

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 5, 2019; 6:00 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Lynn Eckert, Jonathan Heppner and Mary Wawro (arrived 6:30)
ABSENT: Brian Woltman
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Kathy Nolan; Dutchess County Legislator Rebecca Edwards; Legislative Counsel David Gordon; Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Ulster County Department of Environment; Adam Doan, Acting Director, Ulster County Soil & Water; Tim Rose, Executive Director, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); David Haldeman Ulster County Environment Management Council (EMC)

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

Motion No. 1 To Approve the Minutes September 5, 2019

Motion Made By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: None

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

Ulster County Soil and Water

Mr. Doan introduced himself and shared a brief overview of his background in natural resource management and working with UC S&W since 2009. His focus with UC S&W has been in the Ashokan watershed.

Mr. Doan described partnerships UC S&W has with Ulster County Department of Environment, the Department of Agriculture, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Cornell Cooperative Extension and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP).

Mr. Doan gave a brief overview of S&W's budget sources and said approximately 1/3 of their funding is from Ulster County. They receive additional support from New York State and NYSDEP and generate some revenue from their annual sale of fish and plants.

Soil & Water requested county funding of \$96,075, approximately 5% increase over 2019 county funding of \$91,500. This increase is due to a 34% increase in the cost of health insurance. In 2018, Ulster County Soil & Water provided \$3 million in programming and assistance throughout Ulster County.

The committee discussed Soil & Water's programs and requested the committee clerk forward copies of Soil & Water's budget request to them.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Mr. Rose said Cornerstone consultants are reviewing comments discussed at the Ulster County Solid Waste Planning Commission (UCSWPC) meeting and is revising the draft Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP). Cornerstone has been meeting with NYSDEC to get their initial feedback. He anticipates Cornerstone will give UCRRA Board a final draft so they could approve it at their October 28 meeting.

UCRRA is holding a public hearing on their 2020 budget on Monday, October 7. After that public hearing, they can approve and finalize contracts for disposal and transportation.

Chair Greene requested a "red line" copy showing the changes Cornerstone is making to the draft LSWMP so it is clear how SWPC, NYSDEC and other comments were incorporated into the report. Then a clean copy could be put before the public for feedback and comments after the UCRRA board approves it.

Mr. Rose reported that a letter was delivered indicating no net service fee was required in 2020. They also sent a letter to all municipalities to inform them of the proposed 2020 fees for services regardless of whether-or-not they make use of the Agency's services.

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection is planned for October 19.

The UCRRA has begun plans for a "park" to expanding their operations including moving their composting program, building a new administration building, developing a residential drop off location, a household hazardous waste facility and the potential for a reuse center similar to the New Paltz Reuse center.

Legislator Nolan suggested reaching out to the organizers of the Repair Cafés that are growing in popularity around the area.

Mr. Rose was open to that idea and said the UCRRA was even approached by the local fire department requesting to use 2 acres for a facility they need.

Ulster County Department of Environment

Ms. LaValle reported the County Executive’s proposed 2020 budget included a 15% increase to the Department of the Environment budget and she would speak about that budget at the November meeting.

Motion No. 2 – To approve Resolution No. 409 - Declaring A Climate Emergency

Resolution Summary: This resolution will declare that a climate emergency threatens our local communities, county, state, nation, and world; urges leaders of government to commit to a climate emergency mobilization efforts; underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support.

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: Legislator Wawro explained that this was modeled from a similar resolution passed in Saugerties.

Chair Greene and Legislators Eckert, Heppner and Nolan asked to be added to the resolution as sponsors.

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

Motion No. 3 – To approve Resolution No. 412 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Cornell Cooperative Extension Of Ulster County – Department Of Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a multi-year contract for \$648,870. with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County as a sub-agreement of an agreement titled “Agreement between The City of New York and The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County for the Administration and Implementation of the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program” (CAT-493), which includes Local Flood Hazard Mitigation and Flood Response for the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program.

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: Ms. LaValle explained that this was the second 5-year agreement for a program in which Ulster County is partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Ulster County Soil and Water to fund a staff person. This staff person provides technical assistance to towns in the Ashokan basin on flood hazard mitigation.

Legislator Nolan praised this program and asked to be added as a sponsor.

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

Motion No. 4 – To discuss and postpone Resolution No. 416 - Establishing A Policy For Consideration Of Solar Arrays On All New Or Renovated/Replaced Roofs On Ulster County Buildings

Resolution Summary: This resolution will establish a policy for the County of Ulster to explore and consider engineering all new, renovated and/or replaced roofs on County owned buildings to support solar arrays; when a determination has been made that a rooftop solar installation is not feasible for any such Ulster County project, deliver a report to the Public Works and Capital Project Committee within 30 days of said determination,

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: Legislator Heppner noted this resolution was postponed in Public Works and Capital Projects Committee on October 2.

Legislator Nolan expressed concern about focusing on rooftops only and suggested in some cases a ground based solar array might be more appropriate.

Legislator Greene disagree and suggested the resolution could be worded more strongly. She reminded the committee of the discussion of solar on the Family Court and she felt that far too often it is treated as an afterthought. She pointed out that the purpose was to ensure a solar installation is considered and evaluated where feasible, emphasizing “where feasible.”

Ms. LaValle advised that a policy needed to look at feasibility, when it would work on rooftops and ground but warned that her staff and resources were not capable of doing an evaluation for each and every project. She noted that work was being done on climate solution for several county buildings and that could help develop a sense of what roof tops would be appropriate.

Voting to Postpone: Legislators Greene, Eckert, Heppner and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Climate Smart Committee

Chair Greene reported on the Climate Summit at New Paltz.

At the next Climate Smart Committee meeting on October 28 at 6:00, they are planning an event to promote Community Choice Aggregation in cooperation with Citizens for Local Power.

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: November 7, 2019