

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 7, 2018; 6:00
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Mary Wawro
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Manna Jo Greene and Brian Woltman
ABSENT: Legislator Joseph Maloney
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Kathy Nolan and Laura Petit; Dave Haldeman, Chairman, UCEMC; Allan Moses, Steve Goodman, Dr. Stephen Lubicz, MD

Note: at 6:00 the committee members received instruction in the use of new ipads.

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes of May 3, 2018

Motion Made By: Legislator Woltman

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion:

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Woltman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Chairman Wawro asked Alan Moses, an architect from Brooklyn, NY, Steve Goodman, a former advertising executive who now lives in Rosendale and Dr. Stephen Lubicz, MD from New York City to introduce themselves and invited them to speak to the committee regarding alternatives to the plastic bag ban being discussed in Proposed Local Law 10 (PLL 10)

The speakers recognized the overuse of flimsy plastic bags but sited several studies and reports that indicated they are “greener” than several of the alternatives including paper, cloth and other reusable bags. In addition they shared information regarding the health risk associated with reusable bags that are not properly washed after each use.

They suggested that before the county moves ahead with PLL 10 and an all-out ban of plastic bags they should

- Conduct a litter survey to see what quantity and kinds of plastic bags (from grocery stores or from restaurants) are found in litter

- Consider plastic bag standards that would require a better quality and more durable plastic bag be used that would hold up better for reuse as a garbage bag (60-70% of plastic grocery bags are reused for garbage bags)
- Include an educational component
 - Provide information for cleaning and use of reusable bags
 - Give the consumer an educated choice of plastic and/or paper bags
 - Conduct a pilot (test) project with local grocery stores to test the consumer reaction to better bags
- Curb abuse of free flimsy bags by imposing a minimum 5 cent fee for whatever bag the consumer chooses.
- Conduct a study of ER visits for E.coli, c.diff, norovirus, and other food borne illness before a ban.

Legislator Nolan questioned some of the studies and reports because they lacked peer review. She suggested that other unidentified factors could be responsible for the rise in ER visits for intestinal illness that could be responsible for the uptick in ER visits after the San Francisco plastic bag ban went into effect.

Legislator Bartels also questioned the studies and reminded the committee of information received from Jordan Christensen, Citizens Campaign for the Environment at previous meeting where PLL 10 was developed.

Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 209 - Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Environmental Management Council

Resolution Summary: This resolution will confirm the County Executive’s appointment of Kenneth S. Panza, Woodstock NY, to the Environmental Management Council for the term beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

Motion By: Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Woltman

Discussion: Legislator Greene noted that Mr. Panza has been an active member of the Climate Smart Committee.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 263 - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation (DEC) To Accept Grant Funds Under The 2017 Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle (ZEV) & ZEV Infrastructure Rebate Program – Amending The 2018 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute and agreement and any amendments thereto, with the New York State DEC for a grant totaling \$7,221 to purchase and install a ZEV charging station.

Motion By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Chairman Wawro read and email from Deputy Executive Kenneth Crannell explaining that the county has been aggressively implementing the Green Fleet policy and this additional electric vehicle charging station to be located at the Golden Hill Office Building will facilitate the county's investment in additional plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: To approve Resolution No. 264 - Capital Project #501 – Chodikee Lake Road Sight Distance Improvement – Review And Approval Of The Environmental Review Under The State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA)- Classification Of Project As An Unlisted Action, And Approval Of Negative Declaration

Resolution Summary: This resolution will authorize the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a short form Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) for improvements to Chodikee Lake Road.

Motion By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Woltman

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Wawro, Bartels, Greene and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: To discuss Resolution No. 265 - Requesting That The New York State Assembly And New York State Senate Introduce Legislation Amending New York Public Authorities Law Article 8, Title 13 G, Section 2050-t (3) To Include Recycling Material

Resolution Summary: This resolution would request that NYS give Ulster County the authority to manage recycling materials through an update to the original legislation that enabled Ulster County to create the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

Motion for Discussion By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Woltman

Discussion: Legislator Bartels reminded the committee that the enabling legislation that allowed Ulster County to create the Resource Recovery Agency contained specific language that precluded the UCRRA for embarking of various recycling recovery programs and no other county in the state has this unique restriction.

Legislator Bartels said this language limits the County's options to react to the changing solid waste / recycling markets. Resolution No 278 of December 2012 with this same language was passed by the legislature but never acted upon by the state. She feels that removing this language would give the County greater oversight of recycling.

A discussion ensued in which the committee discussed the history of the enabling legislation; concerns expressed by local municipal leaders that don't want to lose the profits from recycling scrap metal and/or composting; the changing world markets for various recycled materials; the fact that scrap metal and compost are not a regulate recyclables and how to move forward.

Legislator Bartels pointed out that while this change could allow changes in recycling flow it would still require a local law to implement any changes and she did not foresee the legislature taking that next step at the current time.

Legislator Greene suggested adding language to the resolution to reassure local municipalities the legislature did not intend to regulate or introduce flow control over scrap metal or compost.

Legislator Petit saw no problem with the current enabling language and felt this unique language was beneficial.

Legislator Bartels suggested inviting the Town Supervisors and Mayors to a meeting.

Disposition: No Action Taken

New Business

Mr. Haldeman told the committee that the UC EMC supported Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2018 (A Local Law Promoting The Use Of Reusable Bags And Regulating The Use Of Plastic Carryout Bags And Recyclable Paper Carryout Bags.). He does not think he will be able to attend the public hearing on June 19 but expects other members of the EMC to attend to show support.

Old Business

Legislator Greene reported that the Climate Smart Committee's Green Business Ambassador Training went well. She said the County Executive, Department of Environment and Economic Development office joined 12 trainers and 45 participants for this first round of training.

Chairman Wawro asked if there was any other business, hearing none

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Woltman
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 8:24 pm
Respectfully submitted: Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved July 9, 2018