

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 29, 2021; 6:15 PM or immediately following the Public Health & Social Services Committee
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting Dialing in by (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID:8524 1676611
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo,
PRESENT: Legislators Albert Bruno, Peter Criswell, Laura Petit* and Mary Wawro
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

*Legislator Petit appeared to have trouble with her connection during the meeting.

OTHER ATTENDEES: Deputy County Executive Marc Rider; Nick Hvozda and Michael D’Arcy, Department of the Environment; David Haldeman, UC EMC; Tim DeGraff, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Adam Doan, Ulster County Soil and Water; Hank Gross; Legislator Elect Joseph Maloney.

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:22 PM and to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: To approve the minutes of November 1, 2021 as presented.

Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion: Legislator Bruno noted that he had to leave the November 1st meeting before the discussion of a draft resolution under consideration regarding the prohibition of fossil fuels in any newly constructed county owned buildings. He wanted the record to show he strongly opposes this proposal.

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.

Department of the Environment – Chairman Greene asked Environmental Outreach Manager Michael D’Arcy to introduce himself and give a brief overview of his new role in the Department of the Environment.

Mr. Hvozda discussed progress on the implementation of the Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) – Mr. DeGraff gave an update on the work of the UCRRA that included a recent survey they conducted regarding composting practices. His staff is compiling this information and will share it with the committee.

Mr. DeGraff reported that 8 municipalities have submitted resolutions to the agency opposing the potential siting of a landfill in their jurisdiction. These towns are Rosendale, Ulster, Lloyd, Shawangunk, Esopus, Plattekill Hardenberg and Woodstock.

Chairwoman Greene noted the UCRRA hired a consultant to begin a screening process. She feels most people would want a land fill cited in the most appropriate location and each community needs to be considered equally whether or not they've passed a resolution. She emphasized that siting process would include a discussion of local concerns such as traffic and a fair host community benefit to offset negative impacts.

Legislator Bruno suggested the UCRRA consider alternatives to a landfill such as burn plants.

Legislator Petit was interested in the UCRRA's composting survey and emphasized the need to encourage more public buy-in for composting and other zero waste initiatives.

Chairwoman Greene reminded the committee of an ad hoc committee working on the Zero Waste Implementation Plan that came from the Recycling Oversight Committee. This plan will include a resource innovation center where hard to recycle materials could be repaired for reuse or recycled.

Environmental Management Council (EMC) – Mr. Haldeman had nothing new to report.

Resolutions for December 21, 2021

Resolution No. 551 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 8 Of 2021, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 304, Solid Waste, Article IV, Food Waste Prevention And Recovery, In Relation To Composting

Resolution Summary: This Resolution will adopt Proposed Local Law No. 8 of 2021 and amend the code of the county in relation to food waste composting by larger generators.

Motion No. 2: Motion to approve Res. No. 551
Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion: (See Transcript)

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

Resolution No. 554 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2022 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the 2022 contract with Ulster County Soil & Water and authorizes the Chair to sign that contract.

Motion No. 5: Motion to approve Res. No. 554
Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: (See Transcript)

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

Resolution No. 557 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 9 Of 2021, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 131, Vehicles, County, Article I, Sustainable Green Fleet Policy, In Relation To Strategies And Goals, To Be Held On Tuesday, January 4, 2022 At 6:40 PM

Resolution Summary: This Resolution will set a date and time for a public hearing on Proposed Local Law 9 of 2021.

Motion No. 3: Motion to approve Res. No. 557
Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: (See Transcript)

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

Resolution No. 558 - Requiring That An Environmental Considerations Checklist (“ECC”) Be Completed Prior To The Commencement Of Capital Projects

Resolution Summary: This Resolution will add a requirement to add a checklist of environmental considerations to all capital projects proposals.

Motion No. 4: Motion to approve Res. No. 558
Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: (See Transcript)

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

Resolution No. 568 - Requiring That An Environmental Considerations Checklist (“ECC”) Be Completed Prior To The Commencement Of Capital Projects

Resolution Summary: This Resolution will add a requirement to add a checklist of environmental considerations to all capital projects proposals.

Motion No. 5: Motion to approve Res. No. 568
Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: (See Transcript)

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

Old Business

Chairwoman Greene briefly mentioned two draft resolutions she is considering but the committee did not discuss them.

