

**Energy & Environment Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** November 30, 2020; 6:15 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 973 5043 8011  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn A. Tantillo. Laurie Lichtenstein  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Al Bruno, Peter Criswell, and Laura Petit  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Mary Wawro  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** David Gordon, Legislative Minority Counsel; Evelyn Wright, Deputy County Executive; Tim DeGraff, Controller, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Simon Strauss and David Haldeman, Environmental Management Council (EMC); Paul Ostrander

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:19 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Motion No. 1:** **To Approve the Minutes of November 2, 2020**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:** None

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell and Petit  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes Approved

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**Resolutions for the December 15, 2020 Session of the Legislature**

**Resolution No. 242** -Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will approve a 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan

**Motion No. 2:** **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 242**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Petit  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:** See attached transcript.

**Motion No. 3:** **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 242**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Petit

<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Bruno
<b>Voting to Postpone:</b>	Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell and Petit
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	4
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Resolution Postponed with the consent of the sponsor.</b>

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The committee had a discussion regarding potential funding for a UCRRA Landfill Study and/or increasing the borrowing limit of the UCRRA to fund a landfill study or other proposals outlined in the proposed 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan.

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#### **Resolution No. 438 – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Environmental Management Council**

**Resolution Summary:** Confirming the County Executives appointment of Simon Stauss of Shokan, NY to the EMC for the term from December 15, 2020 thru May 31, 2022 replacing James Mayes who moved to Saugerties.

<b>Motion No. 4:</b>	<b>Motion to Approve Resolution No. 438</b>
<b>Motion By:</b>	Legislator Bruno
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Criswell

<b>Discussion:</b>	See Transcript
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<b>Voting in Favor:</b>	Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell and Petit
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	4
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Approved</b>

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#### **Resolution No. 449 – Amending Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades – Amending the 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department of Public Works (Building & Grounds)**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would amend the 2020-2025 Ulster County Capital Improvement Project by increasing the funding by \$54,000.00 for a design contract to replace the Ulster County law Enforcement Center boilers with energy efficient equivalents bringing the total Capital Project to \$685,000.

<b>Motion No. 5:</b>	<b>Motion to discuss Resolution No. 449</b>
<b>Motion By:</b>	Legislator Bruno
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Petit

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Motion No. 5:** **Motion to take no action on Resolution No. 449**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

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

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**Resolution No. 467 –** Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would adopt a local law designed to change the title of the Office Of Coordinator of the Department of the Environment to the Office of Director of the Department of the Environment.

**Motion No. 4:** **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 467**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bruno

**Discussion:** See Transcript

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

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**New Business:**

**Old Business:** Chairwoman Greene gave an update on the work of the Climate Smart Committee and the ad hoc committee working on the Zero Waste Implementation Plan.

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

**Motion to Adjourn**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Time:** 7: 36 PM

**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo & Laurie Lichtenstein  
**Minutes Approved:** October 5, 2020

Energy & Environment Committee  
Meeting Transcript

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**Chairwoman Greene 07:00**

So, I think we can get started with... I'd like to call to order the November 30 Meeting of Energy Environment Committee. And it's a virtual meeting. And I would like to ask the Clerk to please call the roll, before we do the pledge.

**Fawn Tantillo 07:29**

Legislator Greene.

**Chairwoman Greene 07:31**

Present.

**Fawn Tantillo 07:32**

Legislator Wawro.

Legislator Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno 07:36**

Here.

**Fawn Tantillo 07:37**

Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell 07:38**

Here.

**Fawn Tantillo 07:39**

Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit** 07:41

Here.

**Fawn Tantillo** 07:42

You have a quorum of four.

**Chairwoman Greene** 07:44

Okay, very good. So, with that, let's say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Committee Members** 07:56

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.

**Chairwoman Greene** 08:14

Thank you. And then, have folks had a chance to look over the minutes of our November 2 meeting?

**Fawn Tantillo** 08:25

There's still one typo on the date of the transcript, but I cannot fix the PDF from my home computer. So I'll fix that when I get back to the office.

**Legislator Criswell** 08:33

Does Mr. Bruno have something to say about this?

**Legislator Bruno** 08:37

It was corrected. Thank you.

**Fawn Tantillo** 08:42

And we got the right transcript attached. Yeah. I just did that to make sure you were reading it.

**Legislator Criswell** 08:49

I also make

**Legislator Bruno** 08:52

Since I wasn't at the meeting. I can't make the motion or second it. It was corrected.

**Fawn Tantillo** 08:57

You actually can. You don't have to be at the meeting to approve the minutes of those meetings.

**Legislator Bruno** 09:01

Well, I would like to approve the minutes, as amended.

**Chairwoman Greene** 09:04

Okay.

**Legislator Criswell** 09:05

Second.

**Chairwoman Greene** 09:07

Okay. Second by Legislator Criswell. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and saying aye.

**Committee Members** 09:16

Aye.

**Chairwoman Greene** 09:17

And minutes of November 2 are approved.

And then let me ask Simon Strauss and Dave Haldeman. The resolution for the Environmental Management Council is second on the agenda. The first resolution is with regard to the Ulster County Local Solid Waste Management Plan. I don't know that it'll be a long discussion, but if you prefer, we can go out of order and take the EMC first. Any...

**Dave Haldeman** 09:58

I think you can go right ahead, because I plan to stay for the meeting.

**Chairwoman Greene** 09:59

Yeah, because we will take an action, even if the action is to postpone. Okay, thank you. So, thank you. For discussion by Legislator Petite, seconded by Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell** 09:59

Okay, I'm just hoping that this will get off that we will not be chewing on this in 2021.

**Legislator Bruno** 09:59

Me too.

**Simon Strauss** 10:01

Yeah, I was planning on staying for the meeting. So, any way you want, Manna Jo.

**Chairwoman Greene 10:05**

Okay, thank you. So, on Resolution 242. I don't think that we would be acting tonight because there is yet a step under SEQRA that has not occurred that I'm aware of. I'm going to check with several people. Yes, go ahead.

**Legislator Petit 10:30**

Do you want to move, or you know, open up the resolution for discussion? Or don't...

**Chairwoman Greene 10:58**

There are two issues that I know of, there may be others, relating to this resolution. The main is that, I think it's still premature to act on it because the SEQRA process hasn't been completed, as far as I know. Anybody have any knowledge to the contrary? I did speak with the attorney earlier he was not aware. And I also. Legislator Petit and I checked the agenda for today's UCRRA a meeting and there was no further action in terms of a SEQRA.... complete, the SEQRA process is not yet complete.

