

**Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 8, 2022 – 6:30 PM (or immediately following the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee meeting)
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 845 9456 6069,
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Chelsea Villalba, Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Gina Hansut, Phil Erner, Joseph Maloney (arrived at 6:49 PM), Eric Stewart
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Director Nick Hvozda, Department of Environment; Director Dennis Doyle, Deputy Director Amanda LaValle, Department of Planning; David Gordon, Esq., Legislative Counsel

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM and Legislator Stewart lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Greene shared an update from the UCRRA regarding the hiring of a new Executive Director.

Director Hvozda updated the committee on what was gleaned from the 1st Annual Municipal Committee Climate Roundtable on August 29 at the Rosendale Rec Center. Director Hvozda gave a brief update on the RFP for the Innovation Center, stating that Sustainable Hudson Valley was selected as the contractor to complete the project, and also shared that notices will be sent to regulated generators who will be regulated in 2023 as per the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law.

Legislator Stewart inquired about the nature of regulated generators affected by the law. Chair Greene spoke briefly on the state law and its provisions.

See attached transcript.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the August 4, 2022 meeting of the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee**

Motion By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner and Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolution No. 466 – Declaring Ulster County’s Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) For The Construction Of A Public Safety Radio Tower And Appurtenances To Be Located On Tonche Mountain Town Of Olive New York – Department Of Emergency Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes the Ulster County Legislature as the Lead Agency under SEQRA for the construction of a Public Safety Radio Tower and its appurtenances on Mount Tonche in Olive.

Motion No. 2: **Motion Resolution No. 466 for DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: Legislator Hansut described the project in this resolution in more detail gained from a previous committee meeting in which it was discussed. Chair Greene asked Legislative Counsel David Gordon to further explain SEQRA and the process of Notice of Intent to be Lead Agency. See transcript for further detail.

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. 467 – Authorizing The Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to Execute An Agreement With The To Accept Grant Funds

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) for the purpose of accepting a grant in the amount of \$125,464.00.

Motion No. 3: **Motion Resolution No. 467 for DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: Legislator Erner asked if this grant funding is in response to a memorializing resolution from earlier in the term to increase funding for the Hudson River Estuary Program. Director Hvozda explained that the grant opportunity is available every year, but was not certain of whether the funding was in response to the memorializing resolution. Legislator Stewart asked if other waterways will be looked at, such as the Rondout. Director Hvozda stated that all the culverts in the entire county will be mapped, and that the lower Esopus watershed, which has yet to be assessed and designed, will use the grant funds. Director Hvozda further explained the assessment process. Chair Greene mentioned that there is legislation and a referendum coming up to address environmental conservation and green jobs. Legislator Stewart stated that he would like to be a sponsor for this resolution. See transcript for further detail.

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. 468 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) To Accept Grant Funds For The Ulster County Community Climate Action Plan Project And Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget – Department Of The Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement with NYSDEC for the purpose of accepting a grant in the amount of \$74,000.00 from the Climate Smart Communities Program.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 468 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: Director Hvozda explained that this project was funded through the Division of Community Service Office of Climate Change and will create a community-wide Climate Action Plan for Ulster County. He stated that the awarded funds will be used to hire a consultant to assist with the process and do graphic design for communicating the results to the public. The expected time frame for this project is 12 to 15 months, and the Department of the Environment is drafting a request for proposals to select a vendor to assist with the project. See transcript for further detail.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney and Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Motion No. 5: **Moved to Block Resolution Nos. 469 & 471**
Motion By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut
Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney and Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Resolution No. 469 – Establishing Capital Project No. 646 – Reuse Innovation Center Planning Study – Department of the Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution specifies that no further action is required under SEQRA and establishes Capital Project No. 646 for a Reuse Innovation Center Planning Study as a Type II action.

Resolution No. 471 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$73,570.00 Entered Into By The County – Sustainable Hudson Valley, Inc. – Department of Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution specifies that the Legislature approves a contract for \$73,570.00 with Sustainable Hudson Valley, Inc., with Ulster County providing 100% of the funding.

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution Nos. 469 & 471 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: Legislator Erner called Point of Order and shared his excitement for this project, noting that the compensation for consultants is at a higher rate than what is typical for the laborers who will construct the building. Chair Greene expressed the importance of livable wages and priority communities. Legislator Hansut confirmed that the compensation rate is current with standard rates. Chair Greene expressed that this facility will pay for itself with the savings from no longer needing to divert waste, and Called the Question. See transcript for further detail.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney and Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 472: Amending Capital Project No. 488, Installation Of Shoulders Along Route 299, Towns Of New Paltz And Gardiner – Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) Not On The State Highway System - Department Of Public Works (Highways And Bridges)

Resolution Summary: This resolution specifies that after examination and modification by the Ulster County Legislature, this project will not impact wetland and may be progressed as a Type II action under SEQRA. The County will pay 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of engineering for the project, and the Ulster County Chair, Commissioner of Public Works, County Engineer, County Comptroller, and County Attorney are authorized to execute any necessary agreements on behalf of the County with NYSDOT, in connection with the advancement or approval of the project.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 472 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: Legislator Erner asked if this project is the only safety improvement on Route 299. Director Doyle stated that this is the only project for this portion of road in the Transportation Improvement Project in the 2021-2026 Capital Program. Deputy Director LaValle stated that a previous design with a wider shoulder was redesigned to not impact wetlands. Legislator Maloney asked if there was a countywide study on all county roads and how this specific location was

identified. Director Doyle explained that a safety analysis of the road indicated that vehicular accidents in this location included being run off the road. He also stated that Route 44/55 and Brunswick Road saw the highest rate of vehicular accidents in the County, and that 2023 plans include program signalization in this area. Legislator Maloney asked how the Route 299 location was decided to have widened shoulders. Director Doyle stated that the Town of New Paltz requested this project, and that a high volume of cycling traffic heading to the State Park runs through this area. Legislator Maloney made some points about the importance of prioritizing areas assessed for high safety needs. Legislator Erner asked for the person with the position of County Engineer to be specified. Director Doyle stated that he will contact the Department of Public Works to get an answer. See transcript for further detail.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney and Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chair Greene advised the members that a revision of Resolution No. 409 of 2019, declaring a climate emergency is forthcoming, to be discussed in the next meeting. She also mentioned the need to for a Climate Impact Analysis beyond SEQRA.

Legislator Erner stated the importance of the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) not funding projects that do not meet climate goals.

Legislator Maloney advised the committee of the role and history of the IDA.

Chair Greene stated that the Legislature puts policies into place for appointed boards like the IDA.

Legislators Stewart, Erner, and Maloney provided suggestions for the forthcoming climate resolution.

Chair Greene discussed setting a SEQRA training for committee members with the Attorney Gordon. Attorney Gordon explained the SEQRA process further.

The Committee decided that they will follow up with municipalities that have not indicated their herbicide-pesticide policy on a recent survey.

Legislator Maloney updated the Committee on a local project involving CSX and Central Hudson.

Legislator Erner mentioned the importance of considering an environmental ombudsman for the County.

Chair Greene proposed that Committee members sponsor a memorializing resolution considering the upcoming Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act.

Legislator Stewart followed up on bus shelter improvement, mentioning that UCAT is in the process of updating routes, which prolongs bus shelter improvement planning.

Legislator Hansut followed up on recycling in her local school district, stating that she scheduled a meeting with the new superintendent.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 9:06 PM

Respectfully submitted: Clerk Villalba

Approved: October 6, 2022

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LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Chelsea Villalba, Fawn Tantillo

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ABSENT: None

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

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Chair Manna Jo Greene

I would like to call to order the meeting of the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee on September 8, and would. Chelsea, would you please call the roll?

Chelsea Villalba

Sure. Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Present.

Chelsea Villalba

Deputy Chair, Gina Hansut? Legislator Phil Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

Present.

Chelsea Villalba

Legislator Joseph Maloney?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Who was here. And there's Eric.

Chelsea Villalba

And Legislator Eric Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm here. Thanks.

Chelsea Villalba

So, four committee members are here, one is absent.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, and hopefully, Gina will catch up with us. It might be good to text her as well, just as a reminder, but I expect, it's very hard to go back to back with these Zoom meetings. So, for the Pledge of Allegiance. Would anyone like to volunteer to please say the Pledge?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I can do that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, Eric.

Legislator Eric Stewart

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

And maybe we want to just take a moment to honor the passing of Queen Elizabeth. That's, on a global scale, a fairly significant event that occurred today. I remember, as a youngster, she was always pointed out as, that's the woman that you should strive to become like. So anyway, let's dive in. So has everyone had a chance to look at the minutes of the August 4, 2022 meeting? And if so, I would entertain a motion to accept the minutes.

Legislator Eric Stewart

So moved.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, Legislator Stewart. And we have a second?

Legislator Phil Erner

Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, Legislator Erner. All in favor, please signify. Oh, are there any changes, additions, amendments? Okay, if not, all in favor, please signify by saying aye, and/or raising your hand.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Anyone opposed? All right, the minutes carry. Did we lose Joe?

Legislator Phil Erner

He said he lost his connection. He'll be back when he can be. I texted Gina as well.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh. Okay. All right. Well, we do have a lot to go over. So we'll move ahead. We did get a very nice note from Tim DeGraff, saying that there was an important budget meeting tonight, they would not be able to join us. I believe that they have secured a new, or are in the process of hiring a new executive director. And there hasn't been a formal announcement yet. But I believe that that is well confirmed. Oh good. Welcome, Gina. As she's connecting. There she is. And, Chelsea, would you please acknowledge Gina as being present for the meeting?

Chelsea Villalba

Yes. Legislator Hansut, would you like to approve the minutes of August 4th?

Legislator Gina Hansut

I would, yes. Thank you. My other meeting just finished.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, yeah. It's, these back to backs are very hard. I was just saying that there is not going to be anyone here from the UCRRA, they have an important budget meeting that conflicts so they'll catch up next next month. And there are a few things related to waste management that we'll cover in the course of the agenda. Is anyone here from the Environmental Management Council? And I didn't mean to skip, but we'll go right back to Department of Environment. Nick, please let us know if you have an update.

Director Nick Hvozda

Good evening, everybody. I have a few quick updates. Last Monday, we had a successful first annual municipal committee roundtable event held at the Rosendale Rec Center. Many of you were there, thank you for attending. And, we think, made a lot of good connections between the different committees around the county, but then also gathered some good feedback on what the needs of those committees are, and how we at the county can do better to support them. So over the next few weeks and months, we'll be compiling some of that feedback. And maybe even sending out an additional survey with the help of a Bard College intern that we have, and find ways to make it better for next year.

Legislator Phil Erner

We are in the middle of I'm sorry.

Director Nick Hvozda

We're in the middle of contracting for the Reuse Innovation Center Project. There are a couple of resolutions on the list tonight on that topic, but we did a request for proposals we selected sustainable Hudson Valley as the contractor to complete the project and Sustainable Hudson Valley's bringing their

team to the work but also a consultant who has a great deal of expertise on reuse centers in general, including having coined the term reuse Innovation Center. He's based in on the west coast, but he will be making a few trips to Ulster County to support the project. And we're looking forward to getting to work on it in the late fall, once the contracts executed, and this month, we were preparing notices to send to the next group of regulated generators who will be regulated in calendar year 2023. Starting on January 1, this includes all food waste generators with an estimated generation rate of point 753 quarters of a ton per week and greater. And based on the most recent amendments to the law. This also includes those who are also regulated by the state who generate two times per week or greater. So an initial look, we have about 90 entities who are on the list, who will be getting letters by the end of the month. And we'll be doing another round of outreach to make sure they all know what's what they need to do to comply with the law. That's all I have, unless there any questions.

