to then where does it go after? So yeah, just wanted to add that for clarification.

Chairwoman Greene 35:43

At this point, I think I am going to, I guess as sponsor, I can just hold the resolution without getting...

Fawn Tantillo 35:54

The committee can just take no action.

Chairwoman Greene 35:57

The committee will take no action. And between now, and a month from now, I would like to... Well, let me back up and just... Is Attorney Gordon... he helped draft the resolution for the UCRRA Local Solid Waste Management Plan. And I just want to ask if we included language in that. And there were several versions, I haven't had a chance to refresh my memory today. Was there language in there that said that there was an agreement with the RAA? I don't recall. The Zero Waste Plan.

David Gordon 36:50

No, I have to go back and look at the language, but I don't think so at all. That resolution was drafted back in February or March of last year. You know, close to a year and a half ago. I don't think there was any specific language on the Zero Waste Plan that I remember. I have to go back and check it out. But I don't remember any... The agreement with the RRA was to jointly form, jointly appear on, and be part of the Solid Waste Management Commission, and to develop recommendations for the for the Solid Waste Management Plan. But I don't think there's anything specific on Zero Waste, I would need to go back and look at it, but off the top of my head, the answer would be no.

Chairwoman Greene 37:41

So, I think between now and the next time we meet, we should work out a process, and develop "whereas" that acknowledges a process to collaboratively create a Zero Waste Implementation Plan.

So, is there anything else on this topic because we have a couple other things, and we have two guests who wanted to present?

Fawn Tantillo 38:17

Manna Jo, I was just thinking also, if we postpone it with your permission as the sponsor, then there's no clock running on when you have to vote. So, you may want to postpone that, with your permission.

Chairwoman Greene 38:32

Okay, so...

Fawn Tantillo 38:35

We could just say where you're postponing it, with your permission.

Chairwoman Greene 38:39

Okay. All right, very good. And I really do want to get this done by next month. As I said, if it was a really horrendous plan, that there was a lot of objection from the legislature or from the public, that would be different. But it's a good sound plan that many of us feel need to be supplemented.

I would like to... well, it may be that the memorializing Resolution No. 243: Urging New York State Legislature to Increase Recycling and Reduce Municipal Waste Management Costs by Expanding the NYS Returnable Container Act. The bottle bill, it's a memorializing resolution.

Can I hear a motion to act on this? And hopefully, if there's going to be a long discussion, as we needed to, on the Local Solid Waste Plan, I may ask forbearance to change the order? But if it's just going to be something with, you know, minimal discussion. I think we can dispense with it.

Do I hear a motion on Resolution No. 243?

Fawn Tantillo 40:11

Laura Petit, were you moving it?

Legislator Petit 40:14

Yeah. I'd like to open for discussion.

Chairwoman Greene 40:16

Okay.

Legislator Criswell 40:17

I'll second.

Chairwoman Greene 40:19

Okay. Go ahead, Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit 40:21

Years ago, we had actually looked at including all beverage containers. I understand two or three years ago when it was brought back to Albany, the concern from some of the Solid Waste Authorities is that they'll be losing, you know, one of the last of their viable recyclable products. I would still like to see it include all beverage containers, but as we're looking at this, we also have to consider the impact if it's glass containers, that'll be liquor stores. So, we'll be turning all of our area liquor stores into redemption centers. I mean, I don't think that Albany's in session yet. If we could bring this forward again next month, and maybe add a little bit more. Do I keep freezing Mary? Anyway, that's my two cents for what it's worth.

Chairwoman Greene 40:48

I am a little bit concerned that as well. It's my understanding that session will probably go through September. So, if we reconsider in August, I think we're not too late. Does anyone else have a comment?

Legislator Bruno 41:46

I'm not sure what you're saying, Manna, I could barely hear you.

Chairwoman Greene 41:49

I'm sorry?

Legislator Bruno 41:51

I'm not really sure what you were just saying what you're trying to say.

Chairwoman Greene 41:54

Yeah. I think I was concerned that if we waited till August, it might be too late. But my understanding is that session is quite likely to go through September, that they may take some time off in August and come back in September because they are backed up. I don't know if that's reliable information. Actually, we have a couple folks from Environmental Advocates might be able to...Do know anything more about the schedule, Joshua or Kate?

Kate Kurera 42:28

Yeah. And what we're hearing is that they're going to be coming back to session towards the end of the month. So, I don't actually know. I haven't heard any rumors about them meeting through September. That seems unlikely to me. I get the sense they would come back for a short period, or what I've heard a short period in July, end of July, maybe through August, to cover policy, non-COVID-related policy. But again, these are just things that we're hearing, nothing confirmed.

