

**Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 9, 2022; 6:30 PM or immediately following the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 875 9476 1982,
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Gina Hansut (6:42), Phil Erner (6:44), Joseph Maloney and Eric Stewart
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Emilie Hauser; Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC); Dennis Doyle, Director, UC Planning; Nick Hvozda, Director of Department of Environment; Tim DeGraff, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Ellen DiFalco;

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:38 PM and asked Legislator Stewart to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to APPROVE the Minutes of May 5, 2022**

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: (See transcript)

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Maloney and Stewart

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 3

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Director of the Department of Environment Nick Hvozda on Green Business Champions program; a Climate Smart Community Summit organized by the Climate Smart Taskforce is scheduled for August 29 from 5-8 at the Rosendale Rec Center and will take the place of the August Climate Smart Committee meeting; update on

Tim DeGraff gave a report for the UCRRA.

Dave Haldeman EMC

Resolutions for June 21, 2022

Resolution No. 253 - Appointing Member To The Recycling Oversight Committee

Resolution Summary: The resolution would appoint Dave Haldeman as a representative of the UCEMC to the Recycling Oversight Committee

Motion No. 3: Motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 253 as presented.

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney and Stewart

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 296 - Declaring Support for the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

Resolution Summary: The resolution affirms Ulster County’s support for the NYSCAC Scoping plan, declares support for prohibiting expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, declares support for advanced building codes to improve energy efficiency in new buildings; supports the prohibition of on-site combustion of fossil fuels in new buildings from 2023-27, calls on the NYSCAC to include necessary policies to improve energy efficiency in existing buildings, supports recommendations to make EV mor affordable relative to gas powered vehicles and supports statewide public education on the benefits of a clean energy economy and climate-friendly choices.

Motion No. 4: Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 296

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney and Stewart

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 307 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The New York Energy Research And Development Authority (NYSERDA) For Acceptance Of A Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round Action Grant And Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to sign an agreement with NYSERDA for the use of Clean Energy Communities grant funding

Motion No. 5: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 307**
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney and Stewart
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 308 - Declaring Ulster County’s Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) For The Purpose Of Constructing A Government Operations Center And Appurtenances To Be Located At Paradies Lane In New Paltz – Department Of Emergency Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution declares the county ‘s intent to serve as Lead Agency under SEQRA for this project.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 308**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Stewart
Voting Against: Legislator Maloney
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

New Business

Old Business

Green Business – Chair Greene asked Nick Hvozda for an update on the Green Business initiative.

Food Waste Recovery and Composting Law – Chair Greene asked Nick Hvozda for a list of businesses that are required to compost under the county law. A list of business and institutions subject to the local law is on line.

Indoor Air Quality – Legislator Erner is planning an informational meeting on air quality for legislators and stakeholders.

CHPE - Committee discussed status of Catskill Hudson Power Express (CHPE) application to the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA) for a PILOT. Chair Greene believes it was denied.

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 8:53 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: July 7, 2022

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Chair Manna Jo Greene

I call the June 9th Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee to order. Should I hold off on the roll call until they're here? Or shall we do a roll call and then add them in? Doesn't matter.

Fawn Tantillo

You could do the roll call and add them in. Whatever. That's fine. Manna Jo Greene.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

President.

Fawn Tantillo

Gina Hansen's not with us yet, Phil Erner. Not with us yet. Joseph Maloney

Legislator Joseph Maloney

On the screen.

Fawn Tantillo

And Eric Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm here.

Fawn Tantillo

And someone's coming in. I have someone on the phone at 845-331-7497. Can I get your name?

Ellen Difalco

Yes. Fawn, it's Ellen Difalco.

Fawn Tantillo

Hi, Ellen.

Ellen Difalco

How are you?

Fawn Tantillo

Very good. Thank you. You have a quorum, Madam Chair.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. So, I would like to call the June 9 2022 meeting of Energy, Environment and Sustainability. To order we have taken the role and we'll add the two other legislators as soon as they can join us. So, was it legislator Stewart, did you volunteer to do the say the Pledge?

Legislator Eric Stewart

Sure. 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.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I would like to have a full complement since both of them are planning to join to hear Dennis. So, I'm wondering, well, let's we do have a quorum to approve the minutes. And maybe we'll do a quick update. And then as soon as the rest of our legislators the rest of our committee are present. We'll go to Dennis. So, with that, I would like to ask if we have a motion to approve the minutes of May 5, 2022.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Motion.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Motion by legislator Maloney. Second by legislator Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I was not present at that meeting. So, I really can't comment on the minutes.

Fawn Tantillo

You can still vote on the minutes, even if you were not at the meeting.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, so, all in favor, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Motion to approve the minutes the main minutes is approved. And who has the shortest update? We have Department of Environment, Environmental management and UCRRA.

Director Nick Hvozda

My update will be short.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead. Welcome, Tim.

Director Nick Hvozda

Three updates from the Department of Environment. Oh, go ahead, Nick. Thank you. Our Green Business Champions program is rolling along. We have three certified green businesses currently. Two of them are... let's see... Fair Brothers Industries in Saugerties, Organic Nectars in Saugerties and then Read Reports Medical Services in Highland. In addition to that, there, there are about 21 other businesses that are in the queue working through the, the actions they need to complete to become certified green business.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And I would strongly urge each of us to reach out to green businesses that we know of. I know there's a star in in Marbletown, So, Eric, I don't know if they're on the list yet or not, but that would be great. And they can all think of businesses to connect with the Department of Environment and get this. I don't know if certification is the right word, what would be the right word, Nick?

Director Nick Hvozda

Certification?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo

Gina is with us, for the record. Gina Hansut is with us.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, Gina is here, but not Phil yet. Let's continue please, Nick at you and mentioned a couple other things.

Director Nick Hvozda

Yes. We are planning a Climate Smart Community Summit that is organized by the Climate Smart Municipal Task Force for the county in partnership with Climate Smart committee that is now scheduled

for August 29 In the evening, from five to 8pm. And it will be at the Rosendale rec center. This is a an opportunity for representatives from municipalities around the county who are doing climate smart work, to hear some presentations about projects and opportunities, but also share work that they're doing themselves. And from the County Department of the Environment will be supported by the Hudson Valley Regional Council, and Cornell Cooperative Extension in hosting that summit.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And before you go on, I just want everybody to know that it will be in place of the August Climate Smart Committee meeting unless there's some reasons legally, that we can't do that. But it's it's tentatively scheduled for the week after because there's five Mondays in August. Am I correct about that?

Director Nick Hvozda

The, it is the week after the normally scheduled date, but it's due to the availability of the center rather than the calendar. So,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right, well, I'll consult with the clerk and, and clarify that. And I had a quick question about not so much the Green Business Challenge, but the organic waste composting, is that on your list?

Director Nick Hvozda

It is not?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Um, how is that coming? I've had questions about whether or not certain businesses, schools hospitals, should be participating. And at this point, it's, I believe, anyone who's generating two tons or one ton, or are we Yep. And is there a list that I can check when somebody asks or should I reach out to Michael Darcy or

Director Nick Hvozda

Currently we have a list published of generators that are one ton per week, between one ton per week and two tons per week on the website. When we update that in in September, in order to provide notice to those who are regulated starting in January of next year, it will include two tons per week, all the way down to point seven five tons per week and greater.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Great.

Director Nick Hvozda

So, that that list is the official list of who is regulated. And then

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Is that posted on the Department of Environment website?

Director Nick Hvozda

It is under Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Wonderful.

Director Nick Hvozda

Last quick update I have is the is that the RFP for the Reuse Innovation Center feasibility study capital project was released today. So, that's proposals within four weeks.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I know I'm supposed to be very professional, but I can't contain my joy. And I see Legislator Stewart has a hand up.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Oh, yeah. Nick, I had a question about the Green Business Certification. Is there like an application that we can get from the website or how does one a business go about applying for that certification?

Director Nick Hvozda

Right. So, all of the application is handled through a website. There's a link to it from the county's Green New Deal website.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay,

Director Nick Hvozda

It's website is ulsterny.greenbiztracker.org., which is a website that's hosting it. There's a... There are core measures and elective measures that the business completes after completing a profile, and then they can see what they need to do to certify based on that.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, great, thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

One thing I would like to request is that the businesses that are either certified or going through the process, we have an invitation to the Ulster County Fair Green Living Expo. And just to let them know that that opportunity is available. And they could even you know, I don't know if there's a door sign or something that they could display. And I do think that more and more people are looking for it, Green businesses, and giving them preference. So, I'll be sure between myself and Kim Mayer, that you get that information and be great to share with them.