Legislator Eric Stewart

So when it comes sorry, those are mainly like restaurants. I mean, I assume that hospitals, schools, prisons, and the rest, that would be restaurants, I assume?

Director Nick Hvozda

There are there are a whole host of different categories that are covered under the law, including all of those that you mentioned. And some others. I don't know what the breakdown is of each type in that number, but it's a fairly good mix. So everything from some wholesalers to food manufacturers and in the others.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I was just curious, does that also include, like, grocery stores that maybe are getting rid of produce that has gone bad or whatever?

Director Nick Hvozda

It actually does. Yeah, fun fact. Already in the past two years of regulation. We've had several Hannaford stores and multiple ShopRite stores who are regulated and reporting on what they're doing, so.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Hannaford has stores, you know, throughout New England, as well as New York, and so those states have been requiring either composting, or anaerobic digestion as our law does. One thing that our local law, the state law, and the local law are very similar. But our law includes schools and hospitals, and for whatever reason, the state excluded them. So it's mainly restaurants and food processors. But, and people that sell food, but you know, not prepared food, but so forth. And the other the other difference is that Ulster County's law covers all of the generators, from this year, forward, for three quarters of a ton, or more, and next year, it'll be half a ton or more. And that'll be a whole new crop of food waste generators. And there's a hierarchy that encourages reuse by humans or animals, and before, either composting on site or sending it for composting or anaerobic digestion. The state law exempts people that, generators that are not within 25 miles of a composting facility. In other words, if you're going to have to send your food 100 miles away to be composted, that didn't make sense, in terms of, you know, the cost and the transportation, so they tried to be reasonable. But in Ulster County, we have

composting facilities in, you know, the southeast corner or the southwest corridor, and then UCRRA is up in the north, so it can serve all of the North easily. And the other thing I want to say about that law is that the process was a model process, because the Legislature worked directly with UCRRA people from the Recycling Oversight Committee, and people from the industry, and then held numerous stakeholder meetings, and even then we still had to tweak it after it was passed. But it was a very inclusive process. And I think that, and also I want to give kudos to Dave Gordon, because there was a question about whether we could supersede the state. And he wrote a memo that was quite definitive, that showed that we could make our event, our law a little bit more inclusive. Legislator Erner, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, Chair Greene. And thank you, Director Hvozda, for your presentation. Through the chair, to Director Hvozda, will you be around for the resolutions because I have a question about the reuse contracts you mentioned. Okay, great. So I'll ask it then. I did really appreciate getting to go to the climate roundtable and I look forward to following up with all the folks doing that work around the county. As far as the composting, just one idea that's occurring to me, I finally had my first tour of the RRA in the past month, which was fabulous, eye-opening, educational to see that facility. And I'm wondering whether, given what you, what Director Hvozda has said about the cotton, further encouraging, more responsible and use of food scraps compost and so forth. And I understand that the RRA has a way, that they can, many ways that they help us deal with that. But is there any thought to Department of Environment teaming with them to help incentivize or otherwise facilitate keeping that material as close as possible to where it's generated, in the spirit of what Chair Greene was also saying? In other words, we have a state law that says if you have to take it more than 25 miles, you don't even have to do it. But I would like to argue that the closer we keep it to where it's generated, the better, and if you don't have to actually schlep it to the RRA, and you can handle it where you generate it, that that might even be so much better. Any thoughts about that?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Well, I'll take a crack at that and say that on several occasions throughout the year, the UCRRA staff hold trainings for backyard composting, and they provide composting bins, and there are really good examples throughout Ulster County for onsite composting, Mohawk Mountain House, Frost Valley, etc. But then a facility like SUNY New Paltz is not comfortable in trying to manage that level of waste on site. So they hire a hauler. It's a relatively short distance that they're, very high participation in food waste composting. So there are good examples. And I think, ultimately, it's mainly the UCRRA that does that outreach and education beyond implementing the composting law, and that outreach and education is being done by the Department of Environment. I don't know if that clarifies. I do think we'll be talking a little later about the Zero Waste implementation plan. And some of these ideas can get clarified and made as a recommendation into that document, which is planning maximum waste diversion, moving forward.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Manna Jo, I'm sorry, we have a hand up.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Yes, please.

Legislative Counsel Gordon

Manna, I just wanted to add to your answer to Legislator Erner's question. Phil, as I understand your question, you're essentially advocating, requesting about a hierarchy, or a preference for local, for handling the waste, of the food waste, as locally as possible to where the generator is. I just want to point out that, as Manna mentioned, before we go into any detail on it, there actually is a hierarchy of preferred uses in the law, but it's not the location of where it's ultimately processed, it's the type of use that gets, the type of use to which the food waste is ultimately put, for example, the number one use, if it's still edible by people, is to get it into the hands of the food insecure. Number two use would be to get it directly to another facility that might use it like its own, reuse thing, composting, etc. So the point is, if you look at the law, there's a hierarchy of uses. And that is probably, that you might think of that as a substitute in terms of the utility and the benefit to a hierarchy that you might be thinking about in terms of the geography of where it's used, like number one thing is if there's hungry people, and you can get the food to the hungry people, you probably want to do that, even if composting is closer.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

If I may, there are also transfer stations across the county that are very local, and some of them are composting on site. Others are collecting the food waste, and then when just a good amount of it, it's coming to UCRRA for composting. So for all the things that need to be done, I would say this one is, it's pretty, there's room for improvement, but I think it's a pretty good system.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I just had a kind of a quick question. I was wondering who kind of oversees like supermarkets for example, when, before the, when, who take things off their shelves when food is still edible? I mean, how does that get to food banks? And who enforces that, to make sure that the supermarkets are actually doing such things?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

The hierarchy is recommended, it's, you know, the enforcement, as long as they're not putting it in the garbage. If they're diverting it anywhere along the way, I don't think there is enforcement to say that you have to get it to food banks, but they will say that the large supermarkets are keenly aware. And Hannaford goes to great lengths, I don't know about, you know, ShopRite and Tops and some of the others. But most of them at this point, have a sustainability coordinator who really is proactive. And, you know, that is something that the enforcement officer for the agency, or if there's one appointed specifically for this law, could go and check. But I think the first thing to do is, kind of low-hanging fruit, is to get people that with a little education will participate. And then, you know, and let that education include the reuse hierarchy.

Legislator Phil Erner

Where did you say I can find that hierarchy? Council or Chair or anyone?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

It's actually included in the law.

Legislator Phil Erner

The solid waste law?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

No, the compost, the food waste diversion, food waste reuse. And what, I forget. Dave, do you remember the title of?

Legislative Counsel Gordon

I'm looking it up right now. The law was codified, when we passed it three years ago. I was looking to see where it shows up in the code. It's chapter 205 of the county code. I'll look up exactly where we find the hierarchy for you in a moment.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I don't see anyone here from environmental management. Amanda, are you still, like, a liaison to them? Or Nick?

Director Nick Hvozda

Yes, I'm a liaison to them. We did not have a meeting this month due to the roundtable event. So our next meeting, the council's meeting will be next month, this month, September 28th.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, so if everyone is ready, I'd like to dive into the resolutions. And is there a resolution that I should take out of order? I was thinking. All right. I think we can get through these. Okay. Resolution number 466, declaring Ulster County's intent to act as lead agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, SEQRA, for the construction of a public safety radio tower and appurtenances to be located on the Tonche Mountain, Town of Olive, Department of Emergency Services. Do I hear a motion for discussion? Legislator Hansut moves. I need a second?

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner. Okay. Thank you. And this is an example of a SEQRA declaration, and I wondered if, old training, but as SEQRA comes up. I wanted to ask Attorney Gordon if he has any comments or, you know, this is simply lead agency, it's not an actual declaration of whether it's a positive declaration or negative. It's simply establishing lead agency. Can you speak to that, please?

Yeah. Let me see. You can hear me, right? This is the, this is really the start of the SEQRA process. This is when an agency has an application, acknowledges the application, and takes the first step toward dealing with it under SEQRA. And just so everybody is aware. Many, many agencies, particularly if there's, if they're issuing a permit, have two levels, two sets of requirements that they've got to do. One is what the law requires them to do, to take the step, to issue the permit, or in this case, to go through this program, whatever regulations they need to comply with, and the other is SEQRA.

And they work in parallel. And this is the first step of the SEQRA process. And very often, it's the first step of the consideration process as well, it may or may not be. And the idea here is that for any action that has more than one agency involved, the review should be coordinated. And the first step in that is for one of the agencies that's quote unquote, involved. And involved means any agency that's taking the action that's approving the action by a permit, or that's funding the action. To do something called a Notice of Intent to be lead agency, which gets the ball rolling on the process, the first step in the process is to get a lead agency, because it's the lead agency among the involved agencies, that runs the SEQRA process. And so, a lead agency needs to be chosen. And the way to do that is one of the agencies that first gets the proposal, circulates a notice of intent to be lead. And if nobody responds to it in 30 days, that agency is the lead. If somebody responds to it and disputes it and they want to be the lead, then there's a dispute resolution process. But essentially, it doesn't get done, doesn't get started until you do, a notice of intent to be lead, whether it's more than one agency. Sometimes even if there's only one agency, the agency will still do a notice of intent to the lead, even though they don't strictly have to just because it presents the formal start of the process. And what you do is you take the environmental assessment form, which describes the project, and you send it around to the other involved agencies. And the resolution you have before you today is to start that process to decide that you're going to do this notice of intent, we need to identify the other involved agencies to send out notice to them, to wait 30 days, and then, at the expiration of the 30 days, if nothing bad happens, if there's no, no, objection, the legislature, the county, would be the lead agency. As Manna, Manna also mentioned the declaration of significance, which is really the critical question of a SEQRA review, as to whether you're going to do an environmental impact statement, or what's called a negative declaration. The agency that makes that decision is the lead agency that comes out of this process. So even though this is sort of, you know, by the book, and not all that exciting, this will determine which agency drives the process where there are more than one. So it's actually quite important.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, I think that's a real good example. Legislator Hansut, please.

Legislator Gina Hansut

I just wanted to give, um, we just discussed this one in law enforcement and public safety. And just a quick, it's not even really a background, and the reason for this is that we were told that it's for a taller tower for better service. So just wanted to give that little background on that.