- Establishing A Policy Requiring That A Climate Impact Assessment Be Performed Prior To The Commencement Of Development Projects Funded By The American Rescue Plan Act.
- Establishing A Policy Prohibiting The Installation Of Systems That Utilize The Combustion Of Fossil Fuels In All Newly Constructed County Owned Buildings

Climate Smart

Chairwoman Greene said 15 municipalities in the region are currently working on Solar Mapping

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 7: 28 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: February 3, 2022

Energy & Environment Committee Meeting Transcript

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LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo,

PRESENT: Legislators Albert Bruno, Peter Criswell, Laura Petit* and Mary Wawro

ABSENT: None

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

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OTHER ATTENDEES: Deputy County Executive Marc Rider; Nick Hvozda and Michael D'Arcy, Department of the Environment; David Haldeman, UC EMC; Tim DeGraff, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Adam Doan, Ulster County Soil and Water; Hank Gross; Legislator Elect Joseph Maloney.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay, okay, I would like to call let me just pull up the Agenda. Sorry. Resolutions. I didn't hear a moment ago There we go. Okay. Um, I would like to call the November 29. Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature, Energy and Environment Committee to order. And let's see, I guess. Just going in order. Would the clerk kindly Call the roll?

Fawn Tantillo

Yes. Manna Jo Greene.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Present.

Fawn Tantillo

Mary Wawro. Not yet. Al Bruno

Legislator Albert Bruno

Here.

Fawn Tantillo

Peter Criswell.

Legislator Peter Criswell

Here.

Fawn Tantillo

And Laura Petite. Not yet. So you have a quorum of three.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay, very good. The meeting has been called to order. And let's begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. And 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. Oh, okay. And I think I welcomed everyone. I'd like to start by welcoming Mike D'Arcy. Mike is the new. Let's see if I get the title, right. I know it's got management. I'm gonna let you do this.

Michael D'Arcy

Okay, hi, everybody. So I'm Mike D'Arcy. I am now the Environmental Outreach Manager for the Ulster County Department of the Environment. I also work in the Office of Economic Development when I have a different hat on. Some of you know me from my previous work as a NYSERDA contractor working at RUPCO, where I did energy efficiency residential work for about six or seven years. So my goal with the Department of the Environment is to promote and inform the large generators of food scraps like the things you see behind me about the the our act, our Recovery and Food Waste Act, as well as redesign and relaunch the Ulster County Green Business Challenge. So I'm here to answer any questions that you have. Talk to you about what my plans are for both programs moving forward. And and hopefully you get to know me a little bit better than, you know, a zoom screen, meet in person one day.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Mike, if I could just ask you to clarify. It sounds like you have jobs in two different departments is are they part time or just? You mentioned economic development.

Michael D'Arcy

I'm splitting my office time between two because really, the Green Business Challenge has a lot to do with the green economic development within the county. And that's going to be a very big aspect related to finding funding for these projects, and the development of future projects as well as supporting current businesses.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Great, great. That makes a lot of sense. Anybody have any questions for Mike?

Legislator Criswell

Yes, I have a question.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead.

Legislator Criswell

Hi. Welcome. Welcome. And congratulations on your new position. As you know, the county's been in the process of getting a lot of money for for the ARPA funding and one of the things that we've done is we've looked at different buckets of ways that we're using that money. And one of the buckets that I'm charged with looking at is food security. And so I'm really interested in some point in connecting with you about food security. and specifically the law that you just talked about with waste and how we can divert some of that waste into into food security programs. So just curious if you off the top your head had any, I didn't mean to put you on the spot. But if you had any thoughts about it would be interesting.

Michael D'Arcy

Well, Peter, first of all, it's great to meet you. I really do appreciate the excellent question. I have learned a great deal about food waste. In my short time that I've been in this position, I can tell you that we have a large amounts of large generators of food scraps, who are diverting their food scraps to local food banks through Hudson Valley Food Bank, as well as everywhere else they can find, including, on some cases, diverting that food scraps to our local farms. So we do have a large number of them. If you look at what we're using, through this act, we're looking at the food hierarchy, right. So the first steps of those food hierarchy is to reduce the amount of food that we're wasting at the source. The next one down is to donate that food. The next one below that is to donate the food for animal feed. My goal is to inform the public of what those options are locally for generators that aren't doing that currently. But I can I can tell you with with absolute certainty, there are a lot of generators and some of the largest ones are already donating their food scraps to our local food banks and food pantries.

Legislator Peter Criswell

Thank you so much for that answer. That's really great. I'm so glad that you're so focused on it already. Thank you and I look forward to working with you on it.