Director Nick Hvozda

We do have a door sign.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Wonderful. Okay, did you I see, you're on mute. So, I'm assuming your report is complete, and we can go to Director, Planning Director Dennis Doyle, we're going to take Resolution 308 out of order because he has another meeting. And it's declaring Ulster County's intent to act as lead agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act secret for the purpose of constructing a government operation center and appurtenances to be located at Paradise Lane in New Paltz - Department of Emergency Services. And I do believe there was a letter from Supervisor Neil Bettez supporting the project and also the county taking, you know, participating in the SEQRA process as lead agency. So, Dennis, please.

Fawn Tantillo

You want to move in for discussion? Chairman?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, that would be a good idea. It did I see a hand. Legislator Stewart or Legislator Hansen. Thank you and the second Legislator Earner. Thank you. All right. Please go ahead with you know, some background information on this.

Director Dennis Doyle

Thank you, Chair much. Appreciate it. And thank you for taking this out of order. That's also appreciate it. So, a lead agency under the state Environmental Quality Review Act is that agency that coordinates the environmental review of a project is generally established in theory, if there is a, an issue is always established on the basis of the agency that has the most power and has the most technical capability in terms of reviewing and implementing the project and understanding the environmental impacts associated with it. The project that we're currently talking about as a government operation center, the site is in New Paltz. In the only people that can, the only agencies that can be lead agencies are those that are involved and involve agency must have the ability to approve or fund a portion of the project in order for it to, in order for it to be considered involve agency. In this instance, , we would believe that the, the involved agencies here would be the Department of Environmental Conservation that the town of New Paltz, either through its planning board or its town board, and those would be the only ones that would have the potential as of right now, to be involved agencies and as such to take to take lead agency. The action has been characterized as an unlisted action it's not, which means that it is not likely to require the preparation of an environmental impact statement. But what we wanted to do is to make it it's not necessary for us to conduct a coordinated review for unlisted actions. However, the county in the past has taken a very conservative role with respect to making sure err that its actions under SEQRA are, are well documented and transparent to the to the to the agencies, other agencies are involved and to the community in which it's taking its actions. So, in this instance, what we are proposing is that the county would act as the agency to coordinate environmental review and to do the necessary studies in public outreach and for the for this particular project. Examples where we have done this before have been the Veterans Cemetery in New Paltz and a public safety radio tower in Kingston and Saugerties. Within the last couple of years, those are done. In the past, we've done we've done lead agencies for the construction of the, the project in the City of Kingston, that are established at the SUNY Ulster campus in the City of Kingston, and a few other areas. And we also usually take lead agency with respect to some of our projects as it relates to roads and bridges.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Could you say a little bit about the purpose of the center and why New Paltz? Just a little clarification?

Director Dennis Doyle

Oh, sure. The Government Operations Center in New Paltz has been a government operation center in general has been part of the county's capital program for a number of years now. What we've done is, is we've taken a look at the needs of the of our emergency operations services, particularly our EOC and in our in our 911. Center. And looking at how they could be combined in terms of providing a more efficient and effective operation. They're clearly under sized and under and underrepresented in terms of their needs right now. And this became even more apparent when we looked at what we went through with respect to the, the ice storm more recently, we've, we've gone through a a fairly significant amount of site selection process, looking at over 10 sites, and then doing actual... coming back and actually doing concept plans for that for, for at least 10 sites. We narrowed those 10 sites down to two, two sites that possibly could meet our, our needs. One was on Golden Hill with the reuse of an existing building up there on Golden Hill known as the, the health department building. And the other one was the Paradise Lane site. The Paradise Lane site rose to, the rose to the top as the preferred site for several reasons. One is it was the only site that we looked at, that had the ability to essentially have access to the communications needs for an emergency management center from two different substations. The Paradise Lane site can be accessed both from the south of the site as well as from the existing substation infrastructure telecommunications infrastructure on 299. It is also the only site that we're aware of that could be accessed from two different electrical substations. Again, the South Ohioville substation to the south and a substation on, on 299. So, it offered the redundancy that we would look for with respect to establishing a PSAP [public safety answering point] and an Emergency Operation Center. And that's one of the lessons that we learned I think from the from the, the ice storm in Kingston, when Kingston has substantial amounts of power outages, including our our own operation center at that particular point in time.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I think that's very helpful. One thing I would like to recommend, is, it's early enough in the process, although you've already done some designing, but I believe that emergency facilities should have solar with battery backup. And, you know, to, to think about planning that right in as the facility is being designed. I think the New Paltz fire station, if I'm not mistaken, is an example and they certainly have solar. I'm not sure if they have battery backup yet. But you know, to have emergency facilities to prioritize emergency facilities for that level of reliability where they can actually become a micro grid, you know, an island off in the case of a power outage. That's different than what you were speaking of which is um, the communication civility. And that's also really important. And I seem...go ahead.

Director Dennis Doyle

I'm sorry. So, thank you for bringing that up that it's one of the critical design things that we sought when we when we did the RFP for this project. We brought onboard, a well-respected architect out of New York City for the major design elements of the project. And we supplemented that work with a local architect that has a substantial amount of experience with respect to green, green building. And the goal here is to create, I think, one of the first in the state zero fossil fuel facilities with respect to a emergency operation center. That one of the advantages that the New Paltz site offers us is that there

is lands available at the New Paltz site that we can not only put solar on the building, but we can also put solar on the property that's, that's available to us that's not readily available, readily available for other, other uses.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Excellent. I see Legislator Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Oh, thank you. Actually, Director Doyle just answered my question. I was going to see if there were plans to put solar power on the roof or, you know, freestanding units. So, thank you for that.

Director Dennis Doyle

The answer to that is both were in the building design, the concept design basically phases, the building so that we have maximized solar south. In addition, it also maximizes interior lighting, natural light to the interior of the structure, which is a challenge in a in a building that essentially has to be very security conscious.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Yes, legislator Maloney, please

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I don't know as much about this, as I'd like to but everybody, I talked to says very positive things. It's something that we need. So, I'm just looking for some clarity up. So, this is a property that the county owns?

Director Dennis Doyle

Know, the County, the county is going to purchase the property. And there's a separate resolution under consideration and other committees to provide for that purchase, purchase. The property is around 56 acres, out of the entire 56 acres, the county anticipates that it will need about six of those acres between five and six of those acres for this project. And then we will be looking to essentially use the rest of that acreage in terms of in encouraging other development on the on the on the rest of that acreage. And we will go through the necessary processes that we'd have to do in terms of doing that. So, we would intend to subdivide the property at this particular point in time. And we would use that we would use the residual value of that property to help pay back some of the cost of acquiring the property.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So we're going to we're going to subdivide it and then sell it off in an auction or

Director Dennis Doyle

No, no, we would not go through I don't imagine we would go through an auction process. I would imagine we go through a highest and best use process in conjunction with the legislature in terms of what other types of uses could be used. There may be a possibility for additional county uses that we haven't looked at, at this particular point in time. But we know that there's interest in the in the in the project from, from other types of uses that could, could go there.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, and we know that already was this property for sale, is that how we found it when we were looking for sites it was openly for sale. So, we were looking at properties that were on the market.

Director Dennis Doyle

We, as part of our effort to essentially look at the sites that were available, we actively looked first at municipally owned sites, second odd sites that were available or we knew could be available. And or third with respect to sites that weren't available that made sense with respect to the ability to site the facility. We established an area to look at which ran basically from 299 in the south, all the way to 199 and route 209. In the north. We identified I would say more than 30 or 40 sites. We move them down to somewhere in the neighborhood of 14 sites. Out of the 14 sites. We moved them down to 10 sites from the 10 sites. We actually did concept plans for those sites and move them down there as part of identification of sites. The Parodies Lane site had significant numbers of various proposals in the past on it. We reached out to that that individual and landowner and indicated that it was going to be for sale. And as part of that work. We began our due diligence work once we once we looked at the we thought the site would survive the as a preferred site. We began our due diligence on that and we have conducted an appraisal on the site

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Who did the appraisal?

Director Dennis Doyle

There was a, the county hired a an appraiser to do that site

Legislator Joseph Maloney

What was the company's name...

Director Dennis Doyle

The appraiser has a lot of experience in vacant land .

Legislator Joseph Maloney

that was used for the appraisal?