So, I would entertain a motion to postpone Resolution 242, once again.

**Legislator Petit 12:11**

I'll move it.

**Legislator Criswell 12:14**

I'll second that.

**Chairwoman Greene 12:16**

Okay, and all in favor?

**Committee Members 12:24**

Aye.

**Chairwoman Greene 12:35**

Okay, I just want to ask, anyone opposed? Okay. Motion carries.

I also want to raise an issue that I was unable to get on to the Agency call but Legislator Petit was on the call. And it's my understanding, and Tim correct me if I'm wrong, but that the UCRRA may be coming to the legislature for funding for a feasibility study for the landfill. And if that's the case, I mean I just want to remind everyone that when there was a budget hearing for the UCRRA, I did mention that that in the local Solid Waste Management Plan, the first step for the first year was to retain a consultant to do a landfill feasibility study. And I pointed out that there was no budget for that that I was aware of, or could find in the Agency's Capital Plan. And so, it seems to me that that's where that expense should reside and I didn't know whether either Legislator Petite, who was on that call, or Interim Executive Director Tim DeGraff would want to speak to that before we go on to the next resolution.



**Timothy DeGraff 14:34**

And there isn't much to add other than what you said. There wasn't ultimately a decision made as to what we were going to do. And I believe Fred Wadnola was going to reach out to Dave Donaldson to discuss, not necessarily the funding for landfill feasibility, but the, you know, our, how much we can borrow. Because right now we need Legislative approval for over \$500,000. And he was going to approach Tim to discuss about possibly increasing that. So, that they didn't end up making a final decision on that. One of the board members actually called me afterward, essentially, to ask the same question if we came to a conclusion. And I didn't feel like we... they actually came to the conclusion on that matter, to give you a direct answer. But it was discussed on multiple levels.

One for how much we... what our borrowing limit would be in having that increased. And then it was also discussed about how much it would cost for a feasibility study. And I think that discussion kind of intertwined with one another and may have gotten a little confusing. So, I don't have a final answer on that. It's from a number standpoint. But I can give you a final answer with regard to Fred was going to reach out to Dave Donaldson, with regard to possibly asking to increase that, you know, the borrowing limit.

**Chairwoman Greene 16:01**

That's excellent. And I'll recognize Legislator Petit in a minute. I do want to strongly recommend that the Agency consider a budget modification to the Capital portion of its budget. Because if we are going to maintain a, you know, a level of autonomy, I don't think, especially in this COVID year, I don't think that that expense can come from the Legislature. In terms of borrowing that would be for the actual landfill construction. But there certainly should be funds for the feasibility study in in the Agency's budget for 2021.

**Chairwoman Greene 16:55**

Legislator Petit did you want to comment?

**Legislator Petit 16:57**

Yeah, and I had thought that actually your borrowing ability was much lower. I thought it was \$50,000. So, I apologize for that. But a... and, you know, I think the last feasibility study was for around a million, but that also included some parts of the initial writing the Solid Waste Management Plan. So, I mean, I'm just putting out feelers there to see what kind of funding you'll need. I looked at it, some of the documents or reporting that was attached to the agenda. I was trying to get a feel for how much you have in your fund balance. It looked like \$700,000, I thought it was supposed to be closer to [inaudible].

And there were, I mean, there were numbers of 10 million going around. But apparently, that's not what you were looking to borrow. I hope it was (laughter) it was the... And honestly, I think a landfill is going to be substantially more. I would, just to reiterate, that, you know, we are looking at zero waste and putting in a minimum, you know, a minimum size landfill, as small we possibly can.

And one of your board members did mention that, you know, Ulster County has the highest tipping fee regionally. But it also covers all of your costs. To be competitive, and lower the cost, you get more waste you handle. And that's what Ulster County looking for. We're looking for enough to handle whatever minimal waste is that we're generating. So, if it's going to be the golden goose, we're going to end up like [inaudible] and we're going to run out of space before, you know, the 30-50 year life expectancy of a landfill is. You know, likewise, Delaware County, their landfill is only supposed to be around for 30 years but because they've done so much as far as composting and recycling, they've actually extended the life to their landfill. And that's what I'm hoping we'll be able to do here.

**Chairwoman Greene** 19:06

Anyone else?

**Legislator Bruno** 19:08

It can I just make.... I just want to talk.... the tipping fee rate is something that's always been it's always been put out there, that our tipping fee is one of the highest in the region. And I'm not sure why because it's not true. And we're actually pretty much in line with the surrounding counties except for going into next year. Because I've spoken to Dutchess RRA, I've spoken to Sullivan and Orange, they're all increasing. I know Royal over in Dutchess County, as well, they're all ranging between \$110 and \$125. And we were able to keep ours flat. So, I'm so, I just want everyone to know that we, you know, we are actually one of the lower ones with regard having a transfer station.

**Legislator Petit** 19:49

Okay, it was a comment that Charlie Landi made and it's been a while since I've done, you know, I actually had pulled the surrounding areas five years ago. So, apparently they [inaudible] substantially.

**Legislator Bruno** 20:01

No, he did? Charlie Landi has said that before. No, you heard that correctly.

**Legislator Petit** 20:06

Okay, thank you. I'm not crazy

**Legislator Bruno**

No.

**Chairwoman Greene** 20:10

And just one other point because some of us were not here when it happened. But the whole purpose of the Legislature, making sure that the Agency had flow control over ways was so that they could more reliably balance their budget. Before flow control, they got what they got. And they, you know, had, they had the responsibility of managing the waste, but because of a much earlier decision that was later reversed, they didn't have flow control for many years. And that meant that the county was responsible for a net service fee.

Since flow control, I don't believe there's been a request for a net service fee at all. And they have been able to balance the budget. I just... but, you know, now that we are close to moving forward on the Local Solid Waste Management Plan, I just want to be sure that there is budget for the landfill feasibility study. Because I think there's a high level of consensus that citing a landfill, either in Ulster County or near Ulster County, if we reopen the issue of regional. But the sooner we have a landfill for the residual waste that can't be diverted. The safer we're going to be moving forward. And also the better for the environment, not shipping, waste 400 miles or whatever it is.

