

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes & Transcripts**

DATE & TIME: June 3, 2021; 6:15 PM or immediately following the Public Health & Social Services Committee
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 930 5168 1329
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Legislators Peter Criswell, Laura Petit
ABSENT: Legislators Albert Bruno and Mary Wawro
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Deputy Executive Evelyn Wright; Emily Hauser, Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC); Nick Hvozda, Department of Environment; Charles Landi and Tim DeGraff, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Kelsey Dorado, Retail Council of New York State (RCNYS); Gail Boorstein

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:37 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Motion No. 1: To approve the minutes of May 3, 2021

Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Criswell and Petit
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes approved.

UCRRA Report by Tim Degraff

Mr. DeGraff gave the committee an update on UCRRA events.

Chairwoman Greene said Resolution No. 156 will be taken out of order as the last resolution.

Motion Made By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Criswell and Petit
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Committee entered Executive Session at approximately 7:27 PM**

Executive Session:

Gail Boorstein was interviewed.
The Committee discussed candidates for Recycling Oversight Committee appointments.

Motion to come out of executive session at approximately 8:05

Motion Made By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Criswell and Petit
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Committee came out of Executive Session at approximately 8:16**

Resolution No. 156 - Appointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee

Resolution Summary: This resolution will appoint a representative of the Commercial or Institutional Sector and an At Large member, both to be determined, to the Recycling Oversight Committee

Motion No. 2: To amend Resolution No. 156 as follows:

At-large Members – ~~TBD~~ **Donna Egan, Gardiner/Plattekill**
Commercial or Institutional Sector – ~~TBD~~ **Michael Boms, Hurley**

Motion Made By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: See transcript.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Criswell and Petit
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution amendment approved**

Motion No. **To approve Resolution No. 156 as amended.**
Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Criswell and Petit
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution approved as amended**

New Business

Chairwoman Greene reported steady and robust progress on the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. The committee discussed creating a formal Zero Waste Implementation Committee to oversee the Plan and make ongoing recommendations much like the Recycling Oversight Committee.

There were no major updates for the Champlain Hudson Power Express.

Chairwoman Greene reminded the members about the open seat on the Climate Smart Committee (CSC) for a legislator on either on this committee or the Public Works Committee.

Chairwoman Greene gave an update on CSC plans for a demonstration project at the Ulster County Fair.

Ms. Hauser gave a report for the EMC including efforts to mitigate turbid water released by New York City Department of Environmental Protection into the Hudson River via the Lower Esopus Creek; work on the countywide natural resources inventory and an application for a Hudson River Estuary grant; working with the County Executive's staff on the Green New Deal and Solarize Ulster projects.

The committee discussed Solarize Ulster and Community Choice Aggregation programs; asking various groups and programs to attend future committee meetings:

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator

Motion Seconded By: Legislator

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 8:34 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: July 8, 2021

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Fawn Tantillo 00:10

I apologize, I just started the recording.

Chairwoman Greene 00:13

Okay, thank you. So, you know, we'll need to go into Executive Session, and then come back out and fill in the blanks. So, that's gonna take a little time. And I think we can move quickly through the other two resolutions.

So, with that, I'd like to entertain a motion for discussion of Resolution No. 249: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Fund Environmental Outreach Manager Position – Department Of The Environment.

Legislator Criswell 01:04

I'll make that motion.

Chairwoman Greene 01:09

Second?

Fawn Tantillo 01:09

Resolution as presented, just to be clear.

Chairwoman Greene 01:14

Yes, absolutely. Because there was a minor, and then an important one. Did I hear a second?

Legislator Petit 01:27

Second.

Chairwoman Greene 01:28

Okay. Thank you.

So, just to explain the previous version that was proposed and posted, use the word "compliance officer." And really this position, if you read the resolution—is really more of you know, exactly what it says, an Environmental Outreach Manager or Coordinator.

And I think that in working with businesses, that if someone introduces themselves to a business, at a Chamber meeting, or wherever, and hands them a card that says, "compliance officer," they're not likely to hear back from that business. And I think Amanda LaValle agreed. And so, Deputy Evelyn Wright did what was necessary to check with personnel and budget, and everyone agreed to change the title. So, we do not have to amend it as long as we act upon it "as written." So, does anyone on the committee have any questions? And then I'll ask if anyone else does.

Legislator Petit 03:05

Right. What role do you see this person in? Are they going to be facilitating the Green Business initiative? Is that work more where you see them then taking on say the role that the Recycling Coordinator at the RRA (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency) has?

Chairwoman Greene 03:24

No. This is, you know, the evolution of what was a Green Business Challenge and a Green Business, I think, Leadership Program. But it will be housed in, as previously discussed and budgeted for in 2020, but not because of COVID and, you know, all the pressure to cut budgets last year, it did not appear in the 2021 budget. And in the past, we've offered budget and past budget amendments.

And I want to thank Deputy Wright for taking care of it and getting it back so that we have the staff to work with businesses on—there are so many things that businesses can be doing, particularly around implementing climate solutions and other sustainability programs within their business that will help the environment and save them money.

So, you know, that's—I don't know that it's, as clearly specified in the position description, but I think it is pretty clear between the amendment and the fact that the Department of Environment is actively working with all the departments and is prepared to supervise someone who will work with Ulster County businesses. There are so many incentives that this really can be good for business.