Director Dennis Doyle

I can get that for you. Off the top of my head, I, I don't remember, I believe that the last name of the person was Gold, Goldman or Goldberg, but I will try that information if it's necessary.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay.

Director Dennis Doyle

I think we provided the appraisal as part of the, as part of the work that we we've done in terms of the resolution that was provided to support the purchase of the price, we provided that appraisal,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Did we ask the owner of the property if he'd be willing to subdivide he or she be willing to subdivide?

Director Dennis Doyle

We actually did. Yeah. Yeah, we looked at that. And the response has been that that was the parcel that made the most sense for us, in terms of security reasons and isolation reasons and concerns about what we're joining what what could be adjoining uses was the most valuable piece of the property. And so with that, we began a discussion is whether or not there was a sale of a of the, of the entire possible prior property was possible.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, I did who was the local architect,

Director Dennis Doyle

Local architect was Rick Alfandre, Alfandre Architecture.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Ok. I've heard of him. And why would the DEC not be the lead agent?

Director Dennis Doyle

DEC generally does not like to take lead agencies, will does not take lead agency positions with respect to their their interest in terms of being involved agency. In this instance, the likelihood of the permit that DEC would be issuing is probably an approval for stormwater and maybe an approval for... I think right now the only one I'm aware of would be stormwater. So, if you look at the breadth of the permits that DEC has, in their in their interest in the site, it's not as it's not as direct as the county's essentially design and operations we'll say,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, it can I can I just get the appraisal when you get a chance. What is the accepted price? And How close was it to the appraisal?

Director Dennis Doyle

Sure, the appraised value of the price, the appraised value of the property was \$4.3 million. With hype... with a hypothetical condition, a hypothetical condition on the upon an appraisal reflects the fact that there were assumptions made relative to how the appraisal was conducted. In essence, the major assumption that was made was that the site was clean at the time that at the time that it was sold. The site is is was a former apple orchard. And as a formal apple, former apple orchard it does have certain kinds of things associated with it particularly heavy heavy metals that were residues from pesticides.

So, the site is going through the process of becoming a brownfield site. The brownfield site offers some significant advantages to private developers in terms of their ability to clean up the site and get paid for those cleanups. The county has done and has submitted as part of its part of its efforts, I believe, about 4000 pages of environmental reports. There's a substantial amount of environmental information here. The hypothetical condition basically says that the site was clean. We looked at our consultants and had our consultants estimate what what a clean site would cost. Their estimate was somewhere between looking at the quantity of quantity of dirt that has to be removed from the site and buried on site. Their estimate was somewhere between 800,000 to a million dollars, and that reflects the current purchase price.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Can I get Can I also request that as well?

Director Dennis Doyle

What's that? the

Legislator Joseph Maloney

The estimate. The estimate on the cleaning up of the property?

Director Dennis Doyle

Yep.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Thank you.

Director Dennis Doyle

There's a there's a cost. There's costs. We provided the legislature estimated cost for the sites that we we've looked at. What's that? We provided the legislature estimated cost for the sites that we've looked at.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

No, but it's no but I thought you said there was a you got an estimate like a report on what the from a firm that would tell us what it would take to to basically remove the Brownfield aspect of this property.

Director Dennis Doyle

I don't have, I don't have a report. I have an estimate. That is a number based on the cubic yards that that would be there. So, I don't have a report on that basis.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So, that's an estimate we did?

Director Dennis Doyle

I would say that. I'm sorry.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

We didn't hire a firm... it's an estimate that we did.

Director Dennis Doyle

No, no, it came from the, the process of finding this site and designing the Government Operations Center was divided into two separatetracks. The first track was essentially a site selection tract. And the firm that did that work was GPI they have a substantial amount of... they're a civil engineering firm, have a sense substantial amount of environmental experience. And there's the ones that did the estimates for both the costs and the estimate for cleanup on this on the site. And that the other piece of that was on the site selection was, while that was ongoing, we were also doing what they call program design. And the program design was essentially taking a look at what the building would look like how the pieces would fit into it, so that we could do concept work in terms of how these would how they would lay out at the various sites. So it was a combination of civil engineering work being done by a GPI, as well as the work being done by Urban and Rick Alfandre Architecture. And that's been synthesized together in terms of trying to make sure that what when we chose the site that would work for the necessary pieces that we need,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But we haven't had anyone specifically look at this site and tell us what it's going to cost. You're, you're making it sound like we need to skim, skim this property, too, because it's a Yeah, because of the pesticides and everything else. But we haven't gotten a specific estimate for this property to be so the current

Director Dennis Doyle

Yes, as Yes. And in fact, we do it and let me just explain that the current landowner in terms of entering the Brownfield site, the Brownfields program did a substantial amount of environmental work on the site. There are, I would say, in the in the multiple test sites, trying to characterize the amount of contamination that's on the site. Looking at those multiple test sites, they come to the conclusion in terms of the depth of soil that has to be essentially removed and replaced on that site in order to eliminate the threat of contamination. So, what we did is we took a look at that depth of soil that was characterized by the by the by the owner's consultant that is going through the review process with DEC, an estimated amount of quantity that we that we would have to remove, and the cost of those quantities using standard, standard estimating, estimating costs. So, it's not like we just guessed at it, or it's not like we didn't know that how much the contamination was there. There's some pretty good, there's pretty good background information in terms of looking at the amount of soil that has to be removed and relocated.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And you said that was the owner's consultant?

Director Dennis Doyle

No, we did. We did the estimates ourselves. But we relied on the tests that were done by the owner's consultant. Now that those tests are not just going to the owner's consultants are also provided to the Department of Environmental Conservation as part of the nomination.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And do we are we going to skim the entire 56-acre property?

Director Dennis Doyle

No, absolutely, positively not? And that's a great question. Because what we're proposing to do by subdividing this is what we're proposing to do is we'd only have to remediate that portion of the land that would be involved in the in the construction of the of the Emergency Management Center. So when you look at that, the remainder, remaining of that because we know what's there and because these heavy metals don't migrate, they remain in the soil, not in not in the water column, you can pause the rehabilitation or the remediation of the remainder of the site and let the private sector essentially on a reused remediate the rest of the site, the estimates that we have looking at where we are now, and this is preliminary, where we are now in terms of the location of the facility, the things that we have to put on that facility, the' the amount of parking, other types of things, the estimates are between 100 to \$150,000, to essentially remediate that portion of the site that would be used for' for the for the county's facility.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, I see Legislators. Stewart

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes, I was just curious if the entire 57-acre parcel is all a former apple orchard or if there's also woodlands or other you know, fields or you know, what have you. So, that the

Director Dennis Doyle

So that the....So, let me see if I can characterize the site we know that a substantial portion of the site was used for apple orchard it hasn't been used and it's clear now for quite some time, and its current In its current use, the most current agricultural use was essentially for hay crop. And that was only on a portion of the site. The back portion of the site and I would estimate it somewhere in the neighborhood of about 15 acres or more are in wetlands, federal wetlands area is back in there. So, I would not, I don't I don't know for a fact, but I tend to doubt that there were, that there were areas in that area that essentially were used for apple orchards. Some of the testing that we've looked at indicates that the most, when we look at the soil contamination, it's associated with those active apple orchard areas which are off towards the front of the site and not towards the back of the site.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay, great. I guess my main concern was to see if you know we were going to be cutting down a bunch of woodland.

Director Dennis Doyle

No,

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay. Thank you

Director Dennis Doyle

Now it's, it's meadow now for the most part, and federally designated wetlands, which are then superseded in some instances by, by the town of New Paltz, wetland statute. Thank you.

Fawn Tantillo

Chairman Greene, just an FYI for legislators: resolution 309, that's going to public works, has, I think, close to 1000 pages of backup with all, a lot of this detail that Dennis is going over, and maps that will show you what the site is. That resolution didn't come to you. So I didn't include the backup, but the information is in with resolution 309. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thanks. If there are no further questions, I would like to call the question because I know that director Doyle has to get to another meeting. So do we need another motion? Or is that ...

Fawn Tantillo

You can vote.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, so all in favor of resolution number 308. Assigning lead agency to the county for the operations center? Well, all in favor, please signify by saying aye. Raising your hand and you one up.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'm just going to look up the backup. I'll probably end up being a yes, but I just hate to vote on something until I really see the backup. So, I'll, I'll take a look at the documents I get.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And in other words, you can change your vote if it goes to the floor. Yeah. Okay.