Michael D'Arcy

Sounds good, Peter. Thank you.

Zoom Program Voice

Recording.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Hi, Laura.

Fawn Tantillo

Thank you. I was having trouble. Mary Waro and Laura Petite are with us now, too. So you have all five members.

Legislator Albert Bruno

And Manna's leaving...Manda we can't hear you. You're muted.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Oh, I know. When I hit the pick the video button I accidentally must have hit the mute button. Thank you. Um, I believe there is an organization that also focuses entirely on food reuse, primarily by food

pantries, but also by agriculture. So, if you're not yet in touch with them, I'll be glad. And they specializes in this area. So um, I, I think there's a lot to be done in that regard. And I also think you'll find that many of the large generators are already composting before the law goes into effect. In Ulster County. There's some wonderful examples ranging from Mohonk to Frost Valley, who are composting on site to SUNY New Paltz, that is working with a hauler who ends up bringing it to a composting processing facility and Hannaford that is already doing anaerobic digestion. So, although our law is a strong law, I don't think it will be that difficult to enforce because you're not starting. We're not starting from scratch.

Michael D'Arcy

Yeah, Manna, I couldn't agree with you more. I have, I have had the pleasure of visiting many of the places that you listed excluding Mohonk, but I have gone out to frost Valley and met with their staff and toured their composting, and we just were in New Paltz last week to review what they're doing and had a very strong meeting before then with community composting in New Paltz, and just went over what their facility does and services that they provide schools like New Paltz and organizations. I have to be honest with you, I was so pleasantly surprised to see how many organizations have already taken the steps forward. One of my goals will be through this act is to take that education about the benefits of composting and reuse and recovery and trickle that down into the homes. So I really want that to be our starting point our large generators, and I want everybody in their leadership to teach their staff and their staff to teach their families and have it sort of go down the pike in the reverse way that it normally does, where we start at home and then we bring it to our companies. So it's gonna work in the reverse, but it's definitely gonna work.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Yep.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Any other questions from Mike, we'll go to Nick in a minute. But I also want to go back to the minutes before I forget. Legislator Bruno, please.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Yeah. Real quick question to Michael. Um, and I know it's probably a redundant question, but have you spoken to the local farmers and specifically, hog farmers who utilize us like I grew up on a pig farm and we used to travel to restaurant to restaurant, picking up doing just what we're trying to advocate for now as feed. And I'm just curious if you have network at all with local farmers for that.

Michael D'Arcy

I have. The Rondout Valley Growers Association, I've been in touch with them. That's one of the first, you know, I'm trying to take this from the top down, again, using the hierarchy as what my priorities are food reduction at source, food donation to food banks to feed our local, our local people. As county legislator, you know, we have a lot of need in this county for that. And then the next step down is using it for livestock feed. Now the problem with that is that back in the day, I grew up on Kelders Farm on 209. Right, so So back back then it was called My Joy Farm. When I was in Rondout Middle School, it's called My Joy Farm, right? So. So, the problem with doing that now is that there's a lot of regulations

around the donation of food scraps to for use in animal feed, Sometimes it has to be cooked to a certain degree to get rid of any pathogens or anything that happens within us. So I've learned a lot as far as that goes. But um, I am definitely pursuing that as an option, and doing my best to network value out of it.

Legislator Albert Bruno

The reason I asked that is there's a lot of large I mean, huge livestock farms, whether it be hog production, which is the primary focus for let's face it for food waste. Yeah. There's there's a lot of big farms up in northern Ulster County and into maybe even Greene County. I know it's crossing the county lines.

Michael D'Arcy

Yeah. You're not wrong, Legislator Bruno. And we just have to be attentive to, to what the state regulations revolving around that are. And at some point, I'll reach out to the entity that regulates that maintains that law and enforces it and I'll get more information on what we can do to support it.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Which awesome endeavor, I think it'll work for everybody. Great.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. I also recommend speaking directly with Legislator Litts. I've had many comments as well. And, um, are, are we good? Any other questions? For Mike D'Arcy? Okay, then I'm at this point, just so that I don't forget later on in the agenda, to ask if folks have had a chance to look at the minutes and I would entertain a motion for the minutes of the last meeting. And I'm looking at all of you and not directly at the agenda. So, Fawn, can you just say the date for me?

Fawn Tantillo

It's November 1st.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

For the meeting on November 1st.