Chairwoman Greene 42:59

Well, so... Go ahead.

Legislator Petit 43:00

Are we trying to get this in front of them? Or are we asking them... I mean, the memorializing resolution... is there already a law in Albany to bring in glass containers? I mean, I'm not adamantly opposed.

Kate Kurera 43:18

Are you talking about a State law to expand the bottle bill? There's nothing. There's nothing in...

Legislator Petit 43:23

Is there [inaudible] a bill?

Kate Kurera 43:26

There are bills, but I don't think they're being progressed seriously. That would expand the bottle bill to glass and what you're referring to, liquor and alcohol, or liquor and wine. There has been a lot of talk about that, but nothing recently, and I would be I don't think it is part of the agenda going forward right now. So...

Legislator Bruno 43:48

Then this resolution would just be a moot point. It will go nowhere.

Fawn Tantillo 43:52

There's no resolution. There's no State or Assembly Resolution numbers in the resolution.

Legislator Bruno 43:58

Yeah. This is a memorializing resolution basically that's going to go nowhere.

Kate Kurera 44:04

There are there State bills out there. I mean, Senator Kaminsky and Assembly member Englebright have a you know, a version of it, but there has been no movement since.

Legislator Bruno 44:15

Are there any other counties throughout New York state who are passing similar resolutions? Anybody?

Chairwoman Greene 44:31

I think we probably need more information, and unless there's a strong will of the committee to act on it this evening, I think we should... and I'll try to help do some research. I tend to agree with Legislator Petit, but I also, you know, support expanding the bottle bill, even without glass. But I know, it doesn't seem like folks have enough information or are ready to act on this particular resolution. Is my sense correct?

Legislator Bruno 45:16

Honestly, Manna Jo, I agree with you on this. I support it. Just in the concept of it, I think it just makes sense. If we're going to do it, let's do it across the board. However, it doesn't seem like there's enough support, or enough people seem to have their handle on it right now. Like I asked before, is there any other counties that are doing similar things to the state to try to push this forward? Or are we the lone wolf?

Chairwoman Greene 45:46

This is maybe a question I should know the answer to, but Fawn who's the sponsor?

Fawn Tantillo 45:54

David Donaldson was the primary sponsor and it looks like he's got Legislators Bruno, Criswell, Greene, Litts and Wawro, "offering the following."

Legislator Bruno 46:08

Yeah, I mean, I'm supportive of the concept of it, like I said in the past, and I'm saying it again now. But if this is a memorializing resolution that is just kind of wasting everybody's time, it has to go through the State. I mean, is it really worth it?

Legislator Criswell 46:25

It does put us on record saying that this is where we want things to go.

Legislator Bruno 46:29

And I agree, Pete. I agree. And that's why I support it. That's why I said, "Put my name on it. as well." But ultimately, are we just spinning our wheels on ice?

Chairwoman Greene 46:43

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels 46:46

I would just say that, you know, these movements... this has long been talked about. But these movements have to start somewhere. I don't think we need to wait for a bill to be there, or for other counties to be on record. If it's something that we feel strongly about being on record... has a power for sure. So, I think it's a question of the timing. I mean, if there's a concern that they may not be in session, being on record sooner is better, because it may allow others to follow our lead. So, I would just put that out for these new members.

Legislator Bruno 47:22

Well taken. Granted, I agree. I'm still on board, I still support the resolution.

Legislator Criswell 47:28

Not to this... So sorry, sorry. Yeah. I don't see any reason why we wouldn't do this at this point.

Chairwoman Greene 47:36

You don't see a reason to do it, or, to not do it?

Legislator Criswell 47:40

To not do it.

Chairwoman Greene 47:41

Okay, so then I'm going to call the question on Resolution Number 243. Unless there's any other discussion.

All in favor of Resolution No. 243?

Committee Members 47:57

Aye.

Legislator Petit 48:00

I'll be an "aye" on it, but I think we need to follow through so, it's not just another kind of nice, "Hey, look what we did. We're asking to State to..." I'd like to see some action. So, if we could get to Senator Metzger and Assemblyman Cahill to see if we couldn't get them to carry a bill in the Fall Session. I think ideally, you know, I think that's what I'm looking for. I'd like to see some real action taking on it. So, I'm not going to hold it up.

Legislator Bruno 48:29

I'm a "yes," as well.

Chairwoman Greene 48:31

Okay, Any opposed?