Director Dennis Doyle

If I may, Legislator Maloney. Would you like to you can access those documents on the OneDrive where you want me to send them to you? The problem and send to you directly is they're they're extremely large files. I have no issue with, with respect to sending them to you. But if you can access them on the OneDrive, it may, may save us some difficulty.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll take a look on the OneDrive.

Director Dennis Doyle

Okay, if you have anything you need, just let me know.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Thank you, Dennis.

Fawn Tantillo

And I can put it on the OneDrive for the committee. On Monday, I'm not in the office tomorrow. Sorry. But we'll get it. We'll get it on the OneDrive

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Monday. Thank you, Fawn. And if you have, if you can look at Public Works on the OneDrive it is in there, on there. Okay, I'll talk to Laura. I'll do that then as well.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Excellent. So resolution Number 308. Passes. And thank you, everyone for a good discussion. And I'd like to at this point, go back to the UCRRA, and then the Department of Environment, the Environmental Management Council. And thank you for being patient, Tim. And if you would kindly fill us in on what's going on with UCRRA.

Tim DeGraff

Sure. um, I just wanted to give a quick update on the executive director search. Our job, the job posting has been posted since last Friday to like our website and social media. I believe it hit like the, you know, the local papers like the Freeman on Tuesday, and we got it out to a number of industry organizations, and they'll end up in you know, the newsletters that go out for like SWANA [Solid Waste Association of North America] and NYSAR [New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling] and those types of places. Because we were really trying to be you know, pretty far reaching and cast a wide net. So, it's almost a week now we received a couple resumes. I don't want to speak too much for the board on what their plan is. But if you say give it about 30 days, I would anticipate they might start some interviews around mid to late July. Don't quote me on that seems to make sense. We do have a zero-waste committee meeting one of the agencies Zero Waste committee next Thursday, if anyone's interested. It's probably going to be a WebEx instead of making the board members Drive in at four o'clock. And that's going to be something I've spoken about previously. Angie just wants to go over with that committee, the FSR, the new FSR grant application with regards to hopefully purchasing some equipment that we can get out to the town transfer stations in order to, you know, be a drop off point for organics diversion at those places. So, once again, that'll be next Thursday at four o'clock. Belinda will probably have an agenda out before then that she can send to anyone. Another thing I wanted to bring up I know mana, you heard you heard us discuss it at our at our board meeting a couple of weeks ago. But I got together with your Charlie Whitaker, our compliance guy, Larry Ricky, lead scale, scale house, people are attendance inside the transfer station for two separate reasons. And he said, I know that the Freeman article came out and lump everything together, which wasn't the actual case. So we are there were two things that we were trying to look at and attack. One of the items had to do with how we were identifying and classifying some of the waste that was coming in between MSW and C&D. And I think this goes in line with the RFP that's going to be released. So I think it's important, and it will be useful, especially if those whoever ends up doing this study, you know, reaches out to us and wants more detail. So we're trying to get a little bit ahead of that and, and, and help you guys from that matter. One of the questions I had had as we went to town transportation boxes come in the attendance on the floor or call out estimates of what C&D and what's MSW. But one of the things we weren't, we weren't capturing as well as we possibly could, was, especially the pay as we go customers, the pickup trucks, the people would pick up trucks and trailers and the U hauls and that type

of stuff. And we actually got together and coordinate a plan to where our transportation attendants are trying to call out and estimate all the loads, which is going to help, help all of us really help identify, you know, what's in our waste stream. And we also as part of this, we have SUNY Stony Brook who's doing the waste audit study for the state, actually, it's DEC fund it. There'll be back in the first week of August to do their second year, they did a presentation, actually at the solid waste conference last month, with cluster charts and everything. So, they're actually gathering a lot of interesting data and really, really getting specific down to you know, the amount of kitty litter that they found in residential garbage. So it's pretty interesting. But I, you also, I bring this up to you, because you'll notice when you get our monthly reports, like the treasurer's reports, if anyone's seen, I always put breakout MSW and C&D on top, when the main numbers come out, you're gonna see a pretty big swing. Because in the past three years, we've averaged around 27, 28% C&D of our total volume, but for May, and it was May 6, we started, we made this change. And actually, Larry Rick is going over and auditing loads as well with you, because he has a DEC mindset, which is going to help us on the reporting. And it actually dropped down to under 17%, I think was 16.7% was C&D doing it this way. And the, you know, I always posed the question to especially when you're talking about landfills, we're talking about volume, or we you know, and how much space it takes up, are we talking about tonnage is, which are always two different things, which is fascinating to me. And I hope that gets covered as well. You know, looking into those things, specifically in the feasibility study. So with these Pay As You Go customers, before we did this, The first four, four months and a couple of days, 95% of those loads by tonnage was classified as C&D. And now we're at around actually a 50-50. Split. So that so now when you see those numbers of those reports coming in, now, you'll know, know why we're trying to get more specific, and you know, and get more accurate, both for you know, our purposes, your purposes and for DEC reporting purposes. Now, that aside, as well, the individuals who are on the floor, we've actually tried to recover more. Charlie Whitaker has been, been, been pushing this, we have to be careful because there's a line to be drawn with safety in those buildings. But this is also a start for us that if we ever do get to the point of creating a diversion building on site to where we can separate identified loads before they've dumped the keep them away from like the big pack or trucks so that it's safer. We can, depending on how this stuff is classified with DEC we can keep stuff on the floor longer. So, we can go through it better. So, we'll recover more. But we got to say to ourselves, Is that worth it? So that's where these numbers start to come in. Our soy and I'm only going to be talking about specifically like clean wood that's pulled out of loads and can go back to our pile the grind up for our composting operation and Cardboard, just that our Ulster transfer station, and I'm comparing April, the month of April in the month of May, we went from 10 tons in April of clean wood pulled out, these are the guys on the floor pulling it out, up 36 ton. Those are, that's incredible. And I, you know, I tip my hat to our lead scale person, our scale house people in the attendance working in transfer station, because they deserve most of that credit. And cardboard went from 10 ton in April up to 21 ton in May. So, when you combine those two, so that's 37 ton extra time that we diverted off the floor. That's one tractor trailer load. And then when it comes to operations fiscally, that's essentially savings of \$2,800 and cost to us. But it's also an additional revenue of about \$1,600 in cardboard, just, just an extra hard work. But like I said, there's only so much we can do because you reach that you know what's safe and what's not. So but that's when we get into talk and how we can expand. And we've had a lot of discussion with board member Tom Kacandes on this as well. So, at some point in time, you know, we'll be getting together on this and see what we possibly can do to add on to what you guys are doing as well. So that's all Yeah.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

That's an excellent report. Tim. Thank you. And I know that one of the things that Tom Kacandes has suggested is possibly expanding the floor, that tipping floor, and you mentioned a separate building.

Tim DeGraff

Yeah, well, that's, he'll tell you in his opinion, and Charlie Whittaker would have even back him up on that, that the design of our current transfer station isn't really set up for that type of expansion. So that's where they got into the discussion of looking at operational changes in order for us to accommodate a separate building. So, so, he's been completely involved in that. Yes. Correct.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

What happened to the clean wood? I, you mentioned that the cardboard got bailed and marketed? What do we grind that?

Tim DeGraff

Yeah, the clean wood goes back to our grinding pile to get mixed in as a bulking agent with our with our food waste that comes in? Yep.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Excellent. Okay. Any questions? Yes, please. Legislator Maloney. Y

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yeah, So what's going on right now is is fantastic. Knowing how much more we could have done for the last couple of years is what you have to acknowledge that we can always we can always do better. You were mentioning how much more we could do of what you're describing. If we had a bigger floor. That just, that's what I'm hearing. Right? If we had and I understand I'm being told by a couple of people that it's just well, the property is not really set up for it. Why don't we Why don't we bring a firm in that specializes. It wouldn't be that expensive, expensive to? I just think with what you're saying we're now diverting, and recycling and reusing and turning into compost and the numbers, how can we not explore I think something that'll come back with some of these, these things, we're looking to get, you know, reduce our solid waste production, I think, probably the to the lowest hanging fruit as the tipping fee and then expanding our floor to be able to sort more, it just seems like crazy if we don't look into this, because ultimately, it wouldn't be that expensive in the scheme of things. And we could be really cutting down on what gets sent off with regards to C&D and solid waste. Why does it What does anyone think? Why wouldn't we do? Why wouldn't we look harder and immediately into expanding your ability to do what you're having so much success doing right now?