And then after they sort of harvest the savings, low-hanging fruit—an energy retrofit, or a lighting, retrofit, or even help following the Composting Law—some of that help will come from the use UCRRA (Ulster

County Resource Recovery Agency). But you know, to have someone who can actually actively work with county businesses and institutions, and I like, Deputy Wight, or Nick. Nick is a deputy as well, to the Department of Environment, if either one of you could speak to this.

Deputy Executive Wright 06:15

Yeah, Manna, I would second what you said. So, we envision this position, working closely with the Department of Economic Development, as well as Environment. And really doing all of the outreach to businesses about our environmental programs. So, they would be definitely involved in outreach to businesses around the Compost Law and, and food waste opportunities, as well as all the stuff that you just laid out about the broader energy opportunities. So, every time we have, whether it's a law or a policy initiative, they would be the person who's coordinating and doing the business outreach.

Chairwoman Greene 07:01

Great.

Legislator Criswell 07:02

I just had a quick question.

Chairwoman Greene 07:04

Yeah, please.

Legislator Criswell 07:05

How do you plan to get the word out about this job? And especially looking for diverse candidates for this position?

Deputy Executive Wright 07:13

Yeah, so I think I think the department has been really great about posting on, on the major green jobs boards that are out there, we've got a pretty good list of them. And we're certainly open to all of your suggestions. Manna, I know you have an enormous email list, and we'd love to have you use it. But we have, yeah, we want to absolutely cast a wide net here. This is this is a really crucial position, and we want to get the right person in.

Chairwoman Greene 07:42

And there's is a Labor Department—I don't think it's called labor. It's, um, within the county—training. And it might be helpful if once the job is posted, if you could send it to us. And I think we would also like to forward it to the members of the Climate Smart Committee.

Deputy Executive Wright 08:14

Fantastic.

Chairwoman Greene 08:15

That large list, the wider the net we cast, the better the response is likely to be. And then that's the way to get the best candidate.

Legislator Criswell, do you have suggestions, specifically, to address the question of diversity?

Legislator Criswell 08:41

I was just thinking about sending it out to my list at the Center. I'm the ED (Executive Director) of the LGBTQ Center. So, I would get it out in front of that community a bit. And other places I can think about, you know, different networks. So, I'll consider that. Is it a full-time position? Or is it a part time position? Full time? Okay.

Fawn Tantillo 09:02

Yeah. I, I just got the job description today. So, it was entered. It's on the OneDrive with the resolutions. And I believe I entered it on a later email I sent out, just today, though, has the job description attached to it? If you want to go ahead and take a look at that, and you could start to share that even.

Chairwoman Greene 09:24

I believe it is. Evelyn or, Nick, do you recall? I'd have to try and pull it back up.

Fawn Tantillo 09:34

I sent it to the committee members just today.

Chairwoman Greene 09:38

Yeah. So, we'll have to look and see, but it seems to me that it was. Originally, we'd asked for a full-time person to actively work with the businesses, like literally go out and go to the business or at least be on the phone with them three days a week in order to make progress. But I think that they would—there are enough other responsibilities, including, you know, serving as a liaison with Economic Development, and being sure that their staff knows the basics, you have the direct responsibility to work with the businesses and help the businesses.

Anything else?

I was also going to mention that there is now an emerging Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition. That Reverend, Dr. Gregory Simpson is coordinating with Tim Guinea from the Climate Reality Project. So, once we have the advertisement that I expect personnel and the Department of Energy will create and circulate to us, we can then you know, circulated further.

Chairwoman Greene 11:26

Go ahead, please.

Legislator Criswell 11:28

So, I just have to say, because it's on my mind, so this is a full-time position, and it's less than \$30,000 a year. And...

Deputy Executive Wright 11:37

That's for the remainder of 2021.

Legislator Criswell 11:39

Thank you. Okay, that's, that's what I'm seeing in the text. And I was like, how is that even possible? We're asking for somebody with a graduate degree to pay them that amount of money. Okay. Thank you, that clears it up, I feel much better.

Deputy Executive Wright 11:51

We may or may not still have a salary issue. But that's for I think, about five months. Okay.

Legislator Criswell 11:58

All right. Thank you very much.

Chairwoman Greene 12:02

And this is, if I understood that it's an ongoing position, we expect this to stay in the budget.

Deputy Executive Wright 12:10

So, it'll be in the 2022 budget with the full year.

Chairwoman Greene 12:15

Great. Yes. \$55,000 a year, plus benefits,

Legislator Criswell 12:20

I feel much better about promoting it now. Thank you so much.

Chairwoman Greene 12:25

Excellent. Well, is there? I think, you know, this can be an example of how we can help get the word out so that the county gets the best possible candidates, because I know, there are some other possibilities of work that needs to be done. And the last time it was advertised, didn't get much response. This was for a different position. But I think hopefully, by all working together, we'll be able to get the best possible person.

Okay. So, I'd like to call the question.

Chairwoman Greene 13:22

Oh, I did want to allow if anybody else on the call, after the community input. But is there anybody else on the call that would like to speak to this question? All right, hearing none, I will call the question.

Legislator Petit 13:42

We need to see Legislator Petit for this vote, because you don't have a...