Legislator Peter Criswell

I'll move that now.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Well, shefroze up. So I don't know if it's possible. But I read the minutes. And there was a specific resolution regarding the mandate of Ulster County to demand all new projects being non fossil fuel. I had to leave the meeting, and I apologize for that. But I was... the meeting ran late and I had other meetings that I had to attend. I would like to publicly come out in opposition of that resolution. Just to make it clear,

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

And I believe it's on tonight's agenda as well. Okay. chance to just

Legislator Albert Bruno

That was brought up at the meeting in the minutes, and I wanted to make sure that that that was brought out.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay, um, Madam Clerk, are you... can you make that modification to be sure that that statement is included?

Fawn Tantillo

I can certainly put a note in there.

Legislator Peter Criswell

Can I say this, Fawn? Are we allowed to do that? Actually, I don't think you can change the minutes of the meeting after the fact. I think the minutes are the minutes.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Right. The minuters are the minutes. I just wanted, I just wanted to make it because this is recorded that I wanted to come out personally.

Legislator Peter Criswell

I understand all that. That's all, Legislator Bruno, I understand what you're saying. But I don't think that you can go back and put something that didn't actually happen in the minutes.

Legislator Albert Bruno

And that's why I put it actually a question because I wasn't sure how that worked. But I had to leave a meeting because I had other meetings so I couldn't be in three places at once.

Fawn Tantillo

It will certainly be a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Legislator Albert Bruno

That's for sure.

Fawn Tantillo

I believe, I believe was I believe you discussed it at the October meeting. And it was very clear at the October meeting that you had concerns also. And that's in the transcripts.

Legislator Peter Criswell

I totally understand. I totally understand the intent. I just think legally, you can't change minutes at something that was actually in there. So..

Legislator Albert Bruno

Thank you, Peter.

Legislator Peter Criswell

You're welcome.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

All right. I was gonna ask if we could adopt the minutes as amended, but it sounds like we will not specifically amended in November. It was documented in October and will come up again this evening.

Fawn Tantillo

We don't have a second yet. Madam Chair. Yes. So , Legislator Criswell moved it out. And Legislator Wawro, did you just second?

Legislator Laura Petit

I can second it.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

I think Legislator Wawro did second by hand, by show, by raising her hand. Um, so with that, just all in favor of adopting the minutes of November 1, please signify by raising your hand and or saying "aye". Okay. Does anyone is anyone opposed? All right, motion carries minutes are adopted. And with that, I'd like to ask, let's see, Deputy Director, Nick Hvozda wanted to address the resolution to amend the food waste reduction and diversion law. And I may not be saying that exactly correct. But I, I will when it's time to vote on that resolution. But I did want to give Nick a chance to speak to everybody.

Nick Hvozda

I don't have much prepared on on discussing the the amendment to the food waste Act. The memo that our department sent on back in September contains our recommendations about about amending the law, particularly around whether or not the exemption should be removed for for generators of food scraps greater than two tons per week that are currently regulated under the state law. Our opinion is that the the problem is an accounting problem with the DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) and that we've been engaging with the DEC to help them determine the numbers correctly for what the food scraps processing capability is within the county. So that those generators who are regulated and required only to donate the food scraps will also be required to recycle the food scraps. And that's a process that will take a little bit of time. But that engagement has started. And we're assisting with feeding information to the state around which generators within the county are already diverting their food waste. At that two ton per week level. That's my only comment there. The other the other item I'd like to discuss is a last month's meeting, the committee requested more information about the environmental considerations checklist. And I have a an overview I can give that's still still desired at this time.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

I believe that will also come up later in the agenda because they're a resolution. So if you don't mind holding off on that.

Nick Hvozda

Absolutely.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And I don't sponsor here but we can discuss the resolution anyway. Um, in terms of the recommendation of working with the DEC. I strongly agree that the department should work with the DEC because I think that the DEC has done a disservice By creating a capacity threshold to which the facilities are not necessarily responding accurately, and there needs to be more work done in that regard. One of my main reasons for wanting to remove the offending language, which in my opinion is I'm turning over the regulation on the larger generators to the DEC. There was a very good reason why that was suggested. But at that time, we didn't know what the implications would be. But it would not only exempt, I think it's something like 28 out of 35, large generators and overtime that might or might not be corrected. But it also means that health care facilities and, and schools or universities would also be exempted because the state exempts them. I don't know for sure how many facilities health care and schools and universities would be affected. But I do know that for example, Ellenville hospital which may not generate more than two tons a week, I haven't checked that, but they are already composting. SUNY New Paltz is already composting. So if there are similar facilities, I don't think we should have two different standards within Ulster County. We have home rule. I believe all of the attorneys that is the legislative attorney, and if I'm not mistaken, the county attorney have considered preemption and are okay with the language in the amendment. I'm not sure if I'm being clear. But if anybody has any questions or other considerations, please raise them now. I think Dave Halderman Do you have your hand up?