Tim DeGraff

Yeah, no, that's what I said that that's, that is what we're doing. This is the start of exactly that. And like I said, Board member Kacandies was directly involved in that and working with Charlie Whitaker and discussing exactly that expansion. You've got to remember to when you talk about the footprint of our facility, all that has to be approved by the DC. There's a perfect area, but currently across from the transfer stations operationally, and the traffic flow and all that which has to be approved would be a perfect place. But right now we have all of our trailers there. So we have to find because board member

Kacandes wants to do a full operational review due to his, you know, his experience in the industry as well. So, him working with Charlie Whittaker, those two minds and the operational knowledge. Yeah, and at some point, we've had this discussion. I had a couple board meetings ago actually, once that happens, then yes, they were going to talk about bringing in a firm so all those things that you're saying has already actually been discussed. Yes.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, so I think it's time to get higher the firm and get it going. And I just did what ends up happening is we talk about things for years. And I'm just saying sounds like we're right up on the part where you bring the company in and they let us know what our options Oh, yeah,

Tim DeGraff

no, I understand I were said the good thing is, is it even if we're saying it a little differently, we are saying the same thing. Okay, so I listen, I write, I've been doing this for too long. Nobody else has done it before.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Oh, no, no ,no, no, no, I want to build upon the success that you're having. Right? Once you want to know that you have the support of the legislature with regards to whatever you need. I'm pretty sure that this committee would be supportive of whatever you come up with. But we do want to see action. And every month, I think this should kind of be on the docket to get an update logistically on where we are. And I think it sounds like we're just about ready to hear that we've hired a firm.

Tim DeGraff

Yeah, we're getting there. That's, like I said, the, the, our board specifically said, they want to do this operational review, before they hire the firm. I believe that was the March meeting that that happened. So that's, you know, out of my hands. So, you're also welcome to... and obviously, I can bring it back to the board. This is what we just talked about. But I'm not that was a directive that they gave me not to do that until the operational review happens. So

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I also would like to add that when the firm is hired to do the feasibility study for a reuse Innovation Center, there's nothing to exclude that from being on UCRRA property. It's part of what the company will be doing, the firm will be doing is looking at, at sites and determining whether it should be one site, multiple sites, you know, how that whole system for reuse and diverting, difficult to recycle materials, you know, not the regulated recyclables but to be able to increase our waste diversion. So I think a lot of things are coming together. And I'm really very pleased to see the action that's taking place and the results. Anybody else have any questions for Tim? Okay. Department, a rather Environmental Management Council, Emily.

Emilie Hauser

Okay, so when I told Dave Haldeman that I would be on this meeting, I would represent the EMC, I forgot that I didn't actually go to the meeting, and I haven't received the minutes. So, I'm gonna ask

Nick, if he has, if he was there, and he remembers anything, specifically. And otherwise? I won't give a report except for to say that our speaker didn't show up. I know that.

Director Nick Hvozda

That is correct. No, I don't have anything notable to communicate from them.

Emilie Hauser

Okay.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And unfortunately, I was not at that I attended the April meeting, but not the main meeting. So I can't help either.

Emilie Hauser

So will, the minutes will come out usually like a couple a week maybe before our meeting, which is the last Wednesday of June. So that would be the 29th.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And I know that the college has been having difficulty with designating rooms and COVID and so forth. So it's,

Emilie Hauser

yeah, that we, I think it went back to, to, to all of zoom through last Wednesday, or the last the May meeting, and just something an emergency came up for me that day, and I just missed that hour. So anyway, but I just want to say again, that all the municipalities that are that attend that EMC meetings are doing really awesome work, whether it's on land use and natural resource inventory and open space or on climate smart issues.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

It's great. Okay, at this point, I would like to go back to resolutions and let's see, for appointments, we may not. Let's just get the motion on the table for resolution number 253, appointing members to the recycling oversight committee. And in this case, Margo Becker is now on The board or the Resource Recovery Agency, and I believe that created an EMC vacancy. And the nomination is that Dave Haldeman be appointed to the Recycling Oversight Committee.

Fawn Tantillo

So, you'll be moving this for Discussion as Presented.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I think Dave would be great.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, so let's move by Legislator Earner and seconded by....

Fawn Tantillo

Stewart, I think

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Stewart . Ok, thank you, Any other discussion.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm, sorry, I guess I chimed in too early. I think Dave would be great in that position.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oversight committee is to recommend additions to what have been designated as regulated recyclables, or, in a case where there's no longer an economic market, that material be taken off the mandatory list. But there are a lot of other related functions. And the Zero Waste Implementation plan that we've been working on, actually came out of a draft from the Recycling Oversight Committee, second, secondary to our zero-waste policy that was passed and designated that body to create a zero implementation plan or action plan. All right, so did we call the question on?

Fawn Tantillo

Not yet?

Legislator Eric Stewart

Manna Jo, I just had one quick question, I guess for the entire group. When it comes to, you know, recycling and zero waste, I know that, you know, the policies on what gets recycled varies from municipality to municipality. And also depending on who won who the consumer uses for their, you know, to take away their waste or whether they take it to the transfer station. And I was wondering, there's been any thought about maybe kind of making, you know, what gets recycled more uniform across the county, as opposed to leaving it to the municipalities and the individual companies.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

The regulated recyclables are definitely across the county. But one of the things we've been looking at is what each transfer station is doing, because there's some wonderful, you know, innovative initiatives going on, including, I just found out today, I didn't realize that town of Rochester is composting on site. And there's also, you know, very excellent initiatives, and the idea is to collect those and share them and encourage and maybe ultimately, if need be, to fund some modifications, that will allow more waste diversion, to go on at, at the town sites, and in some cases, even be able to market materials from the town sites directly, but where it breaks down is with the haulers and they have to collect the regulated recyclables. But that's all that is mandatory. From time to time, they've done some other programs. And hopefully some of the haulers are getting into the composting business. Now that there's a mandatory food waste diversion law. Does that answer your question?

Legislator Eric Stewart

That certainly helps. I was just I guess I was just trying to see if there if there might be something that we could do to make the policies a little more uniform because I know that in the City of Kingston, for example, you know, they recycled cardboard they recycled paper whereas in the service that I use at my home in the town of Marbletown , that is not an option and the only recycling is like plastics and glass.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Then we need to look into that because cardboard and all forms of clean paper office paper. Newspaper magazines are mandatory. And it's, well it does collect them.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay, well, that's good to know. Thank you because we use Waste Management. And like I say, in Kingston Waste Manager provides a, a container for paper and cardboard. And that does not happen in Marbletown. So,

Emilie Hauser

what do you mean? What do you mean by waste management?

Legislator Eric Stewart

That's the company who comes and collects our garbage and collects our recycling. That's the hall. Do

Emilie Hauser

Do you have an Is there a waste management? Is there a business in Kingston that we that you're speaking of for waste management?

Legislator Eric Stewart

That I'm just saying that in Kingston in the property we own in Kingston, which is next door to Legislator Erner's house? You know, we have recycled, we have recyclable containers, and that includes, you know, a separate container for cardboard?

Emilie Hauser

Are you paying waste management to pick up the waste at the property that you own? In Kingston?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I believe so.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I think it's the same company providing different services in different towns.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes, thank you. Yeah

Emilie Hauser

And are you have you told them that in Marbletown, you want cardboard pickup and you will pay for it?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I have not specifically on that. But I know that driving down my street, you know, everyone has their green containers and the ones with yellow tops for recyclables. And there's only two whereas in Kingston, there's three.

Emilie Hauser

You just you need to look at your bill and see what you're working on. But and I just want to say because I live in Kingston, are you paying waste management because it's a commercial building is having

Legislator Eric Stewart

it's only a four-unit building. So' it's not a commercial building.

Emilie Hauser

Or you could just put the waste out and get bins from the City of Kingston and have your taxes paid for that. You might want to call DPW up and see what the limit is for. For a four unit,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

is it possible it's all single stream or you can put the cardboard in the one they just don't that they take it all in one bin?

Emilie Hauser

It is possible?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Perhaps, yeah. If he, maybe, can't I think Kingston may separate more, they may

Emilie Hauser

need to be very specific when you

Fawn Tantillo

Okay, he's in a city of Kingston next to Phil Erner. This building? Isn't the city picking it up?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Is it? Is it municipal, municipal pickup?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm sorry? That would be municipal. You're correct. So the City of Kingston then provides the extra dumpster as opposed to waste management,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay. And you may just be single stream, you may be able to put everything in that one at your house.