Emilie Hauser 13:47

I guess I can't comment because I didn't see the resolution. And I'm wondering if those are available to the public? Or to a member of the Environmental Management Council?

Fawn Tantillo 13:59

All the resolutions are online.

Emilie Hauser 14:02

So, I just have to go there? You don't—I have to actively go to get something and figure out where it is. Okay, I'll do that. I don't have any comments. I just wanted to understand the resolution.

Fawn Tantillo 14:18

Yes, some of our resolutions and backup are so long that we can't actually send them out now. So, we just post them online.

Emilie Hauser 14:24

No problem.

Chairwoman Greene 14:26

And Emily, in that regard, it was actually very easy to find because I wanted to read it, to be sure and that's where I raised the concern about compliance. The one online will still say compliance with the one we pass is the one that, that we received today. And Fawn, would it be easy to share-screen? Do you have it? If it's a lot of trouble, people can go on. I think we, you know, we worked pretty hard in the last 24 hours to correct the one issue that I think would have surfaced as a problem.

Emilie Hauser 15:18

You don't need to share it for me if everyone else is fine. I'm just I didn't know the process.

Chairwoman Greene 15:25

Okay. It's actually if you look up Ulster County Legislature resolutions, it comes up very easily. And just one other thing I wanted to mention. Well, I think if we have no other questions, I'd like to call the vote.

Legislator Criswell 15:51

Aye.

Chairwoman Greene 15:53

Wait, I have to say what we're voting on. Although we did move it for a discussion. We're voting on Resolution Number 249. The Environmental Outreach Manager position for the remainder of 2021. All in favor, please signify by saying aye or raising your hand.

Committee Members 16:24

Aye. Aye. (Legislators Criswell, Petit, Greene)

Chairwoman Greene 16:24

Okay. So, a motion carries.

And then we have one other motion before, I think we're gonna want to do our interview in Executive Session, it will take about 15 minutes, and then we'll come back out when we do have other business under New and Old Business.

Resolution No. 288: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2021, A Local Law Amending Various Provisions Of Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators. And you know...

Legislator Criswell 17:19

I'll move that for discussion.

Chairwoman Greene 17:21

Thank you.

Legislator Petit 17:25

I'll second it.

Chairwoman Greene 17:30

And, you know, I think that this is a reasonable request on behalf of the Department of Environment, given the extensive service that they provided that, not initially, their job description during COVID. And it's, it's really six months of an extension, for the businesses that are generating one ton of food waste a week or more. The businesses that are generating two tons or more have been outreached and are participating. That is already in effect. But as you get to smaller amounts, there are more businesses to do outreach to.

And so, this is a basically an extension, and also a clarification, giving the department more, I would say, jurisdiction over deciding if there's financial hardship or if a waiver needs to be considered—that there was some vagueness in in the previous version. So, those are the two major changes.

And it's been moved for discussion. Do we have any discussion on its proposed amendment to the Composting Law?

Okay, hearing none, I will call for a vote. All in favor of Resolution No. 288, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye.

Committee Members 19:38

Aye. (Legislators Petit, Criswell & Greene)

Chairwoman Greene 19:41

Okay. Any one opposed? Motion carries.

I do want to mention one thing, just because it's so closely tied to this resolution.

Chairwoman Greene 19:57

Yes, Emilie Hauser, please go ahead. You're on mute.

Emilie Hauser 20:10

And the matter of openness, I found one resolution and the other one that I'm coming to gives me to a page that starts in 2014. So, I know I'm smart enough to figure this out. And, but maybe other people that want to attend your meetings are not. So, I'm just asking you to think about a different way that we could get this information to the public. Thank you.

Fawn Tantillo 20:37

Emilie, I'm in the process of emailing it to you right now, because that file's not too big tonight, but I just had to look up your email address. But I will email you tonight's resolutions.

Emilie Hauser 20:51

I don't want to take any more time. I just want to say that I was able to put the link into the chat for the environmental position. I don't need the file. I would like the link. Thank you.

Legislator Criswell 21:04

Chairman, Chairwoman Greene, may I ask? I've never met Emily and I don't know who Emily is. And I would just like to know who you are and who you represent.

Emilie Hauser 21:13

Oh—

Legislator Criswell 21:13

Yeah. Okay. Go ahead. You're back on mute Emilie.

Emilie Hauser 21:24

Okay. Hi. Thank you, Mr. Criswell. My name is Emilie Hauser. I've lived in Kingston since 1984. I am the vice chair of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC), and I put that in my name. So,

I am here to represent the EMC and to and to tell you what we're doing and to report back to the EMC on what you're doing. And usually, Dave Halderman attends.

Legislator Criswell 21:56

Sounds great. Thank you. I just wanted to know who you were; I just wanted to introduce myself. Thank you.

Emilie Hauser 22:03

You're welcome.

Chairwoman Greene 22:05

And I went to, you know, the extent of asking other people, but I knew Emilie so well, that I blanked on asking her to introduce herself. She and I were together for many years at the UCRRA. And she has kindly offered, including Legislator Petit, just as a little background. And she and I, and Legislator Petit, are now actively working on the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. And I'll get back to that. Because I have a very preliminary suggestion to share with everyone and then...