To clarify legislative Hansut's point, if this was just putting up the same tower, if the tower was for some reason, defective or needed repair, and you're putting up the same tower, this would become what's called a type two action, which means that it's exempt from SEQRA, it's on the type of, DEC's got a type two list, this would be on the list. And we wouldn't need to do this at all, there would be no SEQRA process, you'd still have to go through whatever, the Legislative, the statutory process to do this particular project, but you wouldn't need to SEQRA, because this is a taller tower, under the law you need to do SEQRA, and also, parenthetically, because it's a taller tower, you are going to have more environmental impact than you did previously. The main impact of a tower is visual, and a taller tower accentuates those impacts so that that's why that you had that discussion in the other committee.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I see two hands, I don't remember which was first. Legislator Erner, and then Legislator Stewart if that works.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you, Chair Greene. Thank you, Counsel Gordon for your explanations of SEQRA, and Deputy Chair Hansut for mentioning what happened in the other committee. I guess I'm looking forward to, seeing where, like, I'm going to support this. I think our County, the county should be the lead agency. And hopefully we'll get to be. I'm interested to hear some details on the facility when I see microwave dishes listed. And I know as transmission, capabilities, technology has advanced, we've built higher frequency transmitters and receivers for communications. And I know, especially in Olive's neighbor, town of Woodstock, we hear a lot of concerns about 5G. I'm fairly agnostic on that myself at this point. I'm not a medical person. I do have physics training, though. And I understand that the difference between frequencies of electromagnetic radiation in that sense, but yeah. I just wanted to mention that and I, I look forward to supporting our lead agency submission.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I just had a question about, you know, with this tower, also, could this tower also be used for cell service? I mean, and what's the difference between, forgive my ignorance on this matter? But I mean, could this, like I said, could this same tower be used for cell service? And also, I was curious as to how much you know, we're estimating this project to cost. And, thirdly, I was also curious as to when we might expect to begin the SEQRA training that we discussed at our last meeting.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Let me answer that and then call on Planner Doyle. We have that on the agenda to talk about the SEQRA training. So let's just focus on the project.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Sorry for jumping ahead.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. No, that's okay. And let's just hear from Director Doyle, please.

Director Dennis Doyle

Thank you, Chair much appreciated. And not to digress, but we're certainly well supportive of a robust SEQRA training. We've been working with the various departments over many years to make sure that they understood SEQRA and including it in their necessary resolutions and decisions of the legislature. But to go back to the tower itself, it's located on Tonche Mountain, which is in the town of Olive. And we have an existing tower up there. It's about 80 feet, it's a guide facility, we've engaged a consultant that would go up there and analyze the tower, they've now climbed the tower. We're looking to see whether or not we can, we can add sections to the top of it to get it to about 110 feet. And that would allow us to

essentially provide public safety radio communications across a broader range of the area. This is not a gap issue here. The county is moving to something called a simulcast system. And a simulcast system basically, when you make announcements or do various kinds of communications with respect to a simulcast system, all towers essentially transmit at once, and then the various receivers and radio equipment combine those signals to make for a stronger signal. The county's goal here is to make, is to allow the towers to not only communicate back to a parent tower, but also communicate among the towers themselves. So we were completing a tower and in Saugerties right now, the Tonche tower will talk to the Saugerties tower, it also talks to a tower on Golden Hill. We're looking at towers that would be needed in Rosendale. We're currently in conversation with Rosendale with respect to a tower location in Rosendale. And we're looking at towers that have to move up and down the route 28 corridor. That's a really, really, really difficult corridor to essentially move, move through. And we're have, there are significant gaps and gaps in coverage in that corridor because of the the valley and mountains that exists out there. There's also significant gaps in cell coverage and significant gaps in some instances in broadband. So one of the things that we've explored and are looking at in terms of tower loading is to make sure that when we design a tower, we design towers so that if there is in the future, the need for cell facilities on that tower, that the tower can handle those additional cell facilities and, or if there's a need for what we call point to multipoint broadband, that essentially that we can handle broadband on those towers as well. Tonche tower creates some, some issues with respect to that, because we're strengthening an existing tower. So we're looking at the loading in that to see whether or not we can accomplish the idea that there are, that there's, that we could get broadband, and, or cell facilities on that tower in the future. That would be, they would come under a separate review process, if they go forward. But what we would end up doing is, we're certainly looking at these as we move up the Shandaken, into the Shandaken area. If you look at the states, cell coverage maps, relative to the Town of, relative to the route 20 corridor, there is literally no coverage west of Phoenicia, no active coverage west of Phoenicia for cell service. The emergency service folks are absolutely committed to essentially providing the first responders up in those areas, a significant amount of of service. When we do these things, when we do these cell tower sitings, we do coverage analysis. The coverage analysis is based on our contract with Motorola. And we look at what we call inbound and outbound coverage, to make sure that we had, and pager coverage, to make sure we have the necessary coverage gaps covered, as we look at how these tower heights go forward. And we look at two kinds of inbound and outbound coverage. We look at what they call mobile outbound coverage, which is in car and it has a stronger signal strength. And we look at what they call portable coverage, which is on man coverage as well. So, and then you look at that in terms of indoor and outdoor. It's quite a complex analysis. We'd be happy to show you the analysis that we did for Saugerties to convince Saugerties to move forward. When we do this kind of work, what we do is we operate under something called a balance of public interest tests. And we ask for the community to grant us a limited immunity with respect to zoning under that test. So that were not subject to the local zoning statutes in terms of whether or not a tower is permitted. Did that help?

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes, thank you for that, because I've also been speaking with Mr. Doyle about a cell tower in Hurley, and so that's kind of where I was leading with that question. So thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

I can let Counselor Gordon go.

I just had a question for Director Doyle, in terms of the analysis that he mentioned, which was the the exemption from local zoning and where that's at. I was wondering whether we've identified, and we will identify in terms of the notice of intent to be lead, the town agencies as involved agencies, and where exactly the determination whether the town has jurisdiction, is at. Just for everybody's information, state courts have set up a kind of a series of questions or a series of criteria to determine whether a municipal project is going to be subject to local zoning. And in this case, if we're subject to local zoning, some of these things might be very different, both in terms of the rules that apply. And also the process that applies. If we're subject to local zoning, for example, we'll probably have to go before the planning board in the town, for site plan approval. And if we're not, we won't. And so what Director Doyle mentioned is that he's essentially asked the town to conduct that analysis and determine whether we're exempt or not. I think you mentioned that this is what we typically do. So I was wondering where we're at on that, whether it's informing, who is involved agency in SEQRA, in the notice of intent to be lead.

Director Dennis Doyle

So if I may, and that's a great question and an important one. The short answer is that we have reached out to the community and let them know that this resolution was going through the Legislature. We understand, I believe, it's an eight or nine part test with respect to balance of public interests test. One of the key issues is obviously the ability of the community to participate in the process. And so we would anticipate that the community would hold a public hearing. The conversations that we're having with the town right now, with respect to that, as the court cases that are involved here have not determined which agency in the town essentially makes the determination in terms of the balancing of public interest test. Unless it's spelled out somewhere in the zoning statute or another in other code. The best of our knowledge of the town of Olive does not spell out who makes that determination. So we're offering them a conversation to say whether it's going to be the town board and, or the planning board, we would consider in terms of our notification, we would consider both agencies where both elements of the town's organizational structure to be involved agencies at this particular point in time, and generally what we've done, and we've done balance of public interest test for other sitings, not the least of which is our fire training center. And depending on how we go forward with respect to the Government Operations Center, the same thing would occur there. What we've done is, we've actually appeared, and even if we have the town board making a decision, we've appeared in front of the planning board with the idea that we would take all of their comments, look at their comments and see how we can amend or ameliorate any of their concerns relative to, that balance of public interest. So we did that with the fire training center in the town of Ulster. We did that with the siting of the solar facility on the town of Ulster on our landfill in town of Ulster as well. So we're, we would go through and identify those agencies as involved agencies, and we also have noticed, the interest, the work that we do, we also do the interested agencies and the federal agencies that are involved in the tower siting. We have two federal agencies that are involved. One would be Fish and Wildlife Service, and the other one would be the FCC.

I also have a follow up question on that. Dennis, you mentioned that we were essentially requesting a partial exemption. And I was wondering, if we're looking at typical zoning laws, there are two sets of requirements. One is the the rules, the substantive requirements, the tower can only be so high or painted whatever color, or in a certain zone. And then there's the procedural requirements that we'd have to go before the planning board for site plan approval. When you said partial, is it one or the other, you're asking to exempt, either getting out of the rules or getting away from the planning board? Or is it, it there something else?

Director Dennis Doyle

No, it's the, I don't know whether I use the term partial, but it's limited immunity and limited immunity, as the term is, within that, within those tests. We want to make sure that the community is well informed, and that we identify, if we are seeking immunity from zoning statutes, that we identify those sections of the zoning statute that we're seeking immunity from. So we go through and we'll, in the case of Olive, they have a wireless siting statute, we'll identify that. The difficulty in some of this is most of the wireless statutes in the county are written around commercial telecommunications facilities. And it's tough to read them as if they're applicable to public safety radio, telephone, and communications facilities. So in some instance, we simply claim that the zoning statutes would preclude any public safety facility, unless you want to treat them as a utility of some sense, in some sense of that, in that way indifferent from a regular telecommunications facility. It's a, an iterative process with the community. And it's one that's collaborative, hopefully in most of the instances as we've gone through them.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislative Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, and I'll be quick because I just emailed counsel about this as well. But this discussion is making me wonder if, could we, what authority we might have to compel or permit further telecommunications equipment to be installed on, say privately-owned electric power lines that for the utility, and I can follow up with counsel, but it just strikes me that you could potentially address some of the dead zone issues, which by the way, Legislator Stewart, we're, I believe what Legislator Maloney might have mentioned it, in law enforcement, the Hurley dead zone, but that for, and then just because the power lines go basically anywhere that there are buildings, that could potentially service the county in a much more comprehensive way than having to always construct a new facility or maintain a remote facility.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Thank you. All right. Well, keep us posted. And at this point, is there any other discussion on resolution number 466? Hearing none, I would like to call the question. All in favor.

Legislator Phil Erner

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Resolution number 466, declaring the counties intend to act as agency. Oh, is that, do you have more conversation? Or discussion? No. Okay. For the public safety radio tower, at on Tonche Mountain in the town of Olive. All in favor, signify by raising your hand and or saying Aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? All right, it passes unanimously, and we do have everyone present Okay, resolution number 467, authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the New England interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, NEIWPC, to accept grant funds for motion for discussion for consideration.

Legislator Eric Stewart

So moved.

Legislator Phil Erner

Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Legislator Erner, seconded by Legislator Stewart. Any questions or concerns about accepting these funds? And congratulations on bringing these funds for this valuable purpose. Any other discussion? I'd like. Yes, yes, go ahead. Legislator Erner, and then Legislator Stewart, but go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. This mentioned, this, I see is from in Park, the Hudson River Estuary Program, I recall us memorializing the state earlier this term to increase the funding to that, that's been stuck for some years. Do we know whether this has come about as a result of them listening to us and actually increasing that funding?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I don't know the answer. Does anyone?

Director Nick Hvozda

I can speak to it, but I don't know the answer either. So yes, some of the funding is coming through the Estuary Program, but I don't know if it is new funding or not. I will say that this grant opportunity is available year over year. So like, it is a pre-existing program.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Great. Okay. So at this point, I'd like to call the question on Resolution 467.

Legislator Phil Erner

Eric had a.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I just had a real quick question. I know that, oh, no worries. I know that this prioritizes the Esopus, which I'm all for. But I was also curious as to if at a later date, they would be looking at, say the Rondout as well, or we're just simply focusing on the Esopus, period with this study. I mean, and I think that's a great study. I mean, I'm all for the mapping project. And, you know, studying the way the culverts and stream crossings and roads, and I mean, this is something I've spoken with Ben Gannon about prior. But like, I was just curious if this might be expanded to other waterways, down the road.

Director Nick Hvozda

The, this project has three main parts. So there's the mapping portion, there's an assessment portion, and then there's a design conceptual design portion. So the, you know, we have limited, well, I'll address the mapping first, so the mapping will cover the entire county. So we're going to map every culvert there is so we can identify and start to put that information in one place. For the assessment and designs, we're focusing on the lower Esopus watershed, an area that hasn't yet been assessed at a higher level of confidence than others have, and using limited resources and this grant to complete that area, and then subsequent grants in the future can, you know, we intend to do those assessments, as, across as much of the county as we can, so.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I understand that, you know, you're focusing on eight specific sites. So are those the only sites that will, you know, receive the funding for remediation, or is it more than just the eight sites?