David Haldeman

I did not. Thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

I don't know if we can lower it or, but anyway, um, does anybody else have any questions or comments? All right, and again, we're gonna get to that. Because we have have, we have to act on it. But it's on our agenda to act upon tonight. Before we go to the resolutions, so that he doesn't have to stay for the whole meeting unless he wishes to. I'd like to ask Tim DeGraff, if he has any updates for this committee, from the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

Tim DeGraff

Everybody, I don't have anything substantial to update you on since the last meeting. But I do have a couple of updates on items that I spoke about last meeting. Last week before Thanksgiving, we did receive back some of the composting surveys that we had sent out to the town transfer stations once and Angie is working on putting them all together because there was burying degrees of responses, which is I'm glad that we were, you know, engaged by some of the public, but sorting through all that stuff and not necessarily ignoring but getting...using the ones that are of much more use to us than saying somebody some of the nasty comments were received for maybe ideological reasons or what

have you. I'm weeding them out because it's those won't necessarily help us. But we just want to be able to summarize everything and when we have that we'll pass that along to you guys. Because I think that's, I think I think it was a very, very good activity and process that we went To hear those responses from, really, you know, your constituents really. So when that summarize, I will pass that along. The other item I want to update you on since the last meeting is and I think you guys get these resolutions as well. But we've we're up to eight resolutions from towns that are against the landfill. It's, I don't think it's a surprise to anybody. It's something that we'll have to deal with no matter what we decide to do or what direction we go. But I thought you guys should at least know who the towns were. In case you didn't get it in case you didn't get that passed to you through the legislature itself. And those towns are Rosendale. Ulster, Lloyd, Shawangunk, Esopus, Plattekill, Hardenberg. And today, I received the town of Woodstock. So if anyone has any questions, let me know.

Legislator Peter Criswell

Has anyone said, "Yes, we'd love to have a landfill in our town."

Tim DeGraff

Not yet.

Legislator Peter Criswell

Got it, thanks, Tim.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

The agency is going through a process using a consultant and I think it's a very sound. Our initial screening process, you know, there's going to have to be a lot of work done. And I think... I don't wanna speak for for others, but I would venture to say that most of us want to see the landfill cited in the most appropriate location. So, you know, the town's can say, essentially, we don't want it here. And it's going to mean more traffic and whatever else they are saying, but having carefully watched the initial landfill sighting process that led to no landfill, and what is it \$8 million a year. Fuel being...it's not just the fossil fuel. It's also the driver and, you know, the truck and everything, but a lot of fossil fuel being burned to transport our waste across the state. I think what we really need is the most appropriate evidence based siting process that includes very fair host community benefit, that would offset negative impacts. And we'll see how that goes through. I'm their representative in Rosendale. I haven't had a chance to speak with the town board about that. But. I do think that each of the municipalities, you know, needs to be considered equally whether or not they've passed a resolution the same that may. Go ahead,
Legislator Bruno

Legislator Albert Bruno

Yeah, I like to, I'm sorry, Chairman Manna. But I think we need to look at a lot of different alternatives besides just a landfill. There's a lot of energy producing plants that could be built in lieu of a landfill, whether it be burned plants that can be used to generate power, or steam or whatever use we want to use it. But there's a lot of alternatives that should still be looked at, besides just a hole in the ground that we're putting our garbage in. I think we need to look at all the alternatives, not just the landfill.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please, Legislator Petit.

Legislator Laura Petit

Thank you. I was just gonna go back to, if I could see the previous report. You know, since we are looking at possibly citing landfills, and we want to cut back on our waste as much as we can, um, the questionnaires you sent out and, you know, surveys from the public are really the best way to figure out what the public's looking for and get their buy in. Were they questions or opinion or do people just forego the questions and decide to write nasty grams on there? I mean,

Tim DeGraff

No, it was, it was it was basically three questions, you know, kind of, and I can, I might as well just forward it along to the office tomorrow. Thank you. Yeah, Angie had put it together and it was basically, you know, did you compost already? Would you be interested in composting at this transfer station? Are you aware of the savings that would be involved?