So, at this point, so we don't keep her any longer, I think that the way to do this would be to open the Resolution No. 156.

Fawn Tantillo 23:13

Sorry, I was distracted.

Chairwoman Greene 23:16

What's that?

Fawn Tantillo 23:17

The vote on to 288?

Fawn Tantillo 23:19

Yes. Okay. Sorry about that. It got the thumbs up. Sorry.

Chairwoman Greene 23:23

Yeah, it was unanimous.

Fawn Tantillo 23:27

I expected it. I apologize.

Chairwoman Greene 23:30

For Resolution No. 136. I think we should open and that's appointing members to the Recycling Oversight Committee, I think we should open the resolution for discussion and then go into executive session to do

the interview. And we promise not to take more than 15 minutes. And then any further discussion, that is not subject to executive session, will come out and any decisions will be made in open session. So,

Legislator Petit 24:18

I'll make...

Chairwoman Greene 24:22

Can I hear a motion for purposes of discussion?

Legislator Petit 24:30

I'll make that motion to open up. Resolution is 155 for the purposes of

Fawn Tantillo 24:37

156.

Legislator Petit 24:38

156.

Legislator Criswell 24:39

And I'll second that.

Chairwoman Greene 24:41

Okay. Thank you and you're all welcome to stay in the waiting room. Or, you know, move on. You know, the agenda does have a few other Old Business and New Business that we we'll be discussing. So, if you want to go...

Fawn Tantillo 25:05

I'm going to move some folks into the waiting room and then I will stop the recording.

Deputy Executive Wright 25:09

Manna, can I just ask, I'm sorry, I just, I'd love to let Nick go if we don't need him for the rest of the agenda, if that's all right.

Chairwoman Greene 25:18

And very quick, I'll take a look and just see.

I think the only other thing that I was going to bring up under New Business that he might be interested in and is the fact that the Zero Waste Implementation Plan is being worked on by a volunteer, in a sense Working Group, even though some of us actually receive salary or stipend from Ulster County. But we have volunteered and been working very hard for many months. And we've come up, in educating each other and doing research and trying to create the best Zero Waste Implementation Plan. And everyone should

understand that when we say zero waste, we mean "approaching, zero waste." We're not unreal, realistic, about, you know, being able to divert every bit of the waste stream.

And some questions have come up, that are leading us to want to develop a resolution that formalizes the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. And I don't know whether we'll call it a working group or committee or subcommittee, you know, but I did want you everyone to know that the value is that it's a very collaborative process. That includes the agency, the legislature, the Department of Environment, who are sort of the main people that have any jurisdiction, or responsibility, and also a few very knowledgeable volunteers.

So, you know, that's going to take a month to sort out and refine. It's not for consideration tonight, but I just want to be really transparent, that we've discovered that need and will be coming back to the committee. And welcome input when we have, even a very preliminary draft of a resolution, we'll send it around and take input.

I think the only other thing, the other the other business, I think, Nick is not essential. It's always welcomed, but not essential.

Deputy Executive Wright 28:12

Okay, thanks. I'm gonna wish you all good night then as well.

Chairwoman Greene 28:16

Okay, thank you.

Deputy Executive Wright 28:17

We'll look forward to talking about this stuff some more, when you're ready.

Chairwoman Greene 28:22

Okay.

Nick Hvozda 28:24

Thank you.

Fawn Tantillo 28:27

Hi, Charlie, I'm going to put you in the waiting room. And I believe, Emilie, I have to put you in the waiting room. All right, and I'm going to stop the recording.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Fawn Tantillo 28:48

Ready. We're on.

Legislator Petit 28:49

Here we'll be getting, I don't want to call it piecemeal, but sections of the Zero Waste Implementation Plan that will need to, you know, revise and tweak and get that back to the Environmental Committee. And if you formalize the Zero Waste Implementation Committee, so, that that'll be our next course of action.

And then, of course, if the Resource Recovery Agency has any additions or subtractions, as far as what they want to continue to recycle, they're supposed to come to us for that.

Fawn Tantillo 29:24

Let's come out of executive session, though first.

Legislator Petit 29:26

Oh, we didn't I'm sorry. I thought we did.

Fawn Tantillo 29:29

We didn't make a motion to do it. So...

Legislator Petit 29:31

I'll make motion.

Fawn Tantillo 29:33

Okay, I have a motion and a second from Legislator Criswell.

Chairwoman Greene 29:38

Thank you. Okay, all in favor?

Committee Members 29:43

Aye. (Legislators Petit, Greene and Criswell)

Fawn Tantillo 29:44

Okay.

NOTE 29:47

Motion carries.

Gail Boorstein 29:48

Question. When does it meet?

Fawn Tantillo 29:53

It's not scheduled yet. As soon as it's scheduled, I will let you know.

Gail Boorstein 29:58

Like a regular time?

Legislator Petit 30:01

We were meeting the third Monday of the month. That honestly isn't gonna work for me now, anyway. And I think the Mayor had problems staying beyond a certain time. So, we'll have to put out a Doodle poll and convene it and see what works for everybody.

Legislator Petit 30:20

Alright. Thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 30:24

And also, Fawn, would you include Gail with the correspondences, just as we do with the Climate Smart Committee, we keep people that are interested, informed?

Fawn Tantillo 30:41

Mm hmm.