Emilie Hauser

Yeah, you should. You should call Waste Management for the one in your house and call the DPW for, for whatever you have information on the City of Kingston.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay, great, thank you for that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I would take it one step further. If waste management does because they do have facilities I believe up in Albany and I know that other haulers have facilities for single stream what we have not done in Ulster County is ban single stream recycling there are people that want to see us do that. But for now, the haulers as long as they separate all the regulated recyclables from the residual trash they are entitled to do that. It makes one less container and one less you know unless it's a divided pick-up system but

Legislator Joseph Maloney

More contamination though single stream is not good.

Emilie Hauser

And Eric, Eric just for your information, just for your information in the City of Kingston the bins say the City of Kingston and they have very clear instructions on the tops of the lids...

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yeah,

Emilie Hauser

...tell you what to do. Yellow is paper and green is blue is containers.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Right

Emilie Hauser

And, and your if you're not paying for Waste Management, then that's good.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Right so, so as Manna Jo says the problem lies with the haulers because the City of Kingston is doing the correct thing whereas waste management in where I live, perhaps is not.

Emilie Hauser

So not doing the best thing.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Exactly.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And if it turns out that they say, No, we're only taking bottles and cans, then I believe that UCRRA does have an enforcement officer. So, um, but let's take it one step at a time ask that question and we'll take it from there. Um, I would like to ask Legislator Hansut. Do we have a resolution that we're discussing right now? Are we between I'd like to go out

Fawn Tantillo

You haven't voted on 253.

Legislator Gina Hansut

We were on 253 appointing members to the recycling oversight committee.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay you need to call for the vote.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Can. Gina would you take over for a minute? I'll be right back.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Sure. And I vote yes. On resolution 250 253. Okay. So we're just gonna we're gonna do the vote now. Miss Fawn.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

That sounds like the right thing. Okay. On resolution number 253. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay, five.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Anyone opposed? Okay. Um, I don't have any information on this. But resolution number 296. Declaring support for the New York State Climate Action Council scoping plan. So we open it up for discussion.

Fawn Tantillo

You need a motion to

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll make a motion? Phil is a second.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Okay, any comments, any discussion?

Legislator Phil Erner

I have some comments. Can everyone hear me? Okay? I'm in the room here next to Gina together. All right. So, I read through this the scoping plan, and I'm going to vote yes, I just want to make a couple of points about it, though. I think we need going forward. And I know this is a state thing that we're saying we support but we really need to be looking at. This is from this my old physics hat because I used to work in university physics. And we need to really be looking at the amount of energy that we waste when we transform from one thing to another. So that comes into play, we're talking about electrifying all of our facilities. And I want us to really pay attention to what we could do even without electricity, like mechanical energies is much a generally a much simpler form of energy. It's easier to work with and, and less, you generate less waste and inefficiencies when you just do things mechanically that you could like, think of, for example, a can opener is a really easy example. In the 80s, right, everybody had an electric can opener. But do you really need electricity to open a can? So that's that's kind of a silly example. But there's much more serious examples.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Oh, Phil, you cut out there for a second.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, what was the last thing everybody heard?

Fawn Tantillo

Can opener is a silly thing. But there's better examples,

Legislator Phil Erner

Right, like so this resolution, we're talking about buildings and motor vehicles and things that consume a lot more resources and how to make that more efficient. So, I just want us to be conscious of that We're endorsing a certain plan that the state has, but we really need to be thinking about ultimately, how we plan to reduce the total consumption that we're doing the total extraction, one key to that is going to be how do we make better? How do we how do we like simplify our energy and resource consumption system and in my opinion, so I just wanted to put that out there, as we're as we're supporting the state plan.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

So, I think the resolution is okay, it is supporting the scoping plan. I want to be sure people know that there was an extension from June 10 to July 1, to submit comments, and I'm coordinating comments for the mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability coalition, energy working group, and one of the main comments we're going to make is that renewable energy infrastructure needs to be put in place ahead of have. And that's not to say, to not start switching over to beneficial electrification, which in the case of buildings is air and ground source heat pumps primarily, but to stress, energy efficiency and energy retrofits. And also, really, we have to get the renewable energy infrastructure in place. Because they

estimate that with beneficial electrification in both building and the transport transportation sector, we could be as much as doubling the demand the load. And so, we really have to do the efficiency. And, you know, we'll be talking more about alternatives to electricity, as Legislator Erner, Erner is suggesting, but also, just to be sure that we don't end up burning more fossil fuel. So, but with regard it, in other words, the support is for the scoping plan, which is based on the climate act, but the details are being worked out this year. A draft was released, essentially, New Year's Eve, and comments are due July 1, and then all those comments will be processed. And they will come out with, with details. In many cases. The plan is still aspirational. And it's not the details of how it's going to get implemented. And how it's gonna get paid for are still being worked out. So, But with regard to resolution number 296. Is there go ahead and legislator one.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I did have one more comment. Can everyone hear me okay?

Legislator Gina Hansut

Yes, sir. Okay, okay.

Legislator Phil Erner

I see some language in here also around climate friendly choices by consumers, public education information campaign. And I just want to flag that the choices consumers have is often dictated by what the producers make available to the to the consumers. So I just want us to, to understand that we need we need to have a focus on what is being produced and what choices are actually even possible. That, that we have like, I feel like sometimes when you talk about encouraging people to make a smarter choice that fails to acknowledge that there might not be a choice that individuals or even whole communities can often make. And I mean, an example of that is that power generation monopoly that we have in our area, right, with central Hudson. So just wanted to mention that as well, before we vote, and I'm still a yes

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And, I do want to say that there's a lot of emphasis in the law. And then of course, in the scoping plan, on ensuring that so called disadvantaged communities, which I prefer to call priority communities receive 35 to 40% of the benefit of the transition that is proposed in the scoping plan. And that's very unusual to actually be very specific and acknowledging of what is a disadvantage. So that, you know, it doesn't end up being the only people that can afford solar or heat pumps can participate in the transition, and how that's all going to be worked out, remains to be seen, but anyway, any any other discussion on resolution number 296. All right. I would like to call the question all in favor of resolution number 296. Please, signify And anyone opposed? All right. Resolution carries and Fawn between you and J. Just to be sure that the resolution gets submitted on behalf of the Ulster County Legislature

Fawn Tantillo

After, after session, of course, that makes sure it gets in there, though by the deadline.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yep. Thank you. All right, resolution number 307, authorizing the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with NYSERDA for acceptance of Clean Energy Communities, leadership, round action grant, and amending the 2022 Ulster County budget, Department of Environment. And I don't know Nick, do you want to say a word on this? Or let me get it on the floor? Is there a motion? Okay, moved by Legislator Erner, Second by Legislator Stewart and third by Legislator Hansut. Nick, did you want to say anything about this or?

Director Nick Hvozda

Thank you, Chair Green. I'll say a few words about the background. This is a grant that was awarded to the county tentatively based on our participation in the, the NYSERDA climates, Clean Energy Communities Program. We're at the stage where we have to submit an application that details a plan. We plan to use this funding for doing Weatherization Improvements to county buildings, including the one that I'm sitting in now. And it does not come with any match requirements. So, it's going, going straight into the project and reducing the energy use of the building this building and the one next door. Additional questions

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I just want to thank, as I see your handle calling you the second day and women just thank the department and for its leadership in making Ulster County a leader. Yeah. And Legislator Earner, please. Go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, Chair Greene. And so, I want to ask Director Hvozda. I saw this, this technical assistance study by Siemens and I heard you say you're going with the Weatherization Improvements at his FIM three is that the only the only thing that we're doing with this with this resolution with this money.