Director Nick Hvozda

Yeah, so under this project, we will do assessments at approximately 400 sites that have been identified within those five, those five towns in the lower Esopus watershed that have not already received assessments. And then from those 400, we will prioritize eight to do conceptual designs that will hopefully set us up for implementation and replacement in the future.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And I'm correct in that these crossings are both county and municipal roads, correct? Okay. Great.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And Legislator Stewart, I just want to point out that there is a New York, New Jersey Watershed Protection Act that Assembly or Congressman Tonko has sponsored, waiting approval in the Senate. And there is also a resolution, another resolution, a referendum coming up on the ballot in November for clean water, clean air and green jobs. It's the first bond act, I think in 25 years. But so there may be some substantial additional sources of watershed protection funding, and maybe also in the next round, to include other tributaries and their watersheds.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And I was wondering if I could also get my add my name to the list of sponsors on this bill?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Sure. Chelsea, do you know how to go about doing that?

Chelsea Villalba

I will be asking Vicky, but I'm making a note here.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Very good. Thank you.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Thank you. Thank you for that. Both of you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Alright, so let's come to closure on resolution 467. Did we take the vote on it? No, because there were a couple of more questions. Okay. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Okay. And, okay, we still don't have Joe back. I guess.

Legislator Phil Erner

Joe's right there.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yeah, Joe's here. I've been back for, I don't know five minutes, five minutes ago.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

You've been so quiet. All right.

Chelsea Villalba

Legislator Maloney, how did you vote for resolution 467?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Oh, yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Thank you.

Chelsea Villalba

Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Resolution 468, authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to accept funds for the Ulster County Climate Action Plan Project and amending the 2022 Ulster County budget, Department of Environment. Nick, do you want to just, let me just get it on the table with a motion and a second for discussion. Gina, Legislator Hansut and Erner? Okay. Nick, would you just kind of summarize this.

Director Nick Hvozda

Thank you, Chair Greene. This, this project was funded through the DEC's office of climate change through last year's consolidated funding application process. And the project will create a community wide Climate Action Plan for Ulster County. The awarded funds will be used to hire a consultant to assist us with the process. And then also to do some graphic design for communicating the results to the public. We are expecting a 12 to 15 month period for the execution of the project. And the first step is drafting. We're currently drafting a request for proposals to select a vendor to assist with the project.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And I would like to request that we add this to the climate smart committee agenda for the September meeting. And you know, perhaps you or Europa could fill those folks in because that is really directly within their mission.

Director Nick Hvozda

Absolutely, a large part of the work.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you Chair Greene. I saw, I heard the director of environment say about a year time but I saw in some of the documentation, a five year timeline. Can you explain the difference? Just please.

Director Nick Hvozda

The, when the DEC awards, climate smart communities grants, it has a standard five year project period. And that's the period that the DEC puts into their contract. When we proposed the project to the DEC, we set a timeline of 15 months. So that's our, our schedule will be based on that and our schedule with our subcontractor, or our consultant will be based on that timeline.

Legislator Phil Erner

I'm glad to hear the shorter timeline. Thank you.

Director Nick Hvozda

Sure.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, given the rate at which the climate crisis is proceeding. Okay, so any other discussion? If not, I would like to call the question on resolution number 468, authorizing the chair of the legislature to

execute an agreement with DEC to accept funds for the Ulster County community Climate Action Plan Project and amending the 2022 budget. All in favor, please raise your hand or signify by saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Does anyone oppose? Okay, motion carries. Resolution number 469. Establishing capital project 646. Reuse Innovation Center planning study, Department of Environment Oh, well, while Nick is unmuting. Could I get a motion to discuss? I think I saw Legislator Hansut's hand and second?

Legislator Phil Erner

Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner. Okay. And this is a very exciting project. And director Hvozda, do you want to please give us a quick overview?

Director Nick Hvozda

I will. Thank you Chair Greene. This is a project that was included in the 2022 capital program for Ulster County. And the Department of the Environment over the past several months has completed a stakeholder process to develop what the scope of work of the project would be, which in short is to do a feasibility study around the creation of a reuse Innovation Center. That would be a single facility that with the goal of maximizing diversion from materials from the landfill, those materials would come from the municipal solid waste stream and, or the C & D, construction and demolition, waste stream and could be diverted in any number of ways, including reuse, repair, remanufacturing, or other forms of recycling. The request for proposals went out two months ago at this point, and we had two responses. We selected sustainable Hudson Valley as the vendor to conduct the project and are seeking to establish the project today, in this legislative session.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Does it makes sense then to block 469 and 471? 469 simply, or mainly take, establishes a line item in the budget. It was sort of bookmarked in the capital program, but we have to establish that as the line and then hopefully approve the execution of the contract. And I want to say that one of the partners for Sustainable Hudson Valley is a man named Dave Banach. He's one of the subcontractors in resolution 471. And he actually founded several reuse innovation centers around the country and was very renowned for the innovation. He's also someone who has a great deal of expertise in construction and demolition, in particular, deconstructing buildings, instead of just demolishing them so that those materials, wherever possible, can be reused. Can we just block the two, or would people prefer to just do them one at a time, we had one before.

Legislator Phil Erner

I move we block them.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Ok, and anybody have any objection? All right. So on resolution number 469, which is establishing the capital project and resolutions 471 approving the execution of a contract for 73,570, entered into.

Fawn Tantillo

Madam Chair, you have to vote on the blocking.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh, thank you. On the blocking, all in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone opposed? Okay. And I hadn't read the first resolution, I thought we should actually read it into the record. Entered into by the county, Sustainable Hudson Valley incorporated, Department of Environment. So on those two resolutions as blocked, all in favor?

Legislator Phil Erner

I have a point of order. I have a discussion.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh, okay.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I am, like this excites me. I scrambled toward committee time to read some of the details. And I did see one of the consultants with an address listed here in District Six. I called up Sara Walmer, who actually has moved out of Ulster County, but just to the North, and it said she's excited to do this work. I will note that we're planning to pay a pretty penny, maybe not unusually high, but 75 bucks an hour to three of the people and 125 an hour to two, for the consulting. I'm not sure what expenses they might have to incur it through that and what that all does. But I know that certainly many times that the wage that we can expect, for example, people actually building the project to get, and I hope that we'll take a look. And hopefully, pick some some, some employer or some group of laborers that are going to get paid top dollar like they should be when we build the thing.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And it may be possible that there is an existing facility that could undergo adaptive reuse. But your point is well taken. I will say that I think it's public knowledge that, or FOILable, that the, this proposal was considerably less than the hourly rate was considerably less than than the other proposers. So, I think, you know, I just tell you a very quick story is that I've been at Clearwater for 22 years, and I have given notice that I'll be retiring any year. They can't hire somebody for what they're paying me, because I haven't had an increase since I started doing this work. Well, maybe a couple increases over 22 years, but my salary hasn't kept up, kept up with standard of living. So I will be orienting someone earning a lot more than I am, but it's what the current market will bear. And I do think it's our job. And I think that's

one of the things that the Environmental Bond Act and even the Inflation Reduction Act and certainly the climate act, all put emphasis on priority communities and livable wages. So I think we're moving in the right direction. But anyway, anything else on this resolution? Yes. Legislator Hansut, please.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Yeah, real quick. Legislator Erner, I also had a question about that and did discuss it with somebody, like the cost, and it is, unfortunately, where it should be, or it is what it is. You know, I did question it also, but heard it is the going rate so.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And hopefully, it'll pay for itself many times over in the waste that this, ultimately, this facility will be diverting. And we won't be paying the prices that we are right now to ship our waste to Seneca Meadows, and so forth. So I think it's a good project. There was a competitive process and if we're okay with moving forward, I'd like to call the question. Okay. On resolution 469, and 471. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and, or saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And does anyone oppose? Alright, motion is carried. Resolution Number 462, amending the capital project, 488 for the installation of shoulders along Route 299 town of New Paltz, and Gardiner Transportation Improvement Project, not on the state highway system, Department of Public Works, highways and bridges.

Legislator Phil Erner

Quick clarification, Chair Greene. Is it resolution 472 or 462?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh, 472. I may have misspoke. Sorry. Thank you for correcting. All right. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Gina Hansut

Motion.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, Legislator Hansut.

Legislator Phil Erner

Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner. Any questions about this particular project for widening the shoulders? All right. I'd like to then call the question.

Legislator Phil Erner

Actually, yeah, excuse me. I did have a question.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay.

Legislator Phil Erner

I had read about the idea to wh, widening the shoulders is partly to accommodate other kinds of transportation, like bicycles, pedestrians, making it safer as such. Planner Doyle and I have had various conversations about pedestrian bicycle safety in the county. I'm wondering, is this the foreseeable improvement that this stretch of highway will have for going forward? Like this is as much as we're intending to do to make it safer, and do all the other things we're trying to do with this? Or is there any other possible facility we might introduce at some point in the near future?

Director Dennis Doyle

Was that directed at me Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

Through the Chair, yeah, if you wouldn't mind?

Director Dennis Doyle

Sure. I can tell you from a programmatic standpoint, the county planning department is host agency to something called the Ulster County Transportation Council. From a programmatic standpoint, in terms of dollars, there's nothing on our Transportation Improvement Program associated with route 299 west of the Walkkill for the next four years. This project is the sum total, the county completed, shoulder widenings on 299. From the village or actually Libertyville Road, out to the four corners, where the double stop signs are, and this project picks up from there and moves to 44-55, Gardiner. There may be other other things that are associated with this project such as such as improved signage work, there are some no parking work that was done out there in the past. But in terms of actual widening of the road, this is the sum total that I'm aware of, that is programmed on the federal, for federal funding, and I have not seen anything in the capital program, for the last, last year's capital program, that ran through '26. I have not seen anything additional program for 299 in this area.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Amanda, please go ahead.

Amanda LaValle

And if I may just add that there was a previous design for this project that had a wider shoulder however, there were very significant wetland impacts. And there was a redesign to, in that balance of

looking at environmental impacts versus the the width of the shoulder, and this was, the current project did have to come to that balance to eliminate many acres of various wetland impacts.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yeah. I was just wondering, was there a countywide study on all county roads? Like are we, is that how we identified this specific location?

Director Dennis Doyle

I can answer that question. In terms of this specific location, I'm not aware that the county wide study identified this specific location. There was a, we did look at a safety analysis of the road prior to deciding to fund it. And that was not a countywide study, but we did look at a safety wide analysis the road. To be frank, the safety wide analysis of the road basically did not disclose a significant problem out here. Most of the work that was, most of the accidents that occurred, the crashes that occurred out here were run off the road. Since that time, the county's Transportation Council has conducted a state a county wide safety analysis primarily focused on county and rural routes. And we've identified what we would call the top 10, and the top 50, intersections and segments where there were existing levels of crashes that are higher than the statewide average. It was one of those areas out here on 44-55, at the corner of Brunswick Road and 44-55, that came up as one of the top locations with respect to having crashes that are higher than statewide average. We approached the New York State Department of Transportation with respect to the need to program improvements in that, and unfortunately, I would say within a week of that of that approach, we had a fatality of that intersection. And since that time, DOD has program signalization of that intersection, quite frankly, through the urging of the local supervisor and the fire departments associated out there, and the Transportation Council. And there are flashing beacons that are installed now, and we expect the signal would be installed in early '23.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But that's not this location?