Chairwoman Greene 30:42

If that's okay, if it's not too much trouble.

Okay. So, going back to Resolution No. 150: Appointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee.

Chairwoman Greene 31:04

Do I hear a motion to amend to fill in the blanks? Legislator, Criswell, you're on mute. There we go.

Legislator Criswell 31:21

Sorry. Do you want me to amend it with specific...

Fawn Tantillo 31:25

Names.

Chairwoman Greene 31:26

I need to have the specific...

Legislator Criswell 31:27

I think Legislator Petit should do that, then. Because she knows this better than I do.

Legislator Petit 31:33

What am I supposed to do? Formulize the TBAs? Okay. So, for this resolution, we would like to put forward the name of Michael Bom to fill the position of institutional private sector. And the name of John Egan to fill the vacant at large position.

Legislator Criswell 32:03

I'll second that motion.

Chairwoman Greene 32:05

Okay, so that's to amend the motion that is on the floor. All in favor of the proposed amendment, please signify by raising your hand or saying aye.

Committee Members 32:20

Aye. (Legislators Greene, Petit and Criswell)

Chairwoman Greene 32:21

And is anyone opposed? Okay, motion carries. And that was the motion to amend. Now. We need to approve the actual resolution as...

Legislator Criswell 32:38

I make the motion that we approve the Resolution 156, as amended.

Legislator Petit 32:47

I'll second it.

Chairwoman Greene 32:49

All right. All in favor?

Committee Members 32:52

Aye. Aye. (Legislators Greene, Petit and Criswell)

Chairwoman Greene 32:54

Okay, no one opposed, motion carries.

Chairwoman Greene 32:58

Let me go back and see if there's other business updates here.

Chairwoman Greene 33:07

In terms of New Business, I just really wanted people to be aware that we're making slow but steady progress. But it has turned out that the mission of developing a really robust Zero Waste Implementation Plan, there are things that I don't think anticipated when they—when the Department of Environment was

working on its Climate Action Plan. It cost them \$7,000 or \$8,000, after they had done all the research and the writing, to make it into a professional document.

And there's a very high level of consensus that for this to work, there should be a countywide waste characterization. So, they're going to be recommendations that will be made even before the document is complete.

And also, just as an aside, are planning to have a preliminary meeting with the UCRRA to be sure we have their input and to raise with them some of the issues where, you know, we feel like we need to talk to them even before we complete the draft.

But the committee is seeking—or committee, I don't know, that's something we should put our heads together and figure out whether it's committee or working group. To me, it seems like the Climate Smart Committee in that the Climate Smart Committee has actual people appointed, and then a very large contingent of people that are in on their towns that are working. But I don't think that would happen. But let's call it for now Zero Waste Implementation Committee.

Legislator Petit 35:37

Do you see it, Manna is a separate county committee, like Climate Smart, because honestly, when I wrote the Zero Waste policy, it was a Climate Smart policy, but it was solid waste put in there and waste diversion rather than [inaudible].

Chairwoman Greene 35:54

So, I think that, that the solid waste, rather the Zero Waste policy, it doesn't list positions, or call for a committee, or subcommittee, but maybe it should be an amendment to that resolution, because we do have a policy.

Legislator Petit 36:18

Yeah, it would probably be easier to pass through.

Fawn Tantillo 36:23

That was set up by resolution, the Recycling Oversight is set up in law. This committee, if you're going to have it as a formal committee, and not just a working group, my impression was once we had the, it was like, when you did the Composting Law, you had a working group working on that. It wasn't anything formal, it was working group. And if you want to formalize Zero Waste Implementation Committee, you would need to do it by resolution at least.

Chairwoman Greene 36:58

Yeah, that's, that's what we felt. And you're right. But it was a good model in terms of bringing together stakeholders, representatives from the department, environment, and UCRRA.

The reason that, you know, where we're really became clear that we need to have some authority is that there are things that we need to budget for, and a volunteer doesn't—it doesn't seem like they are in a position to make those recommendations. I mean, three of us are legit legislators, but also two people from the Department of Environment, and, you know, resolving where these budgetary items should—whose budget they should be in. And there may even be grant funding or whatever.

But I think that the group felt that we would need to have authorization to be making those recommendations. So, maybe Laura, and I can look back at the Zero Waste Policy and figure out, bring that the group and try to create a draft that—I think it's a simple enough request, that it could be implemented in July.

But with budget season coming up, you know, I think people felt that for the time and the expertise that everybody is bringing to this, that there should be some support for the work by the Legislature. And I do think that the Zero Waste policy, you know, whether this is an amendment to that resolution, or derives from, the whereas that it derives from, that resolution. There's, there's a need. So, I just want to be sure that people on the committee, were awarded of that.

And given the time here. Um, the Champlain Hudson Power Express is an issue that—I don't think there's any change that I know of. But it does involve seven counties, or seven municipalities that take their drinking water from the Hudson River and are concerned. Several of those municipalities are concerned about the turbid sediment in in the Lower Esopus. But in the Hudson River where several municipalities do take their drinking water, they're concerned about sediment, resuspension, and so forth.