So, if there are no other comments on that issue, that matter, I would move to Resolution No. 438. confirming the appointment of a member to the Environmental Management Council. And I have the agenda pulled up but I don't have the actual resolution. Fawn, if you have that handy, Could you just, so we get the person's name. And it's not just a member. You're on mute.

**Fawn Tantillo** 22:52

Our good friend Simon Strauss, who's here with us tonight from Shokan.

**Chairwoman Greene** 22:56

Wonderful. And Simon, do you have anything you would like to say to the committee or does any... Well, let me just ask to move the resolution. And then we'll speak with...

**Legislator Criswell** 23:10

I'll move that.

**Legislator Petit** 23:12

Second.

**Chairwoman Greene** 23:13

Legislator Criswell moved and seconded by Legislator Petit.

**Chairwoman Greene** 23:18

So, Simon, do you have anything you would like to say to the committee? Or do any of the committee members have any questions of you?

**Simon Strauss** 23:28

I'd just like to say I'm honored to be invited to join the Environmental Management Council. I've enjoyed working with Dave on the... some of the things we've talked about so far. And I look forward to representing Olive on the Council. Thank you.

**Legislator Bruno** 23:46

I can tell you your resume that I read online was pretty impressive. I'd be happy to support you.

**Chairwoman Greene** 23:53

Yes, indeed.

**Simon Strauss** 23:54

And I would just like to put I appreciate it. Thank you.

**Chairwoman Greene** 23:58

I want to say how valuable a contribution Simon and others are making on an issue that we focused on in the Climate Smart Committee, and that is Community Choice Aggregation. He's been doing a lot of research. And all the research on what does or doesn't make sense in terms of where solar and other renewables... but in Ulster County it's primarily solar... can or cannot be located. And identified for us an obstacle related to where Central Hudson has infrastructure for, that can accommodate or interconnect with, large solar systems, even beyond the community scale. But more at a utility scale that will be necessary if we're going to be able to generate renewables with storage here in the county. So, he'll bring a really, you know, good deal of knowledge and expertise to the Environmental Management Council. And we're very appreciative of his help on the Climate Smart Committee.

**Simon Strauss** 25:37

Thank you, Manna Jo. That's very kind. Yeah. And it's really interesting for me, because I do think that we need to bring our utility into the 21st century and focus on getting off of fossil fuels. That's my personal opinion. I'm sure others might not agree, but I do think that utility has to upgrade its facilities so that we can have more renewable generation closer to us, which helps jobs, tax base, all those other good things.

**Chairwoman Greene** 26:06

And, and there's so much space in the western part of the Route 28 corridor. And the infrastructure essentially ends at Woodstock. You know, it's expensive to run lines and build substations, but it seems to me that it's really good investment. So, we won't get too far afield, but it is extremely relevant.

And I would like to say that right now. There is a central Hudson rate case. And I think we really want to encourage Central Hudson to do that investment in a way that fair to them, fair to the developers. And, you know, gives them a fair return on investment, but not an inflated one. So, if folks are interested. I know that Citizens for Local Power is going to weigh in on the rate case. And if you would like more information, I can point you in the right direction.

Okay, so on question, on Resolution...

**Dave Haldeman** 27:34

Manna Jo?

**Chairwoman Greene** 27:35

Yes.

**Dave Haldeman** 27:36

Yeah, I just like to say that we're just really fortunate that Simon has taken the place of Jim Mays from Olive. He's attended many meetings now has been contributed and he's a nice voice on the on the council. I also I'm just am hoping that Jim Mays will apply to be a member at large so that he can stay on the board as well.

**Chairwoman Greene** 28:02

Because Jim has moved, is that right?

**Dave Haldeman** 28:05

He's moved to Saugerties, yes.

**Chairwoman Greene** 28:06

Yeah. All right. Well, given that, I'd like to call the question on Resolution No. 438. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and are saying aye.

**Committee Members** 28:26

Aye.

**Chairwoman Greene** 28:26

It appears to be unanimous. Anyone opposed that I overlooked? Okay. Motion carries.

Resolution Number 449: Amending Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget through the Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds).

And did I see anyone... I see Evelyn is here if anyone has any questions.

**Legislator Bruno** 29:08

I make a motion to move it for discussion.

**Chairwoman Greene** 29:11

Yes, thank you.

**Legislator Petit** 29:13

I'll second.

**Chairwoman Greene** 29:15

Seconded by Legislator Petit.

**Chairwoman Greene 29:18**

Evelyn did you want to say anything? I don't know that we have any questions but did you want to say anything about the resolution?

**Deputy Executive Wright 29:28**

This is, I believe, to do the design work to install the boiler. We've talked about this before. I think we're all dismayed that this is the best choice at this time for that facility is to upgrade its gas boiler. You know, I know Amanda and Pat, I'm not sure which one is more dismayed that that's the right choice for this facility at this time, but that's what we need to do.

**Chairwoman Greene 29:57**

Yeah. Legislator Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno 30:00**

Yeah, I got a real problem, too. I've been reading it. And believe me, I'm all about energy efficiency. That's where I cut my teeth; that's where I come from. However, replacing boilers that are functional, and have been doing the job for a number of years, I understand energy efficiency, probably, as well as anybody here. I think at this time, in the budget crisis that we have, in the COVID crisis that we have, is probably not the greatest thing that we should be supporting. At this point, I think it may be great down the road, we have extra money, I'm all about upgrading it. If it's a functional issue where the boilers are not functioning..

**Deputy Executive Wright 30:44**

It's a functional issue is my understanding.

**Legislator Bruno 30:47**

I didn't see that in the resolution. But if it's a functional issue, then they have no heat, and we have to spend the money to replace these boilers, then we should replace them with the most energy efficient boilers we can find. I'm also a little apprehensive on the number, to be quite honest with you, \$50,000 or \$49,000 whatever dollars, just for a study. That's an awful lot of money for a company to come in and tell you what they want to put in. I've dealt with contractors for many years, I just find it a very high number, especially at this time.

**Deputy Executive Wright 31:31**

My understanding, Chairwoman, if you'd like me to address this is that it is a functional issue that boiler needs replacement. And I believe the boiler was burning oil before and the new boiler will burn natural gas. It will be dual fuel capable, I don't have the... we don't have all the detail in the in the packet and I don't have it in front of me. But that is my understanding. That this is a functional replacement, it is being replaced with a more efficient system than what we had before. After considerable study, this was the best we can do. And I believe this is for actually doing the design to put in the boiler and all the necessary piping. So, it's not a study per se, it's the engineering plans for the installation.