Director Nick Hvozda

So, the scope of the project that we've developed is insulation and air sealing primarily. So we had, we had a Siemens study that made recommendations around some of the HVAC systems and the envelope of the building. And then more recently than that we've had a residential style energy audit done on both buildings. That was combined with a training aspect for building personnel. But that that study recommended insulation, air sealing, and Windows, which we currently don't have the funds in this grant to do the windows. So we're tackling those first two aspects now. And then I think that based on the principles of building science, the air sealing will give us the biggest improvement, followed by the installation.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you for that. Yeah, I'm glad to hear you say that and not go into the first recommendation which had concerned me greatly, because I'm seeing them say take out the old boiler and put in another gas boiler and for both buildings. And that seemed like contrary to our goal here, getting off fossil fuels.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I think most of you have heard me say what a difference it was. For my own home. I was fortunate to participate in an earlier NYSERDA project and did deep energy retrofit and reduce my bills to about a third of what they were and so forth. So, I really think the place to start is with energy retrofits and I know Legislator Erner talked with Judith Karpov and others about when we to seal up our buildings, we have to be sure we're not sealing in problems with air quality. So that's that's really important. But with regard to this resolution, is there any further discussion on accepting this grant? All right. Well, I'd like to call the question all in favor resolution number 307, authorizing it County Legislature to enter into an agreement with NYSERDA. Clean Energy Communities, and so forth. Are we all ready to vote on that? Okay. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Joe, was that, your hand went up? As I was asking about opposed.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But that was like the sixth time I raised my hand on that one. So I just threw it up again.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

But okay, sorry about that. Motion carries. At this point, is there any new business old business with regard to the Climate Smart Committee? A lot of sharing gets done. The climate smart committee is its primary mission is to advise the county on climate solutions that county itself can implement or, you know, through legislation, or education, promote county wide. And one of the things we're doing for the second year in a row is the Ulster County Fair. I mentioned this earlier, in terms of any green businesses, businesses that are really actively trying to implement climate solutions, and also any nonprofits. Um, the Ulster County Fair generously gives the climate smart committee two booths in the large tent. Last year, we filled up half of well, what would amount to a quarter of the large tent. And this year, we'd like to get closer to half. I was called that climate alley, or climate row. And we do a lot of education, and also give green building vendors a chance to reach out to potential customers. So it's kind of climate education says Excuse me. Sustainability and, you know, a green living next boat. And then oversight committees we I don't know if we have anybody here who wants to give an update on the recycling oversight committee.

Fawn Tantillo

Or you had I put that on there, Manna Jo, because we had been talking about the Forest Practice Board and the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. Right. And I, it appears that the Forest Practice Board in region three is no longer active. The only forest practice board that I think is still active is in upstate New York. And right now, we only have one alternate sportsman on the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. There is, in theory, a seat on there for a legislator and an alternate legislator. Those appointments are done by the executive. There could also be a sportsman and they're supposed to be, you know, primary sportsmen. We have an alternate sportsman appointed, and they're supposed to be a landowner and an alternate landowner. But those seats it appears are not filled right now. But

those are the under the purview of the executive to appoint. So we may want to make a recommendation to him for legislator and ask him to appoint someone but right now, it doesn't appear on there. So, we used to have the federated sportsman come speak to us on a regular basis, but we also used to give them several \$1,000 a year to do different stocking programs. And when we stopped giving them money, they stopped coming. So, Oh, we could ask them to come. But I suspect if we do that they will think we're going to get them money.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Just legislator Steward and then Legislator Hansut

Legislator Eric Stewart

I was just wonderful be possible to manage that for you to perhaps share with the committee the application form for businesses who might be interested in participating at the fair.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, I will send that to Fawn and ask that she send it to the to the list, which is extensive, more than just the five of us, for EES and also for the climate smart. One of the volunteers from town of Hurley made a nice flyer. And then there's some words that explain exactly what that initiative is and how to sign up.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And if I'm sorry,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Just that, I think the fee is \$240 for a week's exposure, and that includes something like eight or 12 passes. And they also give a 10% discount, if you're going to be in climate row, or the green living Expo, that the Ag Society is being very generous. And also, Cornell Cooperative of Ulster is going to be doing a composting demonstration this year. Did you have more questions?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I was just gonna say that if we had the application and like a flyer or something, you know, that we could send, that would be great. I could share that with the Rondout Valley Business Association. We could also send it to the Rondout Valley Growers Association to see if anyone there might be interested. And I can share that with you know, the ECCS in Marbletown and Hurley.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I was thinking one of the first businesses in the earlier iteration was what's the Bread Company out on on...

Fawn Tantillo

Bread Alone.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

That's it. Bread alone? Yes. And they've done they've covered the roof with solar, they use all best practices to to the best of their ability. And, you know, I think that people probably know that about them. But if they wanted to, for example, you know, have a booth, they could really help people to understand all the things that they are doing, but I will immediately so I don't forget, because I have so many things stacked up, get that language to fun to share, and try and fill up half, half of the large tent. And I think yes, please. Legislator Hansut.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Fawn. And you had mentioned about the sportsmen, the Fish and Wildlife. And you had mentioned that, I guess we had stopped giving money for stocking programs. Yes. Do you know when and why?

Fawn Tantillo

Um, well, that was after my tenure on the legislature. When I came back to work for the legislature. We had cut back a lot of contract agencies we used to give to like the Woodstock ballet and probably like 20 or 30, municipal, you know, like groups like that. And we had asked them to be, you know, to kind of tell us how they were going to become independent from our support at one point, but that was like a big cutback. That was done probably in the early 2000s, during budget crisis, when we were trying to, you know, save money where we could. But I was the legislative choice that was made at a time when I wasn't here. So, I'm not sure exactly all the reasons for each group or why they would have been included or, or excluded.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I've been on the legislature for eight years. And I would say until, you know, two or three years ago they were actively participating and giving reports to this committee that is the Sportsmen's Association.

Fawn Tantillo

I could certainly reach out to them. The Federation has a dinner coming up this fall, I think in September And I know they have some other activities going on. We could, we could certainly reach out to them.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Yeah, I you know, I don't know if it is a direct correlation, but I know a lot of local municipalities and police departments and, you know, they, they stocked different places for children's fishing events and outdoors. I know our PBA just did a great one, it was their first time doing it. But I know that that gets costly too, I think, don't quote me, I think it was like \$800 to stock our local reservoir. But yeah, find out if if you can find out if that sportsmen Association, where they stand and you know, an update from them, maybe?

Fawn Tantillo

Sure we can ask them to come talk to us. My husband and I used to do a stocking program support several of the stacking poems. So, \$800 Sounds about right. Okay. I know my son and my grandson had a great time fishing there in in Highlander that it was really well attended.

Legislator Gina Hansut

And I know City of Poughkeepsie. I mean, that's the other county but I know a lot of places are doing it. And I know that the New Paltz. Elks just posted one for children, and I think it's great for these kids that don't have an opportunity. They provided fishing poles and the fish and the bait. Yeah, it's a great way for, for, for students. So, Okay And it gets kids outdoors and like away from in front of computer screens.

Fawn Tantillo

They also taught them, the Federated Sportsmen, when used to stock pheasant rabbit and generally our donation to them in, in the olden days when I was at the legislator went to the rabbit stocking program. But I don't know, I don't know if those programs are even still active anymore. But we can, we'll certainly invite them in find out what they're doing and what they're up to. I know they do a lot of hunter safety programs, and you know, and things like that. And now that we've given 16 year olds the authority to you know, to start big game hunting, it's nice to see what they're doing for the hunter training.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

And all of that falls under our committee.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

So that would be great. Okay. We did a phishing program up in claimants, you know, with my Clearwater hat on for a weekend, and also did a lot of teaching about Hudson river fish and the kids loved it. It was really one of the most success. There were a whole bunch of things going on at the bark, you know, related to environment. landscaping and you name it, but the real draw was the fishing, instruction and practice and how happy they were if they caught something and so forth. So

Legislator Eric Stewart

Is the wildlife management position that we're looking for a legislator to fill is that what is the focus of that group? Is it really on like sportsmen? Or is it more like environmental,

Fawn Tantillo

it focuses on several things. I served on that when I was a legislator, I also served on the forest practice board. They would talk about state legislation for example, I remember a big push at the time part of the gas tax on the for gas stations goes to maintain the roads and highways in New York State but there was a lot of gas sold at marinas, and they want to end the Fish and Wildlife Management Board was pushing to make that that money go to improve boat access and and Marina access, putting in docks and putting in boat launches and things. They discuss local environmental issues that were impacting, you know, fishing and game. Different stocking programs this DEC was undertaking for while DEC was stuck in walleye in the wallkill River and things like that. We had a big focus on striped bass in the Hudson River for a while. The striped bass and the Hudson River were never really under underpopulated like they were in the Delaware, but there was a restriction on fishing for them. And then when they opened it back up to commercial, they discuss that. So it could be anything that you know, environmental or do with fish and wildlife. Right now I'm sure they're focusing on wasting disease that's coming through our deer population now. And as I said before, we've got a lot of bears in the area. So

those are things that I suspect because I remember talking about bears back then with something new. I suspect all of those things are coming before them for consideration and and management ideas. The DEC would go over how they did their Deer surveys to about the health of the overall population. about Turkey surveys, they have a couple of days, usually in May, where they have people report, if they see flocks of Turkeys around. And just all kinds of things. I still subscribe to the DEC website, you'll see I forward you things from them every once in a while. You know, they, they have a lot of interesting programs going on. I'm sure there's climate smart issues there, too. It looks like going through fish and wildlife.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I find it kind of intriguing. I mean, if it's there a website that I should could go to? Or would you suggest learning more about it?