But I haven't heard any update other than I do know that EPA met. Unfortunately, they met today, and I had a conflict, and discussed the lower Hudson and the PCBs that haven't been remediated in the Lower. And I believe the Champlain Hudson Power Express was on that agenda. So, I'll try to get an update for our next meeting

And then, ongoingly is this open seat on the Climate Smart Committee from the Legislature. So, it has to be somebody in Public Works or Energy and Environment. And so, you know, we'll just keep asking till someone can step up.

Chairwoman Greene 42:13

All right, any...

Legislator Criswell

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I can't do that Manna Jo, I really would love to be on it. But like I said, it's a direct conflict with my board meetings. So...

Chairwoman Greene 42:22

So, yeah, yeah. Yeah. And I think it's hard enough. You know, there's a rhythm to the existing meeting night. And I think it would be hard to change that, although maybe we should ask that question. If it were to change to a night that, that you and I could both be on. Would you?

Legislator Criswell 42:56

I'd honestly have to look. My new job has me so overloaded with meetings. So, I'm not sure I could actually. In spirit I would like to, but in reality—yeah, I don't. So...

Chairwoman Greene 43:10

So, all right, well, then. I'm not sure we should even you know, stir the pot in terms of—we'll just keep going the way we are. We have...

Chairwoman Greene 43:24

Oh, there is one thing I definitely, did I mention when Nick was still on the call about the Ulster County Fair, talk about that?

Fawn Tantillo 43:37

He spoke about it, though, that had that there are—no, the RRA spoke about it. Tim DeGraff said they're going to make some kind of a traveling van to do demonstration project.

Chairwoman Greene 43:49

Yes. Yes, he talked about having van filled with [inaudible] that could work with businesses, you know, houses of worship, and others that did large events, but only did them occasionally. And that as long as they could meet the rigorous standards that the agency maintains.

But Kim Mayer, from the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee—on our agenda has been for well over a year, pre-COVID, to meet with the Ulster County Fair and work with them to be sure that they were modeling sound, waste management practices, and showcasing climate solutions. One of which we're going to try to get the Ulster Solarize Program, that's part of the Green New Deal, to be showcased, have those vendors have a spot at the Ulster County fair, possibly even a Green Living Expo and a collaborative climate education demonstration of some sort. And we'll be talking with the Fair about, you know, how they could this year, on short notice, divert food waste.

Technically, it's, it's a bit of a glitch because they don't operate year-round. In the in that one week, they'll generate more than two tons of food waste. And can they work with the vendors to keep that food way separated in and work with a compost, or compost it on site. So, we want to have that discussion.

And they're, right now, kind of just swimming from last minute approval to move forward with the Fair. So, they have to get the vendors. They may have a list of people that are ready to go, and so forth. So, they have a lot on their plate, but we want to work with them. And we've been in communication with the Department of Environment. And we'll be in communication with the agency and the Ag Society.

And I just mentioned this in case anyone knows or knows how to find out. But the Ag Society claims that they're only responsible for the Fair itself. And yet, the other, you know, there's like Memorial Day and Labor Day arts events and many other events that that happen on the fairgrounds. And we really can't get a clear answer as to who is responsible, particularly for the waste generated beyond Fair. The Fair's board and the Ag Society are responsible for that event.

Legislator Petit 48:01

I know, as far as New Paltz went, they had to hire their own hauler. So, that was put on by the New Paltz Chambers and they hired their own hauler. I believe, that's what all of the outside events have to do. But so, then, I don't know—I mean, it would up to the Town to enforce, but it would be up to the hauler to provide the right containers.

Chairwoman Greene 48:29

And it would also be up to—for somebody to put on an event, they have to sign a contract. And if whoever's signing that contract, there should be language in the contract specifically, about recycling and composting as part of the county's waste management plan.

All right. Any other topics? I think we're—Emilie.

Emilie Hauser 49:05

Yeah. I was told that the reason I would be attending was to report back on the EMC and I specifically asked Dave Haldeman why we weren't on the agenda. And so, I'm, I was I just want to say that I had attempted to report out the Ulster County Environmental Council. The Environmental Management Council is advisory to the county, and we can be—so, do you want me to give to give a report?

Chairwoman Greene 49:46

Yes, please. And we'll make sure that is on the agenda right after UCRRA moving forward. You're absolutely right that, that the EMC is advisory, and it would be good for this committee to hear that report. So, please go ahead.

Emilie Hauser 50:14

Okay, thank you. So, we meet the last the last Wednesday of the month, that can be the fourth or the fifth, there can be five Wednesdays. And we meet and we are appointed by the Legislature. And we are mostly representatives from Conservation Advisory Councils from our communities. But we also have at large members. And we're not really working on anything, collectively, but we do here, but we do make resolutions.

So, one of the things that's upcoming right now, due on June 16, is the resolution to basically ask the DEC to look into alternatives to the mud, that is, the turbid water releases from the Ashokan Reservoir. So, that is something that the EMC sent a letter, a letter to the DEC. The public comment is due June 16. And Ulster

County government, I believe, is working on that also. And every town that is in the EMC that is on the Esopus sent individual letters. So, the town that didn't was the Town of Ulster. The Town of Ulster may have done something but they're not on the EMC, [inaudible].