Director Dennis Doyle

No, it's not. That's correct.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

That's what I would have thought. We would have started, we would have done a county-wide safety study, and then started using these funds in, kind of, in a row of the least safe areas. So how did we, was this a request from New Paltz? How did we get into this? I'm sure there are probably limitations on the, we're getting funds here from, I don't know if it's the state or the feds, so it might be pretty specific to road widening, but there may be some safety areas around the county that need road widening. So I was just, these are procedural questions where, so one is how did how did we get to this location, specifically? Was this a town request? How, if we are, as a county, are looking at other areas in the county that are more unsafe? How did we end up expending funds here first?

Director Dennis Doyle

So, in looking at this, one of the things is it was a town request. The other issue that came up here is there's a substantial amount of cycled traffic that runs up to the State Park. And there's also a substantial amount of volume associated with this road, in terms of getting in terms of peak volume getting to the state park. So that's one of the reasons it got chosen.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Well, and that just, you know, just to, just to, you know, remind everybody there was a bipartisan resolution put up, policy for the county that kind of said, we really shouldn't have appointees from other municipal governments, you know, the elected officials from a municipal government serving as appointees in the county. And you know, that didn't pass by a couple of votes. And when you see something like this, it, you can't help but wonder, when you have somebody on the inner circle of the executive, and there's a location that's not as unsafe as maybe other locations that could be getting these funds first, you know, it's frustrating that at times, I'm obviously for this. It sounds like that we are getting the funds, their grants, but it just was, you know, it always makes you wonder.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I think your point is well taken, but I also know that stretch and really support.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But there's fatalities and other stretches that might be getting these funds earlier, and you have to wonder, when we just were told that this did originate with a town request, and we have the Deputy Supervisor of that town, who has the right hand of the executive, isn't it my job to question these kinds of things, whether we are prioritizing certain areas because of those types of relationships? Good government would have passed that resolution, and we, and I just wonder whether we'd be fixing other parts of the, other roads in the county first, and maybe we'll never know. It, this is something that you can't ever truly figure out. But if somebody's going to die, that we could have fixed the road for on a different road. And that's why it's so important for us to do our due diligence and not be scared to have these conversations. That policy should have passed. And I wonder if it did, whether this would be happening right now, but we'll never know. And we'll never know whether we save the life or cost the life.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I had, in the second to last resolved of the resolution it mentions a.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Could you speak up? It's hard to hear you now.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, can you hear me?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

That's better. Thank you.

Legislator Phil Erner

I know you can't see me too. We'll fix that in a moment. Wow. A magic fairy behind me just did that. In the second to last resolved, it set lists a municipal title of county engineer. Now I know we have in public works, a couple of senior engineers. Is that who that's talking about? Can we can we clarify the language as to who that's referring to? Because I don't actually see an official county engineer in our government.

Director Dennis Doyle

Are they in the Health Department? I thought we have some engineers under Carol Smith, actually.

Legislator Phil Erner

I see too, I mean, there's, just looking at my directory, and you all know, I'm still new, so I'm learning who's who. But there's two senior engineers in public works. But I mean, does anyone, when I searched it. Does anybody, is anyone aware of who this is supposed to be referring to? I guess is the main point.

Director Dennis Doyle

That's a good question.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Why don't we request that? Director Doyle, could you get the answer for us? I don't know that that will stop us proceeding. But it's a valid question, and.

Director Dennis Doyle

Yeah, we can reach out to DPW and have them clarify that and whether or not the language needs to be amended to make the Legislature comfortable. We're more than happy to do that.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anything else on this amendment? Because we still have a bit more of an agenda. All right, on resolution number 472, that is amending the capital project for the installation of shoulders along Route 299, in the town of New Paltz and Gardiner. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye. All right. And Phil, that's an aye for you? Yeah, okay.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Anyone oppose? Okay. Joe, are you opposed?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'm a yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Just to be sure I heard correctly. Oh, you're a yes. I thought I heard, what? Okay. Never mind. I'll ask one more time. Is anyone opposed? Okay, motion carries, unanimously. Thank you. All right. New business, we've talked about the climate community, I put it as summit but it's actually the round table, but I think we can get through it relatively quickly. So there, there is a concern that I had. Well, let's see. Possible revision of resolution declaring a climate emergency. Let's start with that. And Legislator Petit actually drafted a document and many of us have added to that document, which Fawn has compiled, and the way the document is structured, it's the reasons why we would consider, this is before we actually have a resolution. But the reasons why we would consider re-declaring a climate emergency since it was originally declared, I think, in 2018, but things have changed significantly. And some of those reasons are listed. And then specific actions that we're going to be recommending. And those actions are listed by topic, energy, materials management, water, land use, etc, and I think it's ready to be circulated. And then, I don't know if we need a special meeting, or I think it could wait to the September meeting. But we really want to have a good section of time to go over that. And in the meantime, if you have other ideas for the committee to consider, once you see what. Oh, Fawn is here. So I'm going to ask if you're comfortable in circulating this to the committee, and then have them send you additional information. She may have stepped away for a minute. There she is.

Fawn Tantillo

Chelsea can certainly circulate that to you. She's probably better at it than I am. But we'll talk about oops, what happened to my screen? But we will, we'll certainly talk about that tomorrow. I see a couple people said they can't access it anymore. So we'll work on that tomorrow.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay.

Chelsea Villalba

It is in the OneDrive folder, and I can email it to everybody on this call.

Fawn Tantillo

I think they want to be able to edit it.

Chelsea Villalba

Edit? Okay.

Fawn Tantillo

We can certainly send it to everybody. That's not a problem.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I think we just need one point person to send our edits to. I'm not sure that, um, I think there was some question about doing a shared document that we can send the information, but that we wouldn't be able to edit, so we would just have to say, please add this or change that or whatever.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I could be wrong, but that was the feedback that I got. That in order to make this a document ready for discussion in September, if everyone takes a look at it as soon as possible. All right.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay. It is on your OneDrive. Chelsea put it in your committee folder for tonight, so.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Great, and I've looked through it, a lot of my suggestions are there, but and also, you know, Laura's rationales and a lot of other discussion. And I think some of the things, for example, the possible resolution declaring a climate emergency and then UCEDA. For the IDA, one of my suggestions is that a Climate Impact Analysis be done beyond SEQRA, one that focuses on climate impacts, emissions reduction or emissions addition and possibly, energy generation or whatever the considerations are, and those would have to be defined, but that we not be funding projects, that are going to worsen the climate crisis. And so that's a big one, and it's going to take some real discussion. And I think there were quite a few other really good suggestions. So why don't we, for tonight, you know, just assign ourselves the homework of looking that over and sending? Should we send it to Fawn, or Chelsea, or both? If we have additional comments

Chelsea Villalba

You can send them to me.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, great. And I would also encourage anyone else on the call to take a look, and we welcome all ideas. But we'll have a very focused discussion in September. Legislative Erner, go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, and Chair Greene, I suppose you must mean October, right?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Ah, yes. You know, the climate is at the end of the month, and then this is at the beginning of the month, and I do mix them up. Thank you.

Legislator Phil Erner

You're welcome. I wanted to suggest, since you mentioned the IDA, I, just to take a step further from what you were saying, and maybe we've suggested collectively so far, but not only should we urge the IDA not to fund projects that don't meet certain climate goals, I wonder whether we might instead urge

them specifically only to do those types of projects? I've certainly heard from district residents here, criticisms of the IDA in general and particular projects. But I wonder if, since we've got the IDA, and they have certain authority under state law, whether we might use that to the good, and really try and encourage them to focus their efforts in that way.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I have a question for Attorney Gordon. And that is, how is the IDA regulated? Is that by state? In other words, can we do, can easily create, as part of a resolution or a separate resolution, direction to the IDA? Is that state controlled? Or is it, can, are they autonomous and create their own rules?

Legislative Counsel Gordon

I would need to look that up as to which sets of rules control? I can't answer that off the top of my head, but I can certainly get back to you on that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Great. Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yeah, just with regards to the IDA. I think when we appoint the board, I mean, once they're appointed, they're supposed to be somewhat independent, they're not really somewhat independent. Now, that does not mean that they're not allowed to be spoken to you, we can talk and urge and, and tell them our feelings. But I just, everyone should remember that the IDA was created many years ago, in the state 67 years ago. And it really was because we're in the northeast, not only is it a little more expensive to live in the northeast, just because of weather, compared to a warmer weather state. But New York had done other things to have a little bit higher of taxes, and a higher, it was a, it was a more expensive place to do business. And the idea was that a Volkswagen plant is going to come in and go to Tennessee, or Georgia. And it was a way that we could lure major manufacturing industrial high paying jobs to the area, IBM things like that, that are game changers. And I think we just got to be careful when we start trying to do something, I mean, if we want to do something like what Phil was just talking about, then let's look into creating another entity or seeing what other entities are out there. So same conversation we need to have about housing. The idea in the state, enabling legislation, it speaks about housing not being for IDA pilots, IDA pilots are for high-paying manufacturing jobs, that would not come if not, if not for, there's language in there, unless this place, this large company will not come here, unless we basically reduce their taxes and give them sales and mortgage tax relief. So I just think everyone's got to understand that the IDA is what it is and to try to influence it or make it something it's not, I don't think it's legal. With regards to the last question asked, there may be things we can do legislatively that don't step on what the state's enabling legislation is, but for the most part the IDA members do, they do create their own bylaws and their own UTAP, and their own grading system. We can sure talk to them about that in interviews, we can certainly make that a part of economic development, that we prioritize green, because there are green, high-paying green initiative jobs. I mean, our IDA could be kind of focused, within what they're supposed to do, on high-paying green manufacturing jobs. A solar panel manufacturer is something, that's certainly something that they can be ultra focused on, and we can interview people and hope that we put people in there. But we just got to be careful because it's, it's going on with housing right now, too. It's not for housing, they give away

school, school taxes. So you gotta be careful with housing, you move 100 kids in to a new facility that's not paying school taxes, and what the hell's the school district do with 100 kids at \$25000 to \$30000, \$35,000 a head per school year. So that's my thoughts. I, it always makes me a little uncomfortable when we start talking about the RRA and the IDA and about what we can make them do. And I think we got to be careful.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Let me, I see your hand Legislator Stewart, and I'll call on you next, I just want to point out that in terms of policy, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is an independent authority. But it's the, the county legislature determines what materials are mandated for recycling. And I'm just using that as an example. The composting law that we discussed earlier, came from the legislature, worked with the UCRRA. So I do think that the legislature can set policy that independent authorities would need to follow, but Attorney Gordon said he would look into that.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I agree to that. Manna, I agree with what you're saying there, that those are, that there is, obviously things that would affect the RRA. And even the IDA. I mean, there's, anytime a pilot goes beyond 10 or 15 years, the Legislature kicks in with approval. I'm not saying there's no relationship there, and there's no jurisdictional things at times. But I just mean, as far as telling the IDA or the RRA, you know, our, our over, our real jurisdictional oversight over them kind of ends with, and that's, there's a, you know, that's a good thing for them to be autonomous and independent. But I get, I get what you're saying. And I don't disagree with that. I think you're 100%. Right.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Legislator Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I was just wondering, I guess to back up for a moment, when I served on the town board in Marbletown, we passed a resolution that prohibited the creation of any new fossil fuel infrastructure coming through the town of Marbletown. And I was wondering if that might be something that we can consider doing on a county-wide level?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes. And if you haven't already, please, submit that to Chelsea, and she will work with Fawn and incorporate all of our suggestions and then we'll have a focused, we'll have a chance to read them, process them, and have a focused discussion. Let Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

I'm wondering whether Legislator Stewart's idea would extend, if we're going to ban say gas stations, new gas stations, do we also ban the sale of new cars that use the fuel that those gas stations provide. I, for one, would be interested to explore that possibility. But what do others think?