All right. Resolution No. 243 passes committee.

And then I want to go directly to new business which is the New York Green Amendment. This is a proposed amendment to the New York State Constitution. And we have two speakers. I would like to ask, you know, keep the background information on this to about five minutes. So, we Joshua Cohen and Kate Kurera from Environmental Advocates of New York (<https://eany.org/>) who asked to speak with us about this. And I told them I would give them about five minutes during new business. And we can figure out how to move from there after we hear from them. Thank you.

Fawn Tantillo 49:31

And the information they sent us in your OneDrive. [Inaudible].

Mary Wawro 49:55

Is that me?

Fawn Tantillo 49:56

That's Miss Mary, I believe, she just logged in and I think we're... Can you...?

Mary Wawro 50:00

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo 50:01

There we go.

Chairwoman Greene 50:04

Joshua, please go ahead.

Joshua Cohen 50:07

Thank you, Manna Jo. thank you for having us. I'm going to actually let Kate kick it off. And then I will add as well. But thank you for having us. Nice to see everyone.

Kate Kurera 50:17

Thanks, Josh. Thank you, everyone. I'm assuming most of you know of our organization in Albany. Maybe you don't. Just give you, like, 30 seconds. You know, we're a nonprofit environmental lobbying organization in Albany. We have three kind of major... Actually, I should have introduced myself. My name's Kate Kurera. I'm the Deputy Director of the organization. Before I go into what we do

We have three strategic priority areas in our organization: climate, water and community's portfolio. And a lot of what you've just been discussing about solid waste... I manage our solid waste work. So, it was very familiar to what I, you know, familiar with in terms of what's going on in Albany, in that space.

And the discussion that just proceeded this, about whether or not, you as a legislative body, want to pass a resolution that has kind of just, you know, for the sake of showing your support. And the power that can bring to the to Albany... is kind of what we're going to talk to today about the Green Amendment.

Because the Green Amendment resolutions that... and Joshua will go into kind of the campaign and our goals, in terms of reaching out to local governments... is that inevitably, you know, a collective voice from county governments across the state is really powerful in terms of telling Albany what's important to New Yorkers.

So, the Green Amendment is, as Manna Jo mentioned, it's a proposed amendment to the New York State Constitution. It's a pretty simple amendment, it was 15 words, it says we shall have the right to clean air clean water and healthful environment.

This provision would be inserted in the Bill of Rights section of the of the New York State Constitution. So, that's really the Bill of Rights, in the State Constitution. Of course, there's a, you know, counterpart in our Federal Constitution. But the New York State Bill of Rights is where our inalienable, you know, most fundamental rights lie in the State, as well as Federally.

I think an interesting point is that, you know, in the New York State Constitution, and I don't know how many of you have combed through it recently, or at least the Bill of Rights... but if you go there, you have a constitutional, fundamental right to play bingo. So, and it actually spells out the word bingo in the Constitution.

So, we feel quite strongly that if you have the right to play bingo in New York, you certainly have the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water and live in a healthy environment.

So, the bill... to amend the State Constitution, there's kind of a procedural process. So, two New York legislatures, separately convened, have to pass the same bill. So, last session in 2019, that legislative body passed the amendment. And so, where we are right now, we refer to that as the "first passage of the bill." And what we're going we're ramping up for is that in 2021, the newly elected New York State Legislature, that's going to be you know, put into office and convene. And hopefully in January 2021, is going to take up the same exact bill, the same language, and need to pass that.

Once that legislature passes the bill for the second time, or "second passage," the bill then basically is allowed to go on the ballot. And it will be referred for a referendum to New York voters. So, it doesn't go to the governor, it's doesn't have the veto.

So, what's really important, and I'll pass it on to Josh, is why.... because it's a ballot initiative, because this is going to be a statement of New Yorkers, it is so important that this message starts at the local level. And that we can build support from the ground up, because there is opposition. And certainly, because this is the second, we have time. The opposition will certainly be much stronger as we go for the second passage next year. So, just with that, I'll let Josh talk a little bit about the campaign and what we're doing resolutions. And then I think we're happy to take some questions.

Joshua Cohen 54:38

Yeah, thank you, Kate. And I'll be brief. We are partnering on this campaign with Green Amendment for the Generations (<https://forthegenerations.org/>), which sort of grew out of the Delaware River Keeper Network (<https://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/>), and also the Adirondack Mountain Club (<https://www.adk.org/>). So, those are our core partners on this campaign. We're also having conversations with some environmental justice leaders in New York City, as well, as part of this.