Legislator Larua Petit

Oh, perfect.

Tim DeGraff

Yeah. But I'll forward that along to you. But like I said before, I think some people are just gonna, from an ideology standpoint, they're just gonna greet something like that a certain way, just the way it is. But the exercise I still think was excellent. I thought it went out very well, when it went off very well.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Any other comments on the UCRRA report? One thing I'd like to stress is that we have an ad hoc working group that has an agency board member participating and three legislators and three others who have considerable expertise in solid waste management. And we are focusing on developing a zero waste implementation plan that would maximize the waste diversion. Not that the agency is not already doing significant waste diversion. But in the local solid waste management plan, there was a sense that, although a lot of suggestions for additional waste diversion are embodied in that document, there was not the same level of implementation planning. So we know that this year, the agency, according to the local Solid Waste Plan, is I think it may have actually been last year, but we had COVID, to deal with and so forth. But to actually do a landfill feasibility study. And there are other very specific actions that the agency will be undertaking according to the local Solid Waste Plan, but and on a very specific timeline. But that was not the case for the waste diversion strategies and their additional waste diversion strategies that other communities are using. And so we're hoping to update the Zero Waste Plan that came out of the Recycling Oversight Committee to create a companion document for waste diversion. And every two years, the plan is up for review by the agency. And then they would interact again, with the saying we'd like to have it ready, and it may, it will include reference to but there's yet one more layer. And that is in the capital improvement plan. There is a line in that plan to do a feasibility study for a resource Innovation Center. That was essentially John Wackman's vision, where hard to recycle materials could either be repaired for reuse, or recycled, even if that meant taking them apart to the point of getting it down to the recyclable materials, and everything in between and a very excellent two page document that covered a lot of information was presented to the zero waste

implementation planning group. And we have that available. And there's quite a lot of interest in working on that. So, right now, it's just a line in the capital improvement plan. But I'm hoping it's something that together we will actively work on. And for \$75,000 You know, it sounds like a lot of money, but this kind of project would you involve a lot of research, where would be the most ideal site for facility? What parts of that waste diversion could be done by existing facilities, and so forth. And we're hoping ultimately, that Ulster County can become a model of sound solid waste management for the entire mid Hudson region, and Emily Hauser who work for the agency, and what should the DEC is the facilitator for what they call the materials management group of the seven county sustainability coalition. So it potentially could all link up so that we didn't have to have a mattress repurposing facility in all seven counties, maybe a county would take that, and another county would take on another material. And altogether, we couldn't really, I don't think we'll ever achieve zero waste. But we'll be able to divert so much waste. But if we do cite a landfill, it can be seen as an asset that we want to protect and make last as long as possible. So excuse my soapbox, but it's something I'm passionate about. And I know that, that others on this on this in this meeting, share that desire to really divert waste, create jobs and move us toward a circular economy. So anything else on that?

Legislator Peter Criswell

I just had a quick question, Chairman. Has the idea of I remember a couple years ago reading about the possibility of a joint venture between several counties for a landfill. Is that totally off the table at this point? Or is there still conversation about that?

Tim DeGraff

Are you speaking about the GUS the Green, Ulster, Sullivan concept?

Legislator Peter Criswell

Correct? Exactly.

Tim DeGraff

Yeah, that had fallen by the wayside. We did the feasibility studies, everything was a goal. But you know, elections happen. Politicians came and went, and that never ended up getting off the ground. As far as the deal more specific details on that Tim Rose was the executive director at the time. And Fred why Nola, who was the chair were the two who were the most involved in trying to make that happen. So I would have to touch base with that to get any more specific details as to why. But I know main point was, for instance, a chair of Greene County's legislature. He left I don't know if he resigned or didn't run for reelection, but he was one of the people that was you know, helping to push it along. And then all of a sudden, he wasn't there. So

Legislator Peter Criswell

It would just be interesting to look and see if that was worth dusting off again, and seeing if there's, you know, any, any merit to looking at that possibility,

Tim DeGraff

But certainly worth it to keep in mind. Sure.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Anything else? All right. Um, let's see. I'm going to be pulling up the agenda with the resolutions, but I'm Dave Haldeman. Is there anything you want to share from the EMC while I while I grab that,

David Haldeman

I have nothing at this time.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay. All right. Um so the first resolution is resolution number 551 adopting the proposed local law number eight, a local law amending the code of the county of Ulster solid waste article 4...