Fawn Tantillo

I'm not sure. When I was a member, I got emails from them. And of course, we didn't have an executive to appoint people. But I suspect if we sent a couple of names over to the executive and through the chair and of the legislature and asked for them to appoint legislators. And then from the local region three, each county had a legislator, a landowner and a sportsman. And each region would send somebody to the state committee. So they would talk about state issues up there too, and help to draft state legislation. So it's I you know, it seems to be a very influential committee, and I'm disappointed that we don't have more people taking part in it. But I was surprised to see the forest practice for just there's no mention of it anywhere. I can't find it. Except one county upstate.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Why don't we do a little more research and bring this back up again, next month and see if we want to make a recommendation. I would like to ask you to humor me Well, I just say something about the Ulster Sportsmen's Federation. When I was at the UCR re, I happened to see a giant tire pile in Quarryville. And it was really scary because the homes were two to 300 feet from this massive 600,000 tires piled up. And I said this is a disaster waiting to happen. And I invited all the stakeholders who were in court with each other and didn't want to be in the same room together. And I asked them to try a collaborative process where we were solution oriented. And after about six months, we worked our way through a solution where the folks up in Catskill that took tires and shredded them for recycling. They had had a fire and they owed a \$375,000. Fine. And that fine was waived, because they spotted trailers, the sports man use heavy equipment to remove the tires and load them. And they all ended up getting, you know, going to Catskill. And this mountain of tires in a quarry was emptied and filled. Just landscape not filled but landscaped. And 10 years later, when I was on public works, we had one of those reverse pilots to put a solar farm on that space. And I mentioned it because that experience showed me that when people can work together and be solution oriented, you can come up with amazing solutions, instead of trying to duke it out in court and, you know, like cancel each other out rather than So, thank you for bearing with me. But it's one one of the things that just informed how I work at, you know, in in different circumstances. And like, I believe collaboration is so valuable. And with that, I might ask for a motion to adjourn. Unless somebody has any last minute business

Legislator Gina Hansut

business there. Yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Motion to adjourn by Legislator Hansut.

Legislator Gina Hansut

No. Legislator Erner wanted to speak. I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

Legislator Phil Erner

I just wanted to bring a few items back up in old business, maybe a couple of them should have been a new but we had last month I had talked about the air quality. And you mentioned that Chair Greene as well. And just to tell the committee I'm working to try and get, I guess you'd call it. Manna, you and I talked about like an educational presentation that would probably most interest members of our committee here in the health housing, human services, but would hopefully be open to the public or to other other members of the county government. And just to get a handle on that maybe it wouldn't just be that organization either. But I think we do have a lot to learn about the situation of the air quality, both in homes and elsewhere in from these folks and impossibly others. So just wanted to just say I'm gonna keep working on getting that to happen, hopefully, with everyone's support. So that's one thing. The next flag I have is, we've talked for a few meetings now about this, clearing forest land to do things like PV panels. And at one point, we had talked about having a checklist of projects that came before us, yes, say like, yeah, this, like you should, should do these things and not do these things. And I just wanted to not let let that discussion slip away. Um, it's not just about solar projects, it's really about any kind of project that might have an environmental impact on a project, like many of us have been or have are becoming familiar if we weren't already about the situation in the town of Ulster and Glengarry Boulevard and the parkway over there, which is quite complicated. Because it involves different government agencies like New York City's DEP and Central Hudson and the railroad and I've even heard now the business Bread Alone, is in the residence and like negotiating all of that, I understand that there's limitations in our power in the county, but I'd love to see what we can do to try and bring bring peace to that situation. And maybe it would involve creating a policy as mana you and I talked about that maybe as like a test case. So I just wanted to flag that as well. And I was wondering, also, has anybody heard any updates about CHPE? After we sent that resolution? I hadn't heard that you that the IDA had considered that yet? Or Did anybody hear if they did?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I know they have they denied the pilot,

Legislator Phil Erner

They denied it. So they did what we asked them to.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

They, they that they denied it, but what

Legislator Phil Erner

so they they they listened to us, they denied

Chair Manna Jo Greene

As far as I know, I mean, that's pretty secondhand, so we should double check. But it was my understanding that they they the IDA agreed with us on this. And you know that that brings up a very important step for this committee to follow through. Legislator Petiband I had occasion sometime last year to meet with the IDA. And as they offered to move sustainability criteria, higher on their ranking of projects, and, you know, like many good ideas of it doesn't get followed up with it can get buried in all the new things that come along. So, you know, let's think about the best way to maybe one or two of us could attend an IDA meeting and and make that suggestion and even offered to work with them. So that projects that are ultimately going to protect the environment and offer climate solutions are ranked, you know, more favorably. I personally think that no money should go to projects that are in any way going to exacerbate the climate crisis. But that's, that's a giant step. Let's take the baby steps first. Did I see a hand?

Legislator Phil Erner

I had two more points, even though I didn't.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

One is just to mention that the state assembly speaker for those who are following the build public renewables act, he set up a public hearing for July 28. And it seemed like that did have the votes to pass, but he didn't bring it to the floor. So in case that gives us a chance here, maybe we want to consider as a committee or even a whole body weighing in at for that hearing. I personally support it. And I know, some of our legislators that represent parts of our county have to have already passed the Senate. So that that's my second the last thing my final item is just about in terms of thinking about protecting the environment, with our freight and with our commercial transportation. And a lot of times when we talk about vehicle use, it's often about like passenger vehicles. But of course, I know our county has It has our policy, we have the hearing coming up about the county's broad use of vehicles. But we might not often think about private haulers and such and, but there are folks who are working on that in here, right here in our county. And I just want to flag that as something for us to think about. There's this one organization, for example, called the Center for post carbon logistics on breezy Hill Road, in town and Rosendale. And this thing called moving goods and people from place to place in a climate constrained future as change comes how will shipping and logistics adapt? We hear about the supply chain issues and all that maybe there's something that we can work on on that right here in Ulster County? That's my last update. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Nick, do you have any update on the zero emission vehicles that would give people get people to public transportation? I mean, I'd be saying that well, but I think you know, I'm talking about

Director Nick Hvozda

I do, Chair Greene, but I can't speak to it. Much because it's been that project has run mostly out of the planning office. For the transportation planners, so I don't I don't have any update to give. Okay.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I also want to mention that maybe ask my fellow legislators to support for an ARPA pilot and project for low and moderate income, energy retrofits, I think that it's not going to address the 1000s of energy retrofits that we need. But what it will do is both benefit the owners of those properties, benefit the environment and provide training as part of the green careers pathway. So that's, I think, really valuable. And there was one other thing I wondered, oh, if anyone has not yet signed the letters that legislator handset, and I brought forward, we did. Thank you all tonight. Pass the memorializing resolution. Hopefully it'll get passed in the legislature. But you know, I think support for Climate Solutions is really urgent. So please send it here. I think in this case, it would be to let Jay Mahler know, or Fawn and she can let let Jay know.

Fawn Tantillo

Yeah, the protocol is to contact Jay for the memorializing letters, but I'll be happy to pass it along. I also want to let you know that during the meeting, I put the resolutions for public works, that has resolution 309 in it. It's almost 1000 pages, but it doesn't have it does have maps and does have the appraisal it does you know show all the other properties that they looked at. It's quite extensive. So to make it easy for you to find it's in your committee meeting folder for Energy and Environment tonight it's you'll go in there and see a public works resolutions. That's why they They're in there. So, thank you. I'm sorry. I can't put them in an email. They're just too big thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Any other new business or business or are we ready to adjourn?

Legislator Phil Erner

I move that we adjourn.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

We have a motion and a second. And All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye. Anybody opposed? The meeting of The Environment and Sustainability Committee for June of this year is officially adjourned. Thank you all.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Thank you, everyone.