And as Kate mentioned, we're trying to demonstrate local support across the State. So, we're looking at all of the regions of New York State and trying to get local resolutions passed at the municipal level, also at the county level, ideally.

So, I'm having conversations with Hudson, with Beacon, with Poughkeepsie, and some other local organizations, as well, to see where we can sort of push this. Because we do want to show a groundswell of support for this very basic right to clean air and clean water. So, then demonstrate that for the second passage in 2021.

I've been having conversations up and down the Hudson Valley recently with folks in Dutchess County, Columbia County. We're starting to have conversations in Albany County. So, we're trying to push the counties right now, as well as seeing where we have traction at the local level in terms of municipalities.

So, that's... and we also we had a webinar series in May. And we can share the link with any of you if you're interested. They were all recorded. And we go into depth about sort of the legality of an amendment like this and how pass one at the local level. So, we can share any other resources that might be helpful for your conversations. But we really appreciate you considering this and for having us today. Thank you.

So, that's... and we also we had a webinar series in May. And we can share the link with any of you if you're interested. They were all recorded. And we go into depth about sort of the legality of an amendment like this and how pass one at the local level. So, we can share any other resources that might be helpful for your conversations. But we really appreciate you considering this and for having us today. Thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 56:53

So, I think the next step for each of us to look closely at the information that you provided. It was too late to consider as a moralizing resolution. You know, our deadline is a week or so ahead of committee meetings. But let's take a look and then see if we want to be prepared for August to have a memorializing resolution in support of this. And at that time, we'll have specific discussion, pro and con, but in the meantime, does anyone have any questions for Joshua or Kate?

Legislator Petit and then Legislator Criswell.

Laura, you're on mute.

Legislator Petit 58:01

I should let Peter go first. I'm sorry. Chairwoman Greene, could we do a memorializing letter and get signatures, so we didn't have to wait another month?

Chairwoman Greene 58:14

I'm certainly open to that.

Let's hear from Legislator Criswell and then the rest of the Committee.

Legislator Criswell 58:22

Just a question about partnerships. Have you... I'm guessing that you've probably had conversations with Scenic Hudson, and if you have, how have those gone?

Kate Kurera 58:37

Josh, do you want to take that?

Joshua Cohen 58:38

Yeah. In the past, we have had conversation with Scenic Hudson, as well as League of Women Voters, and some other organizations. We've held press conferences in Albany for the first passage. And we had a lot of organizations that we partnered with on that, at the State level. I think Scenic Hudson may have been one of the ones we were in touch with, last year, on that. But they haven't been part of the core group that we've been working with us on. But we do need to build partnerships as we're going into next year, certainly. So, that's a great suggestion.

Legislator Criswell 59:09

Well, that's what I was going to ask is, you know, we can get individual support, but a lot of us also know people so we can try and connect you with organizations. So...

Joshua Cohen 59:18

Thank you. I appreciate that.

Chairwoman Greene 59:21

So, Legislator Petit asked about a letter. My question is, can we... we don't have a letter ready to act on tonight, but a letter can appear at any time, and doesn't have to go through committees, that correct?

Fawn Tantillo 59:38

That's correct.

Chairwoman Greene 59:40

So, I would be glad to work with Legislator Petit, to adapt the memorializing resolution to a letter that people can sign. And that might be faster. Is there a strong preference for the people that are organizing this effort, that it be a resolution rather than a letter? because it's a question time. And also, you know, as I said, even though we often do have memorializing resolutions, I think there's a general feeling amongst the Legislature that they prefer sign-on letters.

But Kate, do you want to just address the question of the value of a letter that many of us I think would sign versus a formal resolution?

Kate Kurera 60:40

Yeah, I mean, honestly, I think either would probably be fine. Moralizing resolution, of course, doesn't really, you know, I understand. You know, it's harder to get and it effectively has the same support.

So, I think what's important to us is as we build this momentum, and as we, you know, we could use that letter, like when we go to other counties in saying, you know, maybe you didn't pass a resolution, but you've passed a memorializing letter. And you know, Ulster County is in support of this amendment. And it's really about getting is growing that momentum.

And then when we get to a point when we're really fighting for this thing, and when we're fighting for it on the ballot, is knowing that we have the local governments to help with this message to constituents, to help set the importance of the value of this kind of amendment to vote for it at the ballot.

So, Manna Jo, I don't see any problems with the letter at all. I think it's what your body chooses to do and feels most comfortable with.