Legislator Albert Bruno

I'll move it for discussion.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Food waste prevention and recovery in relation to composting. We've already had some discussion there a second.

Legislator Mary Wawro

Second.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Thank you. All right. Um, any further discussion? We heard from Nick Hvozda And you heard my reasons for wanting to move forward.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Call, call the roll.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

All right. All in favor of the proposed amendment to that solid waste law. Anyone opposed. It appears? Let's see, we did see all the legislators. Okay. So hearing no opposition, the proposed amendment, for which there has been a public hearing passes and will be considered by the full legislature. Alright, and let's see, next is resolution number 554, authorizing the chair of the county legislature to enter into an agreement with Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District for the 2022 appropriation. And I believe did I see that? Yes. Um, Ulster County Soil and Water district. Um, can, can you? Wait,

Legislator Peter Criswell

I'll move that for discussion.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay, thank you.

Legislator Criswell

Legislator Greene, if I may just say quickly to this. So this was an amendment that I put in to the process of sort of larger appropriation for legislative programs dollars, we've decided to pull out soil and water and Cornell Cooperative and Libraries and Mark, correct. I'm correct on this, right. This is yes. And so. So basically, what it did was just pull it out, bring it to committee, so that it could be considered. So hopefully, these organizations would have this solidified for their 2022 budget. I just wanted to give a little background on that.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Great, thank you.

Legislator Peter Criswell

You're welcome.

Fawn Tantillo

And I believe Adam Doan is on the is on the call.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Adam, Can you weigh in?

Adam Doan

Sorry, what was that?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Um, would you like to weigh in on on resolution?

Adam Doan

Oh, yeah. And I know, we just met back at the October meeting. So I just wanted to be here in case anybody had any questions. But I do appreciate the committee taking it up and Legislator Criswell sponsoring it. It's a restoration of the funding to our pre COVID level, certainly important for us in terms of day to day operations and whatnot. So I do appreciate the opportunity to maybe get back to that pre COVID funding.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Great. Any other please go ahead.

Legislator Laura Petit

I do have some questions. I've been noticing over the last couple of years, there's been some duplication of services between Ulster County Soil and Water and Cornell, like with the slope stabilization and or bank stabilizations. Is that Is that something that's going to continue? Or? I mean, do you work together using the same budget if it's a similar project?

Adam Doan

Sorry. It really depends on where in the county we are, when we're talking the Ashokan watershed, then it's a combination of New York City funding that we get along with Cornell Cooperative Extension

of Ulster County, who's our partner in the Ashokan stream program. If we're outside of the the Ashokan watershed, then it's more of a district, soil and water district, responsibility dealing with things like bank erosion and whatnot. That said, we coordinate very closely with Cornell, I speak with Jared, the Executive Director, on a pretty regular basis so that we're kind of working collaborate collaboratively as opposed to duplicating. Hope that answered the question.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Any other comments or questions? Okay, hearing none, I will call the question all in favor of just say correctly. Go ahead. Okay. Um, resolution number 554 for Soil and Water or appropriations, please signify by raising your Hand and or saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Fawn Tantillo

Laura.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Is any...

Fawn Tantillo

I don't see Laura.

Legislator Albert Bruno

No one sees Laura.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay,

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Laura, can you um,

Fawn Tantillo

I can record this is a four to zero without her if she stepped away.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Got it. Okay. So I'm hearing no negative votes. The resolution passes four to zero. And we will move on.

Adam Doan

If that's all. I appreciate that. Have a good evening.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, Adam.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Take care, Adam.

Adam Doan

Talk soon.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay, resolution number 557 - Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number nine, a local law amending the code of Ulster County, chapter 131. For vehicles... the sustainable Green Fleet policy in relation to strategies and goals to be held on January 4, 2022. Does anyone want to move that?

Legislator Peter Criswell

I'll move that.

Legislator Albert Bruno

I'll second.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay, um

Legislator Albert Bruno

Call the roll.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Oh, wait. I'm Peter. Was that

Legislator Peter Criswell

All it all I was gonna say is this is for a public hearing. I'm always for public hearings.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Exactly. I'd like to call the roll.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Yes, you're you're welcome to do so. All in favor,

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Opposed? Okay. Mary, that was an in favor. Yes. Okay. All right. Thank you. And That resolution passes. And now we're up to

Legislator Albert Bruno

558. I'd like to, I'd like to make the motion that we have a brief discussion

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

On environmental consideration checklist. Okay. And I think we already have an environmental checklist in use. And the main purpose of this resolution is to ensure that the information garnered is included when a resolution goes to Public Works and capital projects and ultimately, to the legislature, I think, if I understand it correctly. Um, so is there any Go ahead, Legislator Criswell, please.