Emilie Hauser 51:50

And so, I actually wasn't at this last meeting, but our minutes do come out pretty fast, as a draft, and so you can look at them. And that's what I did. As most of the—so, we actually we had a presentation from Evelyn Wright. And one of the actions we took was that the Office of the Department of the Environment is going to be applying to do a countywide Natural Resources Inventory. And they're applying for a Hudson River Estuary grant. And that was due yesterday.

And the important thing about that is EMC, or CAC's job is to do a natural resources inventory. We are—there's a state law that says there can be conservation advisory councils. And one of the things we do is do natural resources inventories and then Open Space Index. So, it's interesting that the county is going to do an overall county Natural Resources inventory.

And we heard a lot about the new the Green New Deal and people are very psyched about the Solarize Ulster. We also heard about a hydro power plan in Saugerties. And also, many of the communities are interested in Community Choice Aggregation and are figuring that out. And I will say that the CACs in many of the communities also take on the job of the Climate Smart. So, they're trying to get Climate Smart—they're doing Climate Smart things like putting in EV stations and doing things like Solarize.

Whereas in the City of Kingston there are two different departments. There are two different committee commissions. I'm on the City of Kingston commission CAC, but I'm not on the Climate Smart. So, I don't actually, except for reading minutes, I don't necessarily know what's going on with Climate Smart, but there's a big overlap on the EMC.

And I would say that overall, the Conservation Advisory Councils do an amazing amount of work on everything from open space and natural resource inventories to Climate Smart. And we do not have representatives from every town in the county.

Again, so the—but what we talked about this last meeting again was natural resource inventory, Solarize Ulster, Saugerties Hydropower Community Choice Aggregation, and the municipal separate storm water sewer system report by the county.

So, thank you for your time.

Chairwoman Greene 55:11

That's an excellent report. If you would consider, and I don't mean to add yet another meeting, but the Climate Smart Committee meetings are generally very well attended. We also don't have representatives from every single municipality. But at one time or another, we've had participation from most of the

municipalities. So, we have an ideally five member appointed board, but it's really very much like the meetings that we used to hold for municipal recycling coordinators, who everybody gets a chance to participate and learn from each other. And I think might be very valuable. The other thing is that Beta Broad and Cal Trumann, who are both on, I believe both on Kingston Climate Smart, are formally on the Climate Smart Committee, which our Legislator Petit, was responsible for forming out of the, what was it? The global warming committee?

Legislator Petit 56:46

Global Warming Committee? Yeah. Yeah. I think that was the one thing I got done in two terms. That was—those were tough four years.

I do have a question about the EMC. But it is not for Emilie Hauser. If it's okay, I direct it more towards Fawn, because we do have a long-time attending representative from the Environmental Board in Esopus, who's coming in, his name's Mark Ellison. And he's never ever been formally appointed. But he doesn't miss a meeting. And it's I feel like it's a chicken in the egg scenario. I mean, the town did send something that they formally appointed him years ago. But I was told it was a County Executive who had to make the appointment.

Legislator Petit 57:36

You're muted. Fawn, I mean,

Legislator Petit 57:41

I will have to look up how those appointments happen. I know we I know. There's many, many towns that are not representative. I believe each town can have a member of their EMC and an at large member. And I believe they have to be recommended by the town.

Legislator Petit 57:56

Okay. Then, then appointment comes from the County Executive.

Fawn Tantillo 58:01

I don't think so. I think it...

Emilie Hauser 58:02

No, the County Legislature votes.

Legislator Petit 58:05

Oh alright.

Emilie Hauser 58:06

Yeah, so I just want to say that Mark Ellison does attend to all the time. And at our April meeting, we didn't actually have a quorum, and we had to go through and figure out who could vote and who couldn't vote.

And, and that's when again, Mark Ellison's situation came up again. And it just sounds like there's some lost paperwork in there. We're also looking for the Gardiner appointments

Fawn Tantillo 58:36

In our Accela program, if you go to the Legislative website, it says, you know, "Join Boards," it is, you know, "Join here" And when you click on that, that's how we found—Gail was in our Accela program.

Gail Boorstein 58:50

I don't know how that got there. I didn't do it myself.

Legislator Petit 58:54

Somebody must have done it for you, Gail.

Fawn Tantillo 58:58

But, but that shows the seats that are formerly, as far as we know, right now. I think that's one of the committees that's pretty much up to date, as far as I know. It's really hard to keep that up to date because people come and go from—especially that's such a huge board. It can, it could have up to 40 some odd members on it.

Chairwoman Greene 59:18

Hrmm.

Legislator Petit 59:19

So,

Emily Hauser 59:20

I only had 13.

Legislator Petit 59:23

So, to make that recommendation again then, do I bring a resolution to Vicky? Because I...

Fawn Tantillo 59:33

It may just be a chairman's, you know, appointment or something. Let me look at...

How it is up—I just I can't remember.

Legislator Petit 59:36

Okay.

Gail Boorstein 59:42

I just have one question to Emilie. But what is, if I may ask, what is community aggregation that you were referring to?

Emilie Hauser 59:52

Ah, that's the one I was worried you were gonna ask me about. That is the one I think it's where...

Fawn Tantillo 1:00:04

Manna can...

Emilie Hauser 1:00:04

Everyone in the community can choose to have their power...

Gail Boorstein 1:00:17

Power-related. Okay.

Emilie Hauser 1:00:19

Yeah, it's energy related so that you can opt in so that you're getting your power from a renewable.