Legislator Criswell 61:43

Would a letter preclude us from doing a memorializing resolution at a later date?

Kate Kurera 61:50

I don't think so. And honestly, we have some time, right? I mean, we're kind of... this bill won't even be voted on until earliest January next year, right? We're starting early because you know, if you're trying to grow a campaign, or momentum through an entire statewide process, you kind of want to start planting those seeds early.

So, even working through a resolution over the next couple months would also probably be fine. There's no necessarily... but I think you could certainly pass a letter and then you would have that. And that would be your support for a resolution, if you want it to take it further, to give it a little bit more authority, I guess, if you will.

Chairwoman Greene 62:32

All right. Well, I think we'll take that step. And in the meantime, you know, educate ourselves. And we'll start hearing questions and we'll be able to get those questions answered. So, let's leave it at that for now. And thank you very much. I know you both have young children that need your attention. So, we'll be back in touch.

Joshua Cohen 63:01

Thank you so much.

Kate Kurera 63:02

Thank you so much. I really appreciate it. And of course, feel free to reach out to Joshua or myself. If you have any questions after reviewing the materials, we're definitely here to help.

Chairwoman Greene 63:11

Great, thank you.

Kate Kurera 63:12

Thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 63:14

I want to be sure... We could use your help and actually providing a resolution and a letter [inaudible]. and should absolutely include our two representatives. Actually, we have several but... Senator, rather, Assemblyman Cahill, and who else from Ulster County?

Legislator Petit 63:42

Senator Metzger.

Chairwoman Greene 63:44

Senator Metzger.

Fawn Tantillo 63:46

We have we have four Senators and four Assembly.

Legislator Bruno 63:49

We also have Chris Tague up in Saugerties.

Chairwoman Greene 63:53

Let's be sure they're all listed, whether it's a letter or a resolution. And thank you.

Joshua Cohen 64:03

Yeah. Thank you so much happy to help in any way.

Chairwoman Greene 64:05

You're really welcome.

We're going to move on to the 2020 Annual Report. I thought that... Yes, Deputy Wright is still on. I personally reached out to her and thanked her for an excellent, really excellent report, in the face of COVID and everything else. And I know that the original resolution for a Zero Waste Community Policy was drafted by Legislator Petit, who, you know, I think was very gratified to see that... I don't want to speak for you though. Really excellent report.

Deputy Executive Wright 64:57

Great.

Chairwoman Greene 65:00

And Solid Waste Planning Commission. I think we've addressed those issues. My one question is kind of a process question. You know, how would we get the various... the UCRRA, the Recycling Oversight Committee, and the relevant county agencies working together. And who would coordinate that? That's something I'd like to get clarity on. Anybody have any suggestions? I don't want to take up a lot more time because, we've spent a lot of time on that, but...

Fawn Tantillo 65:47

I don't know if Dr. Wright is listening. It looks like she's listening, but...

Chairwoman Greene 65:52

Okay.

Deputy Executive Wright 65:54

Yep, I'm here.

Fawn Tantillo 65:56

I don't know if she wants to address that. The question about how to get various agencies to work with us and the RRA to write the Zero Waste Plan.

Deputy Executive Wright 66:11

Yeah, I'm sorry, I'm not sure if I understand the question exactly.

Chairwoman Greene 66:17

The Solid Waste Planning Commission made a request of the Agency that they work with the Recycling Oversight Committee, which has done a lot of work on a draft of what, hopefully, will become a Zero Waste Implementation Plan.

And the two departments that are cited in Resolution 451 include the Department of Environment and the Planning Department. It has also been recommended that we consider including Economic Development and possibly the IDA (Industrial Development Agency).

So, that's a lot of coordination to review a draft, to make, you know, the additions, we have to work virtually, I know that in working on the Food Waste Composting Law, we met physically in person most of the time, over the course of many months. And we tried to reach out to every stakeholder and bring that information together. But there were some lessons to be learned from that process. And I just, you know, we don't have a formal process, but if we just accept a resolution with intention of collaboratively developing the plan. Someone has to be responsible for making sure that collaboration happens. So, that's what I wanted people to think about it. I don't necessarily want us to have an answer tonight. If somebody has a good suggestion, you know, we would welcome it. But I'm concerned that as much as we want to see, you know, a timeline and benchmarks for implementation, between now and the end of the year. we need to process to achieve that.

I'm just going to call on John Wackman and say, "Hey, John, you make this happen!" But, you know, somehow, we have to have a plan to do the coordination. And if we need to just take a break and think about it and come up with real concrete suggestions at the next meeting. We can do that.