Legislator Peter Criswell

Yeah, I just want to say I'm very much in favor of resolution, I think, you know, having a solid checklist that we're looking at for every project that we're doing can only be a positive thing. You know, it's not, it's not like it's locking certain things in. But it's it's having a very clear set of guidelines when looking at projects. And we've been talking about this and talking about this. So I'm really happy that this has come before us at this point.

Fawn Tantillo

It was moved by Legislator Bruno, I didn't hear the second.

Legislator Peter Criswell

I second it.

Fawn Tantillo

Sorry.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Legislative, Bruno, your comment?

Legislator Albert Bruno

And I want to echo Legislator Criswell because well, we have what's called a timeout at the hospital when you're working with a patient. And this is exactly what this is. It's like, we need to actually look at everything before we move forward. And I support this thing. 100%

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And any comments from the executive branch, are you okay? Basically ...Legislator Petite is back? I don't know if she can turn her video on and unmute. And we will call the question. Okay, all in favor of I can't see the resolution number...

Fawn Tantillo

558.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

558. Please raise your hand.

Committee Members

Aye, aye. Aye.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Motion carries unanimously. And I want to say that I'm several years ago, I would say it was probably three years ago because it was when a time Legislator Nolan was on Public Works with myself and Legislator Litts and others and we had asked for something like this, and the Department of Environment, very carefully went through all of the essentially sustainability resolutions that have been passed by this legislature over the past. Well, went through the whole list, and, and meet and creating the checklist for, you know, purchasing and public works and all the departments that are involved in bringing forward proposals to us, and it's been in use successfully. And the only thing was that unless we asked ahead of time, we didn't get to see the results. But I think this is a good way to connect the good work departments are doing with the legislative process, the committee process and, and, and then the full legislature. So good work. And I think we have one last resolution. Resolution number 568, authorizing the legislature to enter into an inter municipal agreement with New York City DEC. For completion of an Ulster County natural resource inventory, and cloud based mapping portal, grant project, amending the 2022 capital budget. Do I hear a motion?

Legislator Peter Criswell

I'll move that.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Second.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Great. Any discussion? All right, hearing none. All in favor of resolution 568. Please raise your hand signify by saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye,

Fawn Tantillo

Legislator Petite, can you join us?

Legislator Albert Bruno

We have you have a quorum. So we so we had enough - enough said hi. And let's go or we'll be here all night.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

It's been a long day.

Legislator Albert Bruno

Yeah. Keep in mind with with all due respect, Chairman, all of us have worked all day long.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Yes. Okay. Let's see. We have a couple of quick items. of old business. I think we've really talked about the Food Waste Recovery Act. Guidelines. Fawn, am I forgetting something? From old business here?

Fawn Tantillo

No, that was that those guidelines were sent to you. And they are also attached. You know, they're there on the cloud file. If anyone wants to review them.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And I think right now we can pass on the resolutions under discussion. I have nothing to add on the resolution. I was sponsor.

Legislator Albert Bruno

In motion. we adjourn Chairman.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Okay.

Legislator Peter Criswell

Oh, you're chompint at the bit tonight. (laughter)

Legislator Albert Bruno

All day.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

I would like to say just one quick thing on the climate smart and then we absolutely will. Okay, this is my thing. Um, I do want to say that the solar mapping project is going extremely well. We have 15 municipalities from the region that are taking seriously the best way to cite solar and other renewables and also storage in within their municipalities and they are going to actively be part of the climate solution. That is solutions that are mandated by New York State climate act and Legislator Bruno, Saugerties is taking leadership in this regard. So I want to acknowledge that and thank them for the good work that they're doing. And I believe City of Kingston, Rosendale, Marletown and several others are part of this project, which will be ongoing. So if your municipality is not yet participating, let's see if we can get them to in 2022. That's, I promise. I heard a motion to adjourn and a second. All in favor,

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Aye, by saying aye. or raise raised.

Legislator Peter Criswell

And Chairman Greene. Thank you for your leadership in this arena.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Oh, my great pleasure.

Legislator Mary Wawro

And I just quickly want to say this is my last meeting and I thank you. We've worked together for 10 years, and I'll miss all of you. Thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, Mary, likewise. Well, and and thank you all for attending. Thank you.