Legislator Eric Stewart

The Marbletown resolution didn't really deal with gas stations. It did deal with things like pipelines, oil pipelines, gas pipelines, you know, creating fuel storage facilities. This came out about the same time when the town of Ulster was talking about creating that big storage facility, you know, off of 28, I believe it was, so.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, it was going to be a peaker plant and it.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

It transitioned to the Glide Path peaker plant.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes. Thank you. I couldn't remember the name thanks.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

It transitioned to a battery storage facility which, unfortunately, has not been built. And we definitely need battery storage, so.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'd be in favor of all of the above, so.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Maloney?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

There's parts of that, that I would probably be in favor of, but I think there's probably state and federal laws that we would be stepping on. And when you, with regards to some of the things that we'd like to outlaw coming through our county mean, there's, I don't know if it would be considered eminent domain, but there are things that we can do, a lot of things we can do nothing about, and I think a lot of what was just mentioned, though, it sounds nice, I don't think would ultimately be legal for us to do, but we can, we should certainly ask and it would be good for all of us to kind of learn where, where we, where our powers end, with regards to those kinds of regulations.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay, thank you.

Legislative Counsel Gordon

Attorney Gordon? Yeah, just okay. Just real quick. One thing that strikes, off the top my head is that if you don't, I don't believe that a municipality will be able to do any sort of legislation that would ban or even significantly regulate any type of facility that is otherwise regulated under Article Seven of the Public Service Law. And that article seven, the public service law, as I understand it, I have much more

experience with article 10, which is for power plants, article seven would be for linear types of energy facilities, like a pipeline, for example, or a table. The state laws, both article seven or article 10, they exist specifically to supersede any other agency; local agencies, state agencies. DEC does not have jurisdiction over the SPDE permits that would come out of for example, a power plant under Article 10. And the concept is that it all gets taken into the PSC, and then all these towns and individuals actually have standing to go and participate in the PSC permit hearing, but doesn't but for a town to try to even, even exercise zoning over these activities be superseded. So certainly banning, for example, a pipeline, or some other linear type of project, that it's regulated under Article seven, is going to be superseded. Sorry.

Legislator Eric Stewart

So, so it was more of a, you know, a gesture as opposed to something that could actually be defended in court.

Legislative Counsel Gordon

Respectfully, I would think so. But I'd be happy to take a look at the specific proposal.

Fawn Tantillo

Like a pipe dream.

Legislative Counsel Gordon

I'm talking, talking off the top of my head.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, I also want to encourage us with this upcoming resolution, to really focus on things that can be done in the short term, and maybe make reference to, in the whereases, also considering some other suggestions that are not going to be implemented within the next five years, for example. Some things we have to get around to, but some things we can do that could make a real difference in terms of addressing the climate crisis, which truly has become an emergency. Since we're going to have more discussion on this, I'd like to go to the SEQRA, and we started by getting some preliminary definitions. Fawn, very kindly did some research and Fawn, if you would forward that list to Attorney Gordon. And he has agreed to look over the list, preview and pick one training that we can all do in our own time, and then we would have. I would like to have a special meeting for the SEQRA training, so I think it's going to take more than we can fit into a regular meeting, so between October and November, we should be able to schedule that. But for now, the next step would be that we will pick one training that we can all agree to watch on our own time. Uh-oh, it says my internet connection is unstable. Let's see. Is that okay with everyone, is that a good way to proceed? And then we would, the actual training would be more of a question and answer where Dave would go over key points. And be sure that, you know, since so much of, of the SEQRA process comes to this committee, and ultimately, it may, we may want to set a policy that all SEQRA come, for the county comes through Energy, Environment and Sustainability. But I think, you know, it's great that Planner Doyle said that the departments have been trained, but I think, since we ended up with the responsibility of ruling or not ruling on the determinations, but either agreeing, and setting them, moving them forward or questioning them, I think that it's a very important training for this committee. I would certainly welcome any other

legislators who want to listen in. But I think, you know, for us, it's kind of our responsibility. Legislator Stewart, please.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I just want to say, I'm all for the SEQRA training, and I'm, that format certainly works for me. The main reason I raised my hand, however, was because you mentioned Fawn just a moment ago, and I just wanted to recognize her and thank her for putting together all this information for the climate emergency resolution. So thanks.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

That's great. Thank you. Yes, Dennis, go ahead.

Director Dennis Doyle

Thank you. Thank you. I just want to clarify that that we're, I would never want to have someone indicate that the preparation of resolutions and the understanding of the SEQRA process at the departmental level, couldn't be improved. We strongly have continued to work with departments and urged that departments are engaged, when they engage in capital projects or things that are subject to SEQRA, that they work, that they work to essentially understand it better and train it better. And we have worked with departments to make sure of that. And the other thing, I think that's coming out that we've tried to do, and I think we've had limited success or some success, is to make sure that when we look at resolutions, that the resolutions, we have, we have a sort of a set set of language that that could, that goes into resolutions. And then the last thing I would say is that the legislature, in terms of making its decisions, you know, we, your attorney spoke about the idea that we're, on the Tonche, that we've just begun the process. Well at the end of the process, the legislature needs to make a finding, relative to where that, relative to the impact and, and that finding requires that you take a hard look. So you know, when we submit material to you for review in terms of what a negative declaration looks like, or what a determination looks like, if the legislature doesn't read it, and we end up going to court and somebody starts asking questions, how many of you read the determination before you voted on it, we're in some significant difficulty, because there is a hard look that has to be made. So we try to get a lot of that material to you as soon as possible, so that you understand that you have to do that. And that's been the way that we've operated over a number of years, to try to get that out there, and to you, as soon as possible. The other thing I would say is, is that, you know, when we look at this, we want to make sure that when the resolutions come through, that the resolutions are consistent, and my own pet concern is that a lot of times that we're, when we're writing resolutions with respect to SEQRA determinations, the SEQRA language appears in the whereas clause rather than the resolved clause. And we've continued to argue that when you're, when you're making SEQRA determinations, they should, those determinations should be in the resolved clause, not in the, not in the whereas clauses resolutions, and try to work to make sure that that language got there. To the idea of having increased attention with respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, through all of the, through all of the levels of government, both on the executive side and on the legislative side, is just, it's just something that from my perspective, as planning director, full support.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, and I don't know what's going to happen with, it's not on our list, not on our agenda for tonight, but resolution 308 and 309. Apparently, there's been some shift in the project. It was a much larger and more expensive project. We, this committee agreed and voted for making the county lead agency. But there were then subsequent determinations that, it's my understanding from what we said earlier that after some lead agency is declared, that there's a period of, I think, 30 days before a SEQRA determination is made by the, by the lead agency. And then there was also a question of segmentation. Now, I don't know whether new resolutions are going to come or we're going to be amending 308 and 309, for the emergency center on, and county facility on Paradise lane, but I do ask Attorney Gordon, if he could just explain the term segmentation we're talking about SEQRA?

Legislative Counsel Gordon

Yeah, actually one, I want to just sort of give a slightly different angle on what you mentioned. In general, for a SEQRA project, what, the first thing that we do is not declare lead agency, we send out a notice of intent to be lead agency. Other agencies that receive the notice can object to it. And so, the 30-day period you're referring to is the waiting period before you become a lead agency. Now, it doesn't have to be 30 days, if all the other agencies send send you back a response and say, 'Yeah, that's great, you be the lead,' then we can actually be shorter than that. But you figure it's 30 days, because that's, that's the period of time we have, plus they may just end up doing nothing. So the period, the first thing you do is an intent to be lead, you distribute that and you wait 30 days. Once you're the lead, theoretically, or under the law, you can issue a declaration of significance with no way, you have to take a hard look as, as Director Doyle mentioned. But once you've taken that hard look, you can do it immediately, once you're the lead, and very often, agencies do, acknowledge themselves as the lead or declare themselves lead having circulated the notice and gotten no response. And then you can do a neg dec immediately. That's that. So the waiting period is from the time you circulate, to when you actually become lead. As to the issue relating to the, the emergency center, and I haven't had the opportunity to discuss this at any length with the administration, we may end up doing that, but where we ended up differing with, with what was presented was the concept of segmentation. And what that means is, if there's a big project, or sometimes a couple of projects that could all be, that are all part of the same plan, SEQRA basically, doesn't absolutely require, but it strongly advises the projects to review, be reviewed together, in terms of the SEQRA analysis. Remember, the whole purpose of a lead agency is to bring the, all the other agencies in, and all the other permits in, so you end up doing one environmental review of the whole thing. That's, that's considered better for a number of reasons, but most important of which is that if you break it into two or three different environmental reviews, the impacts may look, may seem less significant on each individual question, or each individual project. And very often, this breaking up of a project can occur geographically, you know, the East project, or the West project, or the golf course in the hotel. But sometimes it occurs in terms of time, the initial determination to determine, to do the study, to hire the consultant, then you get the project and you, you know, there's different stages. And this case, where the county proposed to break it out and did so in two different resolutions, was they broke up the land purchase, to the development of the project. And that's pretty classic, what's called segmentation. And that's where, and what the rules say is, the rules don't say you can never do that. What the rules say is that if you're going to do that, and the purpose of doing it is to front load, the land purchase, and when you look at it by itself, a land purchase by itself, a land purchase has no environmental impact. But what you do with the land purchase typically does, and in most cases, the land purchase and the project are taken together. And the classic

example is, if DoD was building a road or expanding road and they've got to condemn land, that's going to be part of the SEQRA review. They're not going to break it off into different SEQRA reviews. And the good news here is that the project itself has been, in terms of the land acquisition, has been significantly downsized. Dennis may have the exact numbers, but it's probably gone down from like 55 acres to five acres, and because, that's really all we needed for the actual facility. And so, I'm actually eager to see a new set of, a new set of SEQRA proposals on this, recognizing the different, the smaller scale project, and my advice would be to, either don't segment that, because this is really what the law requires us, not to segment it, or, if you do really need to segment it, as in do the land purchase first so we can approve it first, one of the things that the rules requires is that you explain why. The two things you need to do to segment, to break a project up that would otherwise be a unified environmental impact, is to show that by breaking it up, you're not going to have any more of, your environmental review is not going to be any more robust, any less robust, you're going to do the same level of intense environmental review, and the reason why you're doing it. In the county's submittal, they just sort of showed, in my view, and we may differ on this, I haven't had those discussions yet, but they sort of showed or explained that it wouldn't be any less of an environmental review, which may actually be questionable, and the legislature may take a different tack on that. But in my view, they never explained why they had to do it. What was the purpose behind this disfavored procedure? And that's where, that's essentially where we left from last month, and now they essentially have a different proposal. So again, we'll be looking at that proposal. But then, if they want to segment that again, do the land acquisition up front. We would need an explanation of why, and then again, the explanation that's not going to be any less protective than the full review.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Any other comments or questions? I don't want to belabor this, that I wanted us to be aware because it's a concern that's been raised. And also, I want us to become increasingly familiar with the terms.