Fred, please go ahead. Do we?

Frederick Wadnola 69:25

Do you have a written plan?

Legislator Petit 69:29

Yes.

Chairwoman Greene 69:31

There is a draft.

Frederick Wadnola 69:32

Okay. Would you forward it to the RRA so we could look take a look at it? I haven't seen it.

Chairwoman Greene 69:44

I don't know who has seen or who has not, but it was developed mainly by Legislator Petit and members of the Recycling Oversight Committee as part of Resolution 451. They kind of took the bull by the horns and started drafting quite a bit of information. It is still in a draft form. And people started to offer comments and suggestions already. But it's in a very draft form, and, you know, open to shaping and discussion. Legislator Petit, are you okay with us sending this to RRA?

Legislator Petit 70:33

Yeah, because one of the comments I got was that the Action Plan was a little stale. So, you know, given I've been doing this for 30 years, and things have really changed, it would be nice to get more input. And you know, honestly, when we wrote New Paltz's Zero Waste Action Plan, there was a lot of public input. And the plan really shaped itself very differently than I originally envisioned it. So, yes, absolutely. I'll send it to the RRA.

And, I mean, if there's a way we could hold future meetings, real work meetings, to put some of these ideas into the plan... But we're going to need one document. Emily had made some changes. And I had already forwarded out what I thought was a final draft ready for review. She had some ideas about reordering the detailed Zero Waste description. So, it's going to be a changing document as we add in these comments. And some of the comments are just really amazing. I even heard back from Pat Ryan, who forwarded it to Evelyn. I think my question to him was, how do we tie this into your vision of a Green County and education.

Deputy Executive Wright 71:59

Yeah, I received that from him this afternoon and I haven't had a chance to look at it yet. But I'm happy for Amanda and I, and whoever else needs to take a look, and give you some feedback.

Chairwoman Greene 72:12

And I wonder, you know, we're trying to phase out the Solid Waste Planning Commission, but I don't know if it fits there, to extend the Solid Waste Planning Commission. If the Agency reviews the document and once to commit a staff person to convene meetings. And you know, that's the process that I want to understand is, who's going to take charge of us getting from this early draft.

And, you know, Laura, if you want to take some time and reorder according to the suggestions, or incorporate... But it is it's an early preliminary draft. And that's why when people started offering comment, as if it was a period of public comment, we're far from that.

But we are certainly open to suggestions. And between now, a month from now, I think we need to define the process to achieve a document. If it weren't, you know, the financial crunch we're under, I would actually recommend that we hire someone to do that coordination. But we can't take on any additional expenses. So, we're going to have to figure out how to do resources we have.

Climate Smart Committee. What I want to say is that Legislator Delaune and I had a wonderful meeting with UCRRA a president. Dr. Alan Roberts...

Fawn Tantillo 74:23

You mean SUNY Ulster president.

Chairwoman Greene 74:26

What did I say?

Fawn Tantillo 74:27

You said the UCRRA.

Chairwoman Greene 74:31

Sorry, too many "U's"

Chairwoman Greene 74:34

Yes. with SUNY Ulster president and with... actually, Alan Lomita, is the board member at SUNY Ulster and it was a follow up to a communication, asking that there be more emphasis in this year's Budget Report and request on sustainability and specifically on climate solutions. And the response was really gratifying. There was there's a lot being done that I think many of us were simply not aware of. And they have documented... They've created essentially a sustainability committee with five goals, and we can, if we haven't already, we can share that information.

And there will be an opportunity in the Fall to do a roundtable together. More information, and also Legislator Delaune asked if there's a specific project... the Economic Development Department is in contract with a group It finances really good projects. And we might be able to find a creative way to accelerate the goals, the really excellent goals that they have set forward. And it's a real timeline. And we made a few other suggestions, but I did want this committee to know that we did that outreach. And I expect that there'll be some report by Legislator Delaune to the Legislative Programs Committee.

Chairwoman Greene 76:40

And any other old business or new business? Any final comments? Well, if Hearing none, I would request a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Bruno 76:57

I'll make that motion that we adjourn.

Legislator Criswell 77:01

Second.

Chairwoman Greene 77:02

Made by Legislator Bruno, seconded by Legislator Criswell. And I hope at some point it's safe to meet in public and see each other in person again. But thank you all for attending tonight's virtual meeting.

All in favor of adjourning? Aye. (All members)

Meeting is adjourned at 7:37. We did very well. And thank you folks from the RRA for attending.