Gail Boorstein 1:00:29

Yeah.

Chairwoman Greene 1:00:30

Let me just make a minor tweak since that's something I spend hours on. Community Choice Aggregation, a municipality becomes essentially purchasing agent for everyone in that municipality. You can opt out. And it— so, it's just a little bit different. So, for example, the Town of Marbletown, everybody in Marbletown uses the vendor that Marbletown works with to purchase their electricity. Except those people that prior to Marbletown, adopting that law—and CCA, joining a CCA is done by law—who already have other vendors that they have agreements with, they are not included. They can break their agreement and join the CCA but generally it's opt-out. And I think there there's one, one or two,

Gail Boorstein 1:01:47

I just didn't know if it was like, what the subject was. I

Emilie Hauser 1:01:50

Yeah, sorry. Yeah. It's, you can look it up.

Multiple speakers 1:01:54

Inaudible.

Emilie Hauser 1:01:54

It was really—it is really interesting.

Gail Boorstein 1:02:00

Okay, no, no, I got it. I know, I do know about it.

Chairwoman Greene 1:02:04

It's very popular in Ulster County. It's a big topic, because it's a change, that instead of buying your electricity from Central Hudson, part of the CCA unless you opt-out, and generally the statistics are that less than 5% of the people opt-out. It's almost always economically favorable. But if you choose 100%renewables typically, that leaves you with bills that are 10% less, but not always.

Gail Boorstein 1:02:50

Okay, thank you. No, no, I just I, I just didn't know. It's a subject—and know that you're talking about it—I've been reading about it.

Chairwoman Greene 1:02:57

Okay, great.

Gail Boorstein 1:02:58

Thank you.

Chairwoman Greene 1:03:01

There is a group, Citizens for Local Power that are working very hard to create an advanced version. And I know, for example, in the Capital District, they were already to sign up, they had passed the laws and ready to go, and there were problems. So, they're trying to now work with Citizens for Local Power. And ultimately, probably, you know, most municipalities will have Community Choice Aggregation.

Chairwoman Greene 1:03:38

But anyway, I'm sorry. It's just a passion—between that and garbage and water, and that's what I get paid for.

Chairwoman Greene 1:03:48

So, anyway, anything else before—and thank you, Emilie, that was a really excellent report and a great update. And I hope that, you know, people can—that this can be a regular component, because these are all issues that are important to Energy and Environment.

Legislator Petit 1:04:16

Committee, Chairwoman, we used to get these reports on saying we this is back in 2000-2003. But Soil and Water would come to us, the EMC would come to us, the Federation of Sportsmen.

Multiple speakers 1:04:35

Yeah. Yeah.

Legislator Petit 1:04:36

Yeah. So, we would periodically get reports from, you know, and if it was a bigger agency, sometimes monthly. But you know, it's kind of nice to hear and be able to ask questions, too. And then that could also set us on the path to some other legislation.

Chairwoman Greene 1:04:53

Yeah, Fawn, I don't know how it changed. And, you know, But maybe that's something we could consider doing, at least inviting. I do remember Soil & Water and Federated Sportsmen. Was there anyone else, Fawn?

Fawn Tantillo 1:05:17

We used to fund the Federated Sportsmen, too which we don't do any longer.

Legislator Petit 1:05:21

Ah, okay. But it would have been nice to have them, you know, when we're bringing up the discussion of lowering the age 12 and 13 years old, I mean, that that might have been something we could have been one of the counties in the forefront on. I don't know who else there was. Soil and Water, was the EMC?

Legislator Criswell 1:05:41

So, guys, it's 8:30. Can I push us to move this along? Sorry, it's 8:30 at night now.

Fawn Tantillo 1:05:49

But I can look up the agencies that we fund and see which ones we, you know, we can have them come in at least once a year.

Chairwoman Greene 1:06:00

Oh, yeah, I was gonna say on and that's the one time we do talk to them is budget time. But maybe particularly—I think EMC should come each time, but the others, maybe on a rotating basis.

Legislator Petit 1:06:22

Once a quarter?

Chairwoman Greene 1:06:23

Yeah. So, let's, let Peter make a motion to adjourn. But let's keep this...

Legislator Criswell 1:06:33

Sorry. I've been on Zoom since eight o'clock this morning and I am bleary-eyed

Chairwoman Greene

Right. I empathize—and sneaking in meetings and other things that would be too much information.

Legislator Criswell 1:06:48

Sorry about that.

Legislator Petit 1:06:49

I just got a text from Al. He wanted to know if he should sign on. Should I tell him that Peter will kill him?

Legislator Criswell 1:06:55

He can sign on but I'm signing off. love you all but...

Gail Boorstein 1:06:59

I'm saying goodbye too. Thank you very much.

Chairwoman Greene 1:07:01

Wait, before you go, we need a motion to adjourn. We can stay on, but we need a motion to adjourn while we have a quorum.

Legislator Criswell 1:07:09

I'll make that motion.

Chairwoman Greene 1:07:16

Okay. And all in favor?

Committee Members 1:07:18

(Legislators Criswell, Greene, and Petit raised hands)

Legislator Criswell 1:07:19

Okay.

Chairwoman Greene 1:07:22

Thank you. Good night.