Legislative Counsel Gordon

Yeah, well, all the term really means is just taking an environmental review of an otherwise, significant, large project, and breaking it into one or more, two or more smaller pieces.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Let's see. We have a few more topics. The.

Legislator Phil Erner

Madame Chair, Clerk Villalba has something to say.

Chelsea Villalba

I just wanted to say, Legislator Erner, to answer your question. The food waste hierarchy is section 304-4, 7 of the Ulster County Code, courtesy of Counsel Gordon.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, the Delaware aqueduct. The temporary shutdown, is there an update on that?

Legislator Phil Erner

I've been playing some phone tag with Supervisor Parete. I admit that my level of concern over this has diminished over time, if only out of so much going on, but if the committee would like to, to hear, I will continue to try and find that information, otherwise, I'm happy to drop it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. I think we'll leave that up to you. You know, if there is something that is still of concern that you want the committee to consider and possibly take action on, please let us know. The benchmarking requirements for IDA, I think I would like to consider that as part of the climate emergency, not that it can't be separated out. But I'd like to include that with that discussion, because when we do discuss the possible actions at that time, we could say well, this, this needs a separate action, and should not be part of the declaration, the resolution to re-declare a climate emergency. So if there's no objection, I'd like to hold off and consider it under that conversation.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yep. That's fine.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Survey of local municipal policies on pesticides. Part of our information for tonight included a very good spreadsheet that, I believe Fawn created, or maybe Chelsea. It's a little hard to keep track of right now but um, okay, and I have to acknowledge I was going to look at Rosendale. And maybe with Legislator Stewart, we could answer for Marbletown. But, let's see if we can, between now and the next meeting, fill in the information for the municipalities we represent, and then we can see where the gaps are.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm sorry, somehow I managed to miss that notification, my apologies. But for the record, marble town does not use herbicides or pesticides. Unfortunately, I am not sure about the town of Hurley.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Alright, well, then you have a little homework. Okay, and then, the situation with Central Hudson training facility? Is there an update on that, Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

I defer to Legislator Maloney. I missed the last meeting that they had with the local residents. Joe, do you know what's going on over there?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

With regards to what? I just was, I just stepped out with the kid, we're tucking kids in, and I'm back. As I was sitting down, what were we talking about?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Central Hudson, and the neighbors.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Oh. So there, I was originally told that. So there's a lot of different properties being affected differently over there. So there are people that got flooded out. There are, there's a stretch where there may be water making it to, there's different retention ponds, there are spots on the tracks that, that we're, even CSX seem to be somewhat concerned about, and are doing their due diligence, as far as undermining the tracks in one area. Obviously, this, there's a massive construction going on, in a massive clear cutting, which creates runoff. There's lots of other issues that, that the citizens have over there with the project, and ways it's affected them. But I think the two most legitimate is runoff, and, and there's different things that happen with the runoff, and possible, and then you worry about the tracks. So, and it depends on what piece of piece of property that you're talking about, where you have people with wells, and they had this massive flooding at one point, and people were worried about their wells, and some of the things with all this construction is, are their wells being contaminated? There are people that are along the creek that actually have some of this runoff making its way to the creek, and creating more turbidity. I've seen photographs of you know, from the side. So there's all these different little things going on with certain pieces of property there. And it seems as though Central Hudson, the meetings I've been on, kind of points the finger in a way at CSX and says, 'Well, our property butts up against CSX, and then it's these these residents property, and if they had better culverts and retention ponds themselves,' and then CSX kind of says 'no, no, no, our culverts are fine where, this is, you know, your runoff.' So I know there was a meeting, I don't think that, Dennis, I think, was invited to the meeting. I was originally invited to the meeting, and then I was not told about the meeting. But I was told, when I looked into it, that Dennis was invited and couldn't make it. But the town of Ulster, CSX, and Central Hudson got together. And I know, I think CSX was, from what I could tell, determined to defend their infrastructure there. I've gone there, I've walked the property with some of the residents. I definitely think there's certain spots that have been addressed, even recently, a little bit. There's other spots that haven't. One of the retention ponds that's referred to as a retention pond was a long type, it was actually a pond, it was never a retention pond. This is a place that people swam in, 50 and 60 years ago, now it's referred to as a retention pond. I definitely think there's things they can do better there. There's another area, and there's only two or three individuals that are affected by this, but there's a house that's literally being kind of washed away a little bit. He's in an awkward spot. There's a huge ravine that goes through his property. I don't see any solution there but a long, like piping that actually takes the runoff all the way to the creek, because if they let it run there, the ravine is widening and his house is right on the side of the ravine. But the town of Ulster tells them, if there's work, if that ends up happening, and they end up, and the town of Ulster ends up taking part in this and running a huge pipe there, that they're going to create a separate district that, from that point forward, these people have to sign off on overseeing, which they can't take on that kind of liability. So very complicated situation. There's a lot of different environmental, clean water, the Esopus is involved, property destruction. You have two billion-dollar entities that are pointing the finger at each other. The town of Ulster, it doesn't seem, the impression I get, they don't really want to be all that involved in this. So, and then you have the tracks that that are there, and over the last 50 or 60, maybe, yeah, 50 or 60 years, you've actually had two derailments, at in this stretch. I mean, the last derailment, the second one was even many years ago. But it's a, it really is a complicated situation. I know I've talked to the town of Ulster, and they say the county has no jurisdiction, but I disagree, because their jurisdiction kind

of ended when they, when they approved the zoning and the planning in their town. At this point, these are constituents that need our help, and they're kind of, they're kind of being ping-ponged around between \$2 billion corporations. The problem is, it's not 1000 residents. It's 20 or 30 residents. And it's, you know, what I mean, and they kind of get lost in the shuffle. I don't know if that's, that's, Phil, that's a pretty good, like rundown on what I've experienced there. Dennis, you obviously may know something about it, if you, and you're more of an expert than me, so definitely, I'm not gonna be offended if you disagree or correct. Anything I've said.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And, Dennis, do you have a comment? Yes, your hand is up. Good.

Director Dennis Doyle

I'm like, trying to see my button, my eyes are going crazy. So yeah, I know. I know, Legislator Maloney. I, I think the idea of describing this as complicated, is one that, is one that fits the bill. Not to go over everything you talked about, and I have not, I've only walked the site a long time ago, when they first, when we first reviewed it for the construction. But I will say that, even though I didn't make the meeting, I did get a call from the supervisor to update us on what happened. And the one thing I think that, if we can take anything positive from the meeting, was that the existing pond retention pond, which is on the southern end of the site, adjacent to the tracks, there's culvert issues associated with that, in terms of plugging and how it drains. And apparently, there's been an agreement that CSX is going to make sure that they were gonna look at the culvert. And if there's problems associated with the culvert, in terms of its drainage, which creates some flooding issues, and some backwater issues associated with it, then they're looking to give Central Hudson the ability to go in and clear that culvert out. So, at a long term, we're not, what we're, you know, what we found in terms of dealing with the railroad, it's very difficult to get somebody on site to make repairs. So the idea that Central Hudson may have, may agree to take some responsibility to make sure those culverts cleans, is the one good thing that I took away from the discussion that we had after, that I had with the supervisor after the meeting. But I would agree with with legislator Maloney, there's, it's quite a complicated issue. That said, that the modeling is, the modeling done for the construction can be verified in the field. That's the thing, I think, and that's kind of some of the discussions that we have, is to make sure that the installation of the, of this, of the stormwater facilities were according to plan at the modeling, if the modeling worked. I'll leave it at that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I just have a question about, is DEC involved at all. Seems like that would be.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

At one point, they were, there were fines being, major fines that were, that were put forth, but it seems they've pulled out a little bit. Dennis, you could tell us more about that.

Director Dennis Doyle

Yeah, my understanding, again, this is second-hand knowledge for me, this is not firsthand. My understanding is that DEC became involved because the, you file a stormwater pollution prevention plan, which essentially says that you're going to make sure that the erosion and sediment control works associated with this, and we don't have discharges, muddy discharges or turbid discharges, and they

were not in compliance with all of their, what they call the swip. And they moved to essentially make sure that they were in compliance with that, but I'm not aware of that, that the department has continued involvement, now that the site starts to become more stabilized.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

What, I will say that there are certain sections that I've seen that I don't think are stabilized, that will continue to be an issue, especially on the, on the far side, down by where Anaconda-Kaye used to be, where you turn after Van Kleeck's. There are serious issues there that continue and what that, I think, was, kind of a natural occurring pond, which is now referred to as retention pond, needs real, really to be addressed. A couple of different things need to be addressed there, and I just think that this, there was also an issue that's been acknowledged that, there's actually runoff that now comes from the road, the 9W side, that never happened before, but when you clear cut that much land, you now, and even Central Hudson said in the in the one meeting I was at, they basically said, well, that's the town of Ulster's problem. It was almost like, basically, what they were saying was, when rain comes down, along the 9W side, it lands on property that's not ours, and passes through us, but since it lands on like, like not the 9W side, it's not our liability, which is insane to me, but they're going to continue to have issues there. This is a massive project, I don't know, there's times where I've seen overhead shots, where there hasn't been a lot of rain, and one retention pond will still be kind of full. So like, there hasn't even been rain. There's other times other spots where, after heavy rain, places are dry, that probably shouldn't be dry. You know, Central Hudson, to me, experiencing it, I've spoken to CSX, I've spoken to the residents, I've spoken to the town of Ulster, and I've spoken to Central Hudson. I'm no expert, but it's seems to be more Central Hudson that, and there are also things that were done previous, not too long ago, that Dennis may know more about, with the old Myron building, and they repaved a lot there, and what they did underneath, engineering-wise has now created even more runoff, and there's a, there's culverts that come in from that spot, and I think there's issues about depth with some of these culverts and drainage that can be addressed. The problem is, it's hard because neither Central Hudson or CSX wants to, once they admit, yes, we have to fix that, there's something better we could do there, it's almost an acceptance of liability. So these major, you know, these billion dollar entities, it's always hard to make them admit or do anything, because they open themselves up to liability. So it's, it's a really complicated situation. But my experience thus far out of all those entities, everyone involved, I find Central Hudson, just to be completely honest, being a little more disingenuous than anybody. And that includes CSX. I've had more, I feel like more honest conversations with CSX than I have been able to have with Central Hudson. But we're still in a very complicated situation.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Central Hudson being a bad player. Oh, what a shock.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Yeah, so.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

To me, it sort of just points out a question of, you know, this is a problem that someone should have jurisdiction and be implementing solutions, and it's, I'm not sure who that is. It does seem to me that ultimately, it's the town and then to whatever extent the DEC.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Well, they're county residents. We're a lot closer to the state. We're a much bigger, more powerful entity than the town of Ulster. And if you have somebody in the town of Ulster that doesn't want to deal with this, that approved this big Central Hudson project, I mean, I feel like it's our, our job to at least look into it. I mean, there are things we can do, as far as certain county policies. We can certainly bring people to the table. We were able to, it was, you know, I think phone calls that I made that got this meeting going originally between CSX and the town of Ulster and central Hudson that I was first invited to, and then cut out of, but, you know, and I was told by the town supervisor, your activist friends are not welcome at this meeting. I mean, he was referring to the residents over there. And I said, they're not activists, they're residents, and they're being affected by this. But that's the attitude that the town of Ulster has taken. And I know that, you know, Glenerie Boulevard, and then on the other side, by Myron, and what I know to be in Anaconda-Kaye and Vankleek Tires, that side, you know, every resident I talked to was really frustrated with the town of Ulster, with their board, and these are Republicans, Democrats, these are people that have had long-standing relationships with the government and officials over there, and they really feel like they're being left out to dry. And when that kind of things happens. I don't know that the town of Ulster has much more jurist, or we have jurisdiction, but we have titles, and we can use those titles to get people together and shine a light on things, and nothing moves the wheels of justice like public outcry, and I think we can help with that. Maybe it starts with the, a couple of us meeting down there. I would love if these people come out and show you. I mean, you can walk the property and experience what I've experienced and, and maybe next meeting, or the one after, whenever we do that, we're a little more educated on it, and maybe we can come up with something. And if all of us together, I mean, if you have a standing committee, all asking to host a meeting between CSX and Central Hudson, and we've educated ourselves on it, I do think we're more likely to get something done. But I mean, that takes logistics, it, that's going to take our effort. I'm willing to do it, I've done it for a couple of months.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm willing to go on a field trip, if others are.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah. I would, too, I hate to put one more thing on my plate. But I also have a long-standing, very good relationship with John and, and others at Central Hudson, from the days where they were helping us to promote energy efficiency, and green building and solar and renewables. Most of that was pre-Fordist, but we still maintain a very cordial relationship. So maybe I can help in that way. So thank you for, you know, the update. And if there are ways we can help protect people's property and help solve, to the degree we can, it's not directly our jurisdiction, but there may be ways we can help solve some of these problems that you've cited.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Thank you, Legislator Maloney.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes. The next thing on the agenda is photovoltaic power generation project.