**Legislator Bruno** 32:20

So, it's part of the installation then?

**Deputy Executive Wright** 32:23

That's right, it's preparing for the installation.

**Legislator Bruno** 32:25

So, we're going to spend \$50,000, to let the company show us what they're going to do to install the boilers?

**Deputy Executive Wright** 32:36

I'm trying to find the scope in here in the packet. You know, it may be that we need to discuss this with the DPW (Department of Public Works) but that...

**Legislator Bruno** 32:45

I just honestly, you know, and I'm only saying this because like I said, I come from that industry. And I see what it takes to replace boilers. I mean, we just installed three Cleaver Brooks, you know, million BTU boiler, million BTU plus boilers. These actually have been already specked out in under Schedule A, scope of services. And that's why I'm a little... trying to figure out where that extra \$50,000 is going, because it's already, because under the scope of services, schedule A, It's already been done.

**Deputy Executive Wright** 33:20

So, I think this is for all of the piping and controls and integration of... looks like it's actually, more than one boiler, into the existing system.

**Fawn Tantillo** 33:32

I believe that they are removing a fuel to fuel storage tank as well.

**Legislator Bruno** 33:36

Right. But that's part of the work.

**Legislator Petit** 33:38

Yeah, we discussed this quite a bit at DPW last year. And I was under the impression, because I thought there was like a \$600,000 cost associated with it. That we had already decided what type of boilers we were putting in. And there is a definite need for him. Unfortunately, the boilers we have there either obsolete or whatever failing, aren't functioning as they should. But we also agreed to have Central Hudson install the gas out that they were putting up on Boulevard in Kingston, just in case we needed it. Well, I thought that [inaudible] if I didn't think that we were set on natural gas. I thought we were looking at some sort of geothermal or other type of energy efficient units there. But also...

**Deputy Executive Wright** 34:32

Yeah, we did do an evaluation of whether geothermal could be used at that facility. And the decision was that it could not. And so, that's why we went with the gas system. So, that that gas work to connect to... to extend the line from Central Hudson, that was done, I think this spring. And now I believe this is to do all the prep for the construction to actually install the boilers.

**Legislator Bruno** 34:59

Right. You're correct that what I mean right in the scope it tells you it says that the that the boys will be a basically a modulating condensing gas boiler, multiple boilers to replace the boilers that are already there. They've made that determination of what they're going to put in. The pumps that they're going to install. The removal of the existing 10,000 gallon double wall fuel tanks. So, it seems to me like all the work is under... has been decided on. So, I'm still trying to understand why we're spending \$50,000 to decide on stuff that's already been decided on other than drawing it on a piece of paper on how it's going to be done. And I mean, I just find that to be a little pricey, especially at this stage of the game. I mean, I'd love to see [inaudible]. I just think that it's like it's another layer of cost they just keep adding to the project.

**Deputy Executive Wright** 35:52

And I mean, we would need to ask DPW about this. I don't know why they've decided to break this design work out from the actual installation. It may be that they want to use a different firm for it. I really, I don't know.

**Legislator Bruno** 36:07

I mean, you understand why am I concerned? At least I hope I'm not sounding too pessimistic. I want to see the work done too.

**Deputy Executive Wright** 36:14

I certainly do. I mean, I just I have very deep..

**Legislator Bruno** 36:19

You know, I...

**Deputy Executive Wright** 36:19

Yeah, I you know, I all I can tell you is that I have really deep respect for the work that DPW does and the thought and the analysis that goes into each one of these. I know they're not spending money frivolously. But beyond that, I can't answer you on the specifics of why this has been segmented this way. And, and specifically, what justifies the price tag on this, knowing that we're going to come back for them the installation work itself,

**Legislator Bruno** 36:45

Right. I mean, I would feel confident again, because I'm coming in this, you know, as, I want to say new Legislator, I've been here for a year. But a lot of this work, according to Legislator petite, has happened in the past, before me. So, I apologize if, you know, me not being here makes me ignorant to some of the stuff that



has already taken place. But just at face value. I mean, we've spent this \$49,000 plus dollars, and then in two months from now, or they're going to come up with another \$50,000 that they want another part of the project. And that's what is concerning me.

**Legislator Petit 37:20**

I think I'm more concerned because we agreed to pay something like, you know, it was \$220,000 with a contract with Central Hudson to get the lines in, and then another some hundred thousand. But it was only just in case we needed the gas. And I'm just looking at an article. So, the resolutions were sometime in May, June, April, May, June of last year. So, I'm going to go back and take a look at them. And of course Manna voted no, because she does not believe in fossil fuel. And I'm just concerned now because there was supposed to be an alternative fuel study to put in more...

**Deputy Executive Wright 37:55**

That was done.

**Legislator Petit 37:56**

It was done.

**Deputy Executive Wright 37:57**

That was done and we talked about it back in February or whenever it was that we authorized the actual Central Hudson gas work.

**Legislator Bruno 38:08**

Again, I'm not I'm not against the natural gas as a fuel by itself, per se. As an alternative, it's a much better alternative to what's there now. Is it the end all, be all? I mean, no fossil fuel? No. But I think given the circumstances, at this point...

Heat pumps are not the answer everywhere either in this climate, they have a very high limitation based on outdoor temperatures. That all being said, and plus, keep in mind, the heat pumps, I heard that mentioned before they run on electricity. It's just that the electricity isn't generated here. It's generated at a power plant somewhere else where they burn the fossil fuel. So, it's still in a sense, you're burning fossil fuels. That being said, natural gas is the cleanest of the fossil fuels right now that we have available to us.

Modulating condensing gas boilers are the highest efficiency of that. They run in the neighborhood of 90 plus percent efficiency, when they're condensing that full, full bore, I get that. I just am concerned of another layer of cost that should have been either already included in the scope of what they have so far. Or is it going to continue and give us another layer afterwards? I mean, at what point does the you know, does the piggybank end and they start actually doing the work?

**Legislator Petit 39:35**

Yeah.

**Chairwoman Greene 39:37**

Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell 39:38**

Can I make a suggestion that we take no action on this and have a representative from DPW come in and talk to us next month and tell us exactly what this...

**Legislator Bruno 39:46**

Excellent idea.

**Legislator Criswell 39:46**

... \$50,000 is going to be about.

**Legislator Petit 39:48**

Yeah, I'll second that motion.

**Legislator Bruno 39:50**

Absolutely. Good idea.

**Deputy Executive Wright 39:52**

Manna, I may I suggest an alternative course which I know DPW will be at Ways and Means, that similar questions will be asked there. Would you be willing to let the Ways and Means Committee ask DPW? I don't know what the time pressure is on doing this work. But I hate to hold it up because I didn't think of inviting DPW to come in and explain this tonight. I just didn't anticipate the questions.

**Legislator Criswell 40:17**

So, I'm personally fine with that. As long as we get the answers we need. I agree. If there's a... if it's a time crunch, let's make it happen as quickly as we can. We don't want to drag it on. But it seems like there's real questions. Let's get them answered.

So, I withdraw them... Should I do have to withdraw my motion?

**Fawn Tantillo 40:35**

You have to withdraw while your motion.

**Legislator Criswell 40:37**

I'm withdrawing my motion.

**Fawn Tantillo 40:38**

And were you withdrawing your second?

**Legislator Petit 40:40**

No. No, I just helped in this conversation a year ago. And I'm kind of concerned about the change of events. So, if we're going to be spending such substantial amount of money, you know, I'd rather hold on this. I'm sorry.

**Chairwoman Greene 41:01**

Legislator Bruno, what's your take on whether we should move forward in terms of inaction? Or?

**Legislator Bruno 41:10**

I think, I think there's, I think I have some very real concerns. And maybe it's because of my ignorance or not being here a year or so ago. But before I could make an informed decision on saying yes or no to this resolution, I want to hear from the Department of Public Works, whoever's in charge of this and whoever is actually coming to us and saying, I need another \$50,000. And why. I need to hear that specifically.

**Legislator Criswell 41:34**

So, I'm going to be clear, I want the same thing. So, if that means that I need to have that motion in there, because I don't want to make my decision until I hear from DWP as well.

**Legislator Bruno 41:43**

As far as Ways and Means doing it versus us doing it. I mean, if we're all we're all in the Ways and Means we could ask those questions. That'd be great.

**Legislator Petit 41:50**

Yeah.

**Legislator Bruno 41:51**

But that's not going to happen.

**Legislator Petit 41:54**

Yeah, we would have pass the resolution and move it to Ways and Means Committee.

**Legislator Criswell 41:59**

When is the next Ways and Means Committee mean anyway?

**Fawn Tantillo 42:02**

if you take no action, if you take no action tonight, it will not come up in Public Works. I don't believe.

**Legislator Bruno 42:13**

So, what are the choices are postponing?

**Fawn Tantillo 42:15**

If you postpone it won't come up in Public Works.

**Legislator Bruno 42:18**

Can... so, how do we get to that?

**Legislator Criswell 42:23**

How do we accomplish what Evelyn wants, which is to fast track this in front of Ways and Means and get the answers, and allow it to not drag on for a month or a month and a half, or whatever?

**Fawn Tantillo 42:34**

Are you talking about it going to Public Works?

**Deputy Executive Wright 42:37**

Oh yeah, Fawn is saying Public Works. That's probably the right place for it.

**Fawn Tantillo 42:41**

The next place is Public Works, I believe. Let me just look back at the resolution. And if you.. I... if you want to just go on to the next resolution, I'll try to get an answer for you about how it can be considered in another committee if it doesn't pass this one.

**Chairwoman Greene 43:01**

And I while you're looking, maybe what if you find it in time, we'll deal with it and then go to the next one.

**Chairwoman Greene 43:08**

I do want to just be clear that I felt very strongly that we should be using some fuel other than fossil fuel. And the whole argument for beneficial electrification is that if the infrastructure is in place, we can transition to carbon free or zero carbon generation to meet those needs. So, I was really hoping that for the Law Enforcement Center, they would put in a geothermal system. Or some system that was based on electrification that could be generated, probably at the Law Enforcement Center right on site. Or certainly a good chunk of that. Why we have a Law Enforcement Center that is not very old and doesn't have a large solar system on its big flat roof or it's open grounds is a concern and I will continue to push for that.

But I just wanted to explain that. I was very much opposed to Central Hudson extending their gas lines. That to me, you know, you could do a real serious lifecycle analysis on whether or not the savings in going from oil to natural gas, justify that extension and that and prolonging the use of natural gas that that infrastructure will do. Because natural gas is not natural, it's fracked. And, and there's a huge amount of methane released all along, from fracking to use. And so, I just want to be clear that, you know, I think it's time for us to say no to new fossil fuel infrastructure.

That said, um, this did pass. This whole project passed. And I was on Public Works when it did pass, and the majority of the legislature agreed to move forward with the project. But the questions that you're asking now are very relevant in terms of \$50,000 here, \$50,000 there. You know, for work, that it does seem like a lot of that work would have been done to get to this point. So I, you know, I'm, I guess I'll call the question on the motion to...

**Fawn Tantillo** 46:29

I have that for you about... if you postpone or take no action tonight, it would go, it can go on to the next committee. Which is right now slated to be Law Enforcement, and then Public Works, and then Ways and Means.

**Chairwoman Greene** 46:44

So, Okay.

**Fawn Tantillo** 46:45

So, if we could get your questions answered, if you postpone it tonight, and you get your questions answered, we can have a special meeting, like where you pass this. It can't go to the floor until this committee passes it. Or, you can pass it tonight and let those committees and try to get your answers. But I know you're not comfortable. I don't well, sounds like you're not comfortable doing that. But it's got to go through three more committees before it gets to the floor, after it leaves this committee.

**Chairwoman Greene**

Are folks inclined to try to fit in a special session after those meetings? You know, probably only takes a few minutes. We could do that before session?

**Legislator Criswell** 47:32

I would, I would prefer that. Because I just feel like now there's questions hanging. And to pass this now I just feel would be incorrect. I think we need to get our questions answered. And then so I'm...

**Legislator Bruno** 47:46

Sorry, I would rather see us do that and have a special meeting prior to session than answer this right now. Because as of right now, I if I had a vote on it, now is a no. I don't want to do that because I know it's a needed upgrade, we have to do something,

**Fawn Tantillo** 48:04

It would be better to postpone or take no action than it would be to have it fail here.

**Legislator Bruno** 48:09

Right. And that's why I'm saying I would rather I would rather take no action, let it go to the other committees and then come back those before session, even if it means having a special meeting. Prior to session that we can say yay or nay to.

**Chairwoman Greene** 48:24

So, I'm going to call the question on right now. It's a motion to postpone, if I'm not mistaken, and then we'll ask Fawn just have a special meeting before session.

**Legislator Criswell** 48:39

My motion was actually to take no action, but I can change direction.

**Legislator Criswell** 48:42

Take no action, okay.

**Legislator Criswell** 48:43

I can change that to postpone, whichever is better. I don't know which one is technically better.

**Fawn Tantillo** 48:48

It's six one way....

**Chairwoman Greene** 48:52

So, on Resolution Number 449, amending the Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County, Law Enforcement Center energy upgrades. There is a motion to take no action that motions been seconded. All in favor?

**Committee Members** 49:13

Aye.

**Legislator Greene** 49:14

Anyone opposed? Motion carries.

**Chairwoman Greene** 49:18

And now that...

**Deputy Executive Wright** 49:22

I'm sorry. So would you like to have Amanda and a representative from DPW at that special meeting? Okay.

**Legislator Bruno** 49:32

Sure.

**Chairwoman Greene** 49:33

And Fawn, is that okay, if we ask you to coordinate that?

**Fawn Tantillo** 49:38

Absolutely. They should probably be at the Law Enforcement and the Public Works meetings too.

**Legislator Bruno** 49:43

But Ways and Means as well.

**Deputy Executive Wright** 49:46

I don't think I'll ask Amanda to go to all three to answer environmentally related questions. But I know she's done a lot of work on this facility and she shares your wish that it could have been geothermal. So, I want her to be able to answer those questions for you.

**Legislator Criswell** 50:01

I'd love to make this as efficient as possible and not ask people to go to multiple meetings. So, I'd be willing to sit in on a section of the Public Works meeting, if we can get those people there, get the questions answered and not have to tie up people's time multiple times.

**Legislator Bruno** 50:19

And I'd be okay with that too, as well, depending on the timing of when that meeting is.

**Legislator Petit** 50:24

Is there a notification issue, though, Fawn? Does it have to be three days? Or can we have a special meeting after DPW tomorrow?

**Fawn Tantillo** 50:34

Well, I think perhaps you could, we could try to set up a special meeting after Public Works.

**Legislator Bruno** 50:40

Fawn, if I may, or Manna, at Public Works meeting, would we be allowed to talk, ask questions?

**Chairwoman Greene** 50:55

I couldn't hear you.

**Fawn Tantillo** 50:56

The Public Works Committee. And that would be up to the chairman of the committee. But I would think, I would think Dean would let you speak.

**Legislator Bruno** 51:08

Okay. But we I mean, typically as other Legislators, even though we're not on the committee, we based on whatever the Chairman of that committee will allow, we could still have an input where we could maybe push this thing forward faster. Like Legislator, Criswell said, you know, we attend that meeting, we might be able to answer our questions and not have to go for another meeting, any another meeting after that.

**Chairwoman Greene 51:31**

Yes. And, Evelyn, if it works out that Amanda could also attend Public Works. I'm already on Public Works. So, we could probably make progress that way. But...

**Deputy Executive Wright 51:47**

Okay.

**Chairwoman Greene 51:47**

It's not just the environmental issues. It's also the financial ones. And so, you know, we'll have to notify Tom Jackson, who's almost always there anyway.

**Deputy Executive Wright 52:00**

Right. Right. All right.

**Chairwoman Greene 52:04**

All right. So, I got... I lost track. Did we actually take the vote to...

**Fawn Tantillo 52:11**

Yes.

**Chairwoman Greene 52:11**

Okay. All right. And we'll figure out about scheduling a special meeting to see if we're ready to move forward or have other questions.

**Chairwoman Greene 52:28**

So, with that, I would like to move on to Resolution Number 467: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 Of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment For The County of Ulster.

**Chairwoman Greene 53:03**

And that's to basically make Amanda LaValle a full department head not ... no longer coordinator.

**Fawn Tantillo 53:20**

Director.

**Legislator Bruno 53:22**

Yeah. And Legislator Bartels called me to say that she plans to speak to this resolution, would like us to move forward this year, so can go into effect as soon as possible. And she was helping a friend with a medical issue and picking them up from a hospital and said she might not be able to be on to speak to the resolution. So, I would entertain them. motion for discussion.



**Legislator Criswell 54:02**

Moving for discussion.

**Legislator Bruno 54:04**

Second.

**Chairwoman Greene 54:06**

Okay. Moved by Legislator Criswell, seconded by Legislator Bruno. Does anyone have any questions? Yes, please.

**Legislator Criswell 54:16**

I just want to make a statement that I'm fully for this. I've, you know, in my short time here, my year, Amanda has just been so attentive and everything I've noticed in her work seems to be she's super diligent and has really great big picture vision but also has the ability to, to work it through in on the ground. And so, I'm wholeheartedly in favor of moving her to the director position and creating this department.

**Legislator Greene 54:52**

And I also would like to add that I'm, in a sense, it was almost marginalizing Energy and Environment or, you know, environmental issues. That that the position was less than a full department head. And so, if anyone deserves it and has proved their worth and made a huge contribution, I agree, that Amanda LaValle definitely should be considered a department head. So..

**Legislator Petit 55:39**

Yeah, she's amazing. Yeah. And this will, there are resolution amendments. I don't know if anyone here is on Ways and Means. That jobs changes will not have higher salaries either. Is that.. because you know, if anyone should be getting a pay increase, Amanda should, she's one of the lower paid department heads. And she did so much through Project Resilience. And she's always just a great resource. But will that resolution regarding salaries, or the amendment regarding salaries, is that going to impact this resolution in the pay scale?

**Chairwoman Greene 56:24**

I believe it was accepted, made an exception.

**Legislator Petit 56:28**

Okay, thank you.

**Legislator Bruno 56:30**

I don't quote me. But I've been to quite a few of the Ways and Means budget hearings. And I don't know if anyone knows for sure.

**Legislator Criswell** 56:40

I think that's correct.

**Legislator Petit** 56:42

Thank you. Okay.

**Chairwoman Greene** 56:47

So on Resolution Number 467: for this change of, of title, to create the Department of the Environment. And if you... don't have the exact resolution pulled up, but what is the...

**Legislator Criswell** 57:13

Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 Of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment For The County of Ulster

**Chairwoman Greene** 57:31

Wasn't she already coordinator and now being made a department head?

**Fawn Tantillo** 57:35

I questioned that earlier, the Local Law 17, we have to put the title of Local Law 17, which at the time was making her coordinator.

**Fawn Tantillo** 57:44

So, that's the that's the title of this resolution. So, we might have to...

**Fawn Tantillo** 57:48

No. We don't amend the title, because we're not changing Local Law 17. We're amending it and it's... and the amendments are in the attachment.

**Chairwoman Greene** 58:00

Can you read the most relevant phrase into the record, if you don't mind Fawn, and I apologize that I already have three things pulled up. Just...

**Fawn Tantillo** 58:13

There is hereby created a Department of the Environment, the head of which will be... we're canceling the word "coordinator" and adding the word "director."

**Chairwoman Greene** 58:22

Thank you. That's what I wanted to get at...

**Fawn Tantillo** 58:25

And throughout the resolution, wherever "coordinator" appears, it has been replaced with "director." I had the same question when I read that title today. And the... I spoke with Jay about it and she said this is the way it has to read.

**Chairwoman Greene** 58:43

That makes perfect sense. Okay, so, given that understanding, all in favor of Resolution No. 467?

**Committee Members** 58:52

Aye.

**Chairwoman Greene** 58:55

Anyone opposed? Okay, the motion carries. And is there any new business?

**Legislator Petit** 59:08

I'm still worried about the Solid Waste Management Plan and Zero Waste. I don't know if you want to delve into it any further, Manna, or just wait until we take more action on the updates to Zero Waste Management Plan?

**Chairwoman Greene** 59:25

I was more inclined to when I thought a definite decision had been made to ask the Legislature to pay for what should be a Capital Improvement. It should be in the Capital Budget, since that is not as clear. And there was some confusion about that. I think it might be worth an update for the committee on the good progress we're making with the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. But in terms of, you know, kind of what happens next, I certainly hope that Tim DeGraff will take back to the Agency, the recommendation to modify... it to do a budget amendment for the Capital budget.

**Legislator Petit** 1:00:30

Yeah.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:00:31

Rather than ask the Legislature for money directly this year. But I also think that they're... once they have a good sense of what constructing a landfill might cost, that would be a reasonable time to come to the Legislature about the bonding issue. But I do always think that the Legislature should have a say in in the Agency's bonding, because ultimately, we're their safety net with a net service fee.

**Legislator Petit** 1:01:09

Mm hmm. Well, I mean, ultimately, Solid Waste Planning is the county's responsibility. You know, they're, the vendor that's providing the service. And I'm not sure if Tim responded to... I mean, it, if I was reading their fund balance, it didn't look like they had much in there. They've been buying quite a bit of equipment. You know, they did purchase the property next door with the understanding that they were going to be putting

the composting site there. Now, they're not. They're just expanding where it is. And Tim reported today that because they're expanding it, there was a \$13,000 loss out of that, you know, that composting budget line.

**Legislator Petit 1:01:53**

But I did call Dave Gordon, and I'm wondering if it would be okay, if we let him take off his attorney hat for a moment and maybe update us, you know, being a previous board member. You know, because, again, I thought that they were going to be doing a composting site. There was supposed to be an education center. We were talking about that residential transfer station, which I was very excited about, because I thought that could be their recovery park. And, you know, again, it's my understanding, they're not doing any of that. So I, you know, just want to make folks aware that I am concerned about how they're handling just the waste that they're handling. Because there's a lot, there's close to 260,000 tons that's actually being generated. They are just handling 130,000. Is it alright if Dave speaks?

**Chairwoman Greene 1:02:57**

Dave, do you have a comment?

**David Gordon, Esq. 1:03:00**

Yeah. I haven't, you know, I haven't been involved in the RRA's operations now for almost two years. But during the time I was there, as Legislator Petit mentioned, there were extensive plans to expand all these things. Which I understood was certainly moving forward last year.

I would point out that the agency, when I was there, acquired a substantial amount of land just to the south of their current facility. I think, if memory serves me, it was two parcels of land that totaled about 100 acres, maybe a little bit less. But certainly a substantial amount of land, which would have allowed it to expand the number of operations.

In particular, I recall, a number of times, Tim Rose, the former executive director, had mentioned that there had been problems with the composting with the odors from the composting facility, traveling to the northeast to... and they had gotten complaints from the, from the Bridge Authority, from the toll booths on 199. And also from the airport. And so for, for all those reasons, there was a contemplation to establish a newer composting facility on the lands that were acquired.

And there was also, they were also talking about a residential facility and also a compost bagging operation which would facilitate sales to individuals. And so, I don't know what happened to it. I don't know what the issues are that are going on now.

But I do remember that they, as recently as last year, I mean, we've all had I think we've all had these conversations with the board members there and the former executive director. And, you know, we were all aware that they were they had these plans. And I was not aware that they were not moving forward with them. Legislator Petit mentioned that. But it clearly would be a change from what they were looking at as recently as a year and a half ago, let's say.

**Legislator Bruno** 1:05:18

So, I have been tracking that. And when they decided to expand the composting facility, up above, near the MURF, I asked about that very large parcel of land that cost millions of dollars. I don't remember how many million?

**David Gordon, Esq.** 1:05:43

I think it was, I think it was a half a million.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:05:47

Oh.

**David Gordon** 1:05:49

One of the parcels was approximately \$100,000. And the other parcel was, and this is, again, this is just a memory. I think it was in the vicinity of \$400,000 to 500,000. So, the two together, I think we're about half a million, maybe a little more.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:06:04

All right. Well, I, I'd like to get clarity on that. When I asked about that purchase and the change of direction. The response was, well, it's a good thing, we have it, so nobody else gets it. And I do think that ultimately, as long as it's out of a floodplain, because the area that was purchased, a lot of it is shoreline. And, you know, if it's out of the floodplain, that there are wonderful things that could be done there.

But there are no plans. It's really just, they made the purchase, they changed their mind, they decided, and possibly for good reason, but for whatever reason, they decided to expand the composting. And, you know, up at the other level. I would ask that if people have specific concerns or questions, that we accumulate those and ask for answers at our next meeting in... let's see, will it be January, I guess it'll be January at this point, because this is our December meeting.

So, you know, Legislator petite, and anyone else who has questions or concerns, if we can define them. And, you know, send, send a letter in writing. I can, I think I can do that as committee chair, maybe we can start getting the answers at our next meeting, and they would be prepared.