Legislator Phil Erner

So sorry, Chair Greene, I did have one thing to just add to the last topic, if I might.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, I see your hand. Go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. And yeah, thank you, Joe, for that report, very much, and all you're doing for people of the county, in that part of the county? I actually have not been there in person yet, but from conversations I've had with, with the organization, with Caitlin, one of the people in the organization about, like, could the county, could we create something that gives more oversight, or advocacy, and have some discussions? I think I mentioned in the committee before, about the idea of an environmental, a county environmental advocate. I'm actually not, I'm happy to talk more about that at a future point, I'm not sure where I stand on that myself at this point, because in the past month, for example, I've been working, you know, Counselor Gordon, you know, because we had a conversation about it, but ideas of rights in nature, rights of different like, a forest to flourish, or the Hudson River, or the Esopus Creek to, to do its thing and with the idea that if those things, those features of the natural world can do their things, then we'll be healthier for it too. And I'm wondering if that might not be another way to approach this sort of thing, and I don't know what that looks like in the neighborhood of Glenerie Boulevard yet, but I'm just throwing that out as something that I'm thinking about and want to bring to your, my colleagues on this committee's attention, and thanks for listening.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Almost like an environmental ombudsman or something, a place to bring these. Okay, let's see. Photovoltaic power generating projects, the solar mapping, and then it says upgrading infrastructure, conservation requirements and incentives. I am not quite sure how this is a carryover from previous discussion. I can update you to say that there will be another municipal solar mapping program this fall. Those of us who were facilitating that from New Yorkers for Clean Power, Scenic Hudson, and Clearwater. We've reached 30 municipalities to help them understand how to use the tool to promote wise solar-siting. So where are the opportunities? What areas do we need to be careful and protect? What is the hosting capacity, and ultimately, to try to site projects that don't pave over prime farmland or take out acres of a forest. And it's, it's a very good tool, and I hope that some of you will try to find people in your municipalities, the municipalities you represent, to participate, because solar and renewables are distributed energy. They take place in the towns, on the ground, not in large generating facilities, like fossil fuel plants, or nuclear plants that generate 2000 megawatts. These are, you know, five megawatts, 20 megawatts, etc. And, it's been, we've gotten really good feedback. We started a year ago, and we're coming up on, on the fourth cohort in the fall. I do want to say that anything to do with upgrading infrastructure, conservation requirements and incentives, really, I think should be just discussed in the climate smart committee, because I think it's their mission for the county to make those recommendations. Does anybody else have anything to add on this topic? Ulster County Fair, we had a wonderful, very well-attended event, where we had a Climate Education booth and Climate Row. We took up a good portion of the main tent, and were able to, I'm gonna have to get a cough drop, to

educate people on climate, information and climate solutions. I think some of you had a chance to see that. Any questions or comments on that?

Legislator Gina Hansut

It was great. You guys did a great job. It was very informative. It was fun, it was engaging. So you did a great job.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Thank you.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I agree with Gina, totally. And also, I wanted to add that, you know, we had a really, I think, constructive, follow-up meeting to that, where we, you know, discussed ways to, you know, improve, and add on to what we accomplished with this last go around. So, yeah, I think it was very valuable. So thanks, everyone, for participating.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And thanks also to Kim Mayer, and Melissa Iachetta, who, with, you know, they each had such a powerful leadership role and went to great lengths to create crossword puzzles and raffles and games. And, and also to all the organizations that helped with the Climate Row Booth, which are too numerous to name, but it was a real wonderful effort, two years in a row. And one thing we want to do next year is start much earlier, so that we really can have a green living Expo and have the vendors that have products or services that are climate solutions being mixed in with the education. We, we did some outreach this year, but the fare filled up very quickly with vendors who might not necessarily be, would fit under the term of green living Expo.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And Chelsea was pretty awesome that day too.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

We talked about the Reuse. And yes, she was. Yes, she was. Okay, um, we talked about the Reuse Innovation Center and I hope that after the feasibility study, when it actually becomes a reality, that we will name it after John Wackman, whose vision inspired this. And the last thing on our agenda is the zero waste Implementation Plan update. We have signed a contract with Mike Ewall, and a few others that he is working with, to take all the pieces that we've researched and written and put them together into one document, which will go to the UCRRA, and the recycling oversight committee will then take their input and have a series of stakeholder meetings. And hopefully, by the end of the year, the timeline for the Zero waste implementation plan, which has a lot of information already ready to be put into a document. That timeline is between now and the end of this year, with the hope that by the end of the year, we have something that can actually become an amendment to the local Solid Waste Plan. And that process would take place, January, February, March, that the hopefully the UCRRA and the Legislature would approve. So that is that update. And I just want to mention, again, the upcoming Bond Act, it's called the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act that will be on the ballot. And I would like to see if anyone on this committee would like to sponsor a memorializing resolution, that we

would consider in October, for the November election. And I'll send around information. I'm a little reluctant to be the sponsor, because I work for Clearwater, I'm a part of a very large network supporting the referendum. So if anybody else on the committee would like to consider sponsoring that, I'll provide a draft of a memorializing resolution and we can consider that in October. Ah, anything else? It's been a long meeting, almost nine o'clock. I thank everyone for their participation. I think we're making progress on many fronts, and we have our homework cut out for us.

Legislator Phil Erner

Just a couple things.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead, Phil,

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, and I would be interested to see that memorializing resolution, and possibly sponsor it. I had read in the paper a week ago about some new federal laws around lead in the drinking water, and it seemed to me like that might pertain to our work here, although I ended up going to the health department and talking with Tim Rose who sent me some information. But I guess municipalities and counties now have some additional responsibility around service lines for drinking water or municipal hookups, so that's just something like, we might want to know here and in our committee, and then the second and last item I have is around the fires. I haven't.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, can I just ask you to pause for a minute. I want to say something on lead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Oh, yes.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Then let's talk about the forest fires. I just want to share that the City of Newburgh is doing a magnificent job. They, in identifying testing people's drinking water to see if those connections are old lead pipes, and if it's bringing lead into people's homes and businesses, and they have funding, I think it's from the Environmental Protection Fund, but don't quote me on that, and little by little they are addressing replacing those with pipes and I think that it's an outstanding example and. You may know that Newburgh is on an alternative water supply there, they're tapped into the Catskill Aqueduct, because their water supply, Lake Washington, was contaminated with PFOS from Stewart Air National Guard Base, and that is a very difficult problem. A filtration process is going on and a lot of studies, but I think it's going to be years before, you know, they'll be able to go back on their own drinking water supply. But the, the aqueduct fortunately goes right through the property where their water treatment facility is. So that was fortunate, and they were able to switch over. But it's such a good example. And it is an important issue, and I want to bookmark that for future. Anything else? Oh, you were going to talk about the increase in forest fires that we're seeing here.

Legislator Phil Erner

Well, yeah, thanks. I just, again, um, there was, in the aftermath, actually, it was like, the fire was probably still going in Minnewaska, when the columnist wrote this, but there was a, in the paper, about like, could the Catskills be next? was basically the thrust of this piece by Dave Holden, who gave an opinion and also shared some experience having really fought fought fires, forest fires, and was urging County and regional action to try and head that off. And so I had recommended to Dave that he might come watch how we do business in this committee, as well as the Public Safety Committee, as the ones most likely to have something to say about dealing with what's going on around that. That's it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I do think people will pay more attention to our resolution to re-declare a climate emergency. Because it's no longer out in California or somewhere else, flooding in Pakistan and so forth, it's starting to affect us directly. Not that we haven't seen over the years, sorry, forest fires, but we, it's not usually the frequency. And, you know, so many, in a short period of time, it's really been a very serious drought. And they do say, they do think that the the one in Napanoch was probably a lightning strike in a very dry area. But last I heard, it was 240 acres, maybe it ended up being more, I don't know. And those trees are, help us by drawing down and sequestering carbon, and the fire does the opposite. So we, this climate emergency that we're planning to address with real concrete actions, I think is very timely. And I think people will be more ready to respond with support than they might have prior to that direct experience. All right, I want to thank everybody again. Are there any last minute requests for action or future action? All right, I think we did our work well. And I thank you all and Chelsea will send around a reminder of all of our homework all the things we agreed to do. Mainly watch the SEQRA video, and the pesticides. I think those are the two main homework assignments.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I had a homework assignment from last month. That was to try to get going with a meeting on getting bus shelters built, and I included a bunch of you in an email thread earlier today about that, and the bus shelter issues are apparently going to be on hold right for a while right now, according to executive deputy executive, Chris Kelly, because UCAT is kind of reevaluating their route map-based, and this is partially based on the change that just took place with the, you know, the free bus fares. And so they're reevaluating their routes right now. And you know, where the routes are is a key component of where bus shelters will be built. So until UCAT gets that kind of squared away, it's my understanding that progress on bus shelters is going to be delayed. So, and again, many thanks to Phil and the others who worked on that project, because that's an awesome thing.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

So I think they're continuing to meet on the routes and improving service. Yeah, great. Thank you. All right, with that.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I think Gina had something to say real fast, too.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oh, okay.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Real fast. My homework was to, I had mentioned about my school district because they don't do recycling. We got a new superintendent that just actually started on September 1st, so I do have a meeting set up with him shortly to discuss that with him. So I will have a report for that next time. And hopefully we can get some recycling in my school district.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Awesome. Yay.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Crazy.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I know.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Stewart and I'm blocking on Rochester.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Legislator Hewitt.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Chris Hewitt, yes, are going to be meeting with the round out school superintendent and some of the key people there.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes. On that same topic.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, the amount of waste that is generated that's completely preventable. And also it's possible to do composting on site. And that can be a real learning experience. So we have kind of a list. We should share our lists of topics for the school districts. Okay, very good. Now I would like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Phil Erner

Moved.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Moved by Legislator Erner, seconded by Legislator Hansut. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and, or saying aye. Thank you very much. Good meeting.

Legislator Phil Erner

Bye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene
Bye.

Legislator Eric Stewart
Thank you all so much.