So, let's just take five more minutes and do an update... I'd like to do a quick update on Zero Waste Plan. And then also just touch base on the Climate Smart Committee, some very good things are happening in both places. And I probably say this so much that you're tired of hearing it, but it's the reality that we are in the middle of a global climate crisis. And it's everyone's responsibility, on a personal, and certainly on a municipal scale. to address it in every way we can.

So, Zero Waste. That the existing plan that came out of the Recycling Oversight Committee, a, an informal subcommittee has formed. We've been meeting weekly on Thursday mornings. we did not meet on Thanksgiving, we gave ourselves a break. We've done some outreach to the Capitol District and a few people that have national expertise and we've been getting really good feedback.

Legislator Petit and Legislator Bartels have looked at two amazing Zero Waste Plans, one from Santa Rosa and the other from Boulder, Colorado and there are several other really good examples. And I think we're ready to go section by section through that plan and make it as specific as it needs to be. So, that it is a parallel document to the Local Solid Waste Management Plan which has very specific goals. And it's very clear whose responsibility it is to implement those objectives. And, you know, what timeline, we want to do that same level of scrutiny and careful planning. And I think...

Do you want to add to that Legislator Petit. I know you have developed something like a dozen criteria that each action will meet. So, please fill us in.

**Legislator Petit 1:10:35**

Yeah. What we've... Legislator Bartels and I have been discussing is we really do like the Santa Rosa and Boulder, Colorado Zero Waste Plans. So, we're looking at doing a hybrid. I think Santa Rosa only has five steps. And I believe Boulder has closer to 30. So, as Legislator Greene said something in the middle. And it'll have a summary sheet. We do like the Boulder table. And that essentially says how much... thank you... how much waste will be diverted. The timeframes of 2021 to 2025. It also has the GHG, so, I guess, what does GHG stand for?

**Legislator Bruno 1:11:24**

Greenhouse gases.

**Legislator Petit 1:11:25**

Greenhouse gases, thank you. And any, and the total financial impact. In addition to that, there'll be a section which will include local state and federal legislation. So we know what's been passed. Which will help because, you know, a good portion of the Zero Waste Action or Implementation Plan is dependent on legislation. And then they'll also be benchmarking and, you know, other really important aspects to it.

You know, and, as I think we said last month, we are pretty excited that as we're writing this, I mean, some things are already getting done. So the RRA will be sending their biosolids to facility in Rockland County to be composted. So, we will have that in there not so much as what did we call it, putting it in the parking lot and excuse the pun, because we were talking about tires and, but we'd like to keep that within the document, just in case in the future Rockland County is not going to be an option. But that won't be one of the 12.

So, it's more they call it a zero waste culture. And one of the other two documents, I think it was Boulder. And that kind of hit on other things that aren't part of the immediate 10-year plan. But that we should be

looking at. So it's there's going to be a lot of writing involved. And anybody who likes to edit or write or want to have some input we could certainly appreciate, you know, the extra.

And Manna, who was on a roll, she got in touch with Neil Seidman who basically, some of his comments were essentially what we had in there, but he did highlight certain aspects of it, which I believe Legislator Bartels did as well. So, in the original, our Zero Waste Implementation Plan, we mentioned the EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility). But Neil and Tracy thought that we should really look at product stewardship, which we could legislate. The other way it would fall more on manufacturers and kind of take away, I don't want to say we, we want to control it, but it would take away some aspects of what we would be able to do. So

**Chairwoman Greene 1:13:47**

I just want to say EPR is Extended Producer Responsibility. And it has to do with packaging, which is a real issue. But I didn't mean to cut you off,

**Legislator Petit 1:14:00**

I'm done.

**Chairwoman Greene 1:14:02**

Okay. And, so, I think the bottom line is this is coming together. The people we've reached out to we're very pleased with the work that has been done. And we're going to find a way to make it concrete, tangible, implementable. And we hope to do that within the next few months. So, that we will have a document for the Legislature to consider as a complement to the Local Solid Waste Plan, which has a lot of information in it but doesn't specify whose responsibility or how.

I want to also mention that a grant was awarded to the UCRRA to do Zero Waste education and they are undertaking that with partners. So, there are and we've also asked the RRA to create a list of law, the diversion, the work that they are currently doing to divert waste. So that we can acknowledge that and then, you know, create a plan for the next 10 years for a real waste diversion strategy that is implementable.

And in terms of the Climate Smart Committee, I want to say that there's been really good attendance. Simon was there for the last meeting. And we're doing a lot of work with some municipalities, more and more municipalities are coming on board, I think we're very close to achieving our goal of, of every town in the county at least taking the pledge and then going through a process that Amanda and Europa from the Department of Environment are spearheading to work with municipalities to get certification.

We'll be co-hosting a series of educational events and I'm working on right now is seeing the cuts in the on regenerative agriculture, which has huge potential in Ulster County and the surrounding counties because agriculture is an important part of our economy. And with regenerative agriculture, it promotes healthy soil and a process that draws down in sequesters greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. And in the pilot project that's already underway, the farmers have a tax incentive, if they get a tax break if they are using regenerative agriculture practices. So, there's both a financial and environmental incentive.

And you know, one of the things that's been on our list of goals was to do an educational event. And that is being planned for that topic. But there are many other climate solutions. So, I'm just trying to think if there was.... Oh, one other thing I want to mention is that there's an organization called Lifeboat that is offering a up to \$8,000, per municipality, for eight municipalities, in a three County area. I believe, Ulster, Dutchess, and Colombia, possibly Greene, to move forward with their bronze certification as a Climate Smart Committee, which means taking certain actions and getting points and so forth. I met Evelyn, or rather Europa and Amanda would be providing guidance. But if you have someone that was a volunteer, actually have a stipend to work on this. A lot more work will get done. Greenhouse gas inventories, climate action planning and, and real infrastructure put into place. So the deadline for that is December 14 to apply. So, you know, you may want to check with your municipality to see if they're looking to get that incentive, to apply for that incentive.

And I also want to answer a question that Legislator Criswell put in the, in the chat. For the zero waste plan, we have a shared drive that anyone has access to . And all those documents that Laura and I have been talking about are there. We can also pull them out and send them around. But I think what we'll do is add everyone that is on this committee to have access to that shared drive. And all our notes are there and you know, the model documents. There's a program now that's been recommended from the Finger Lakes, a Finger Lakes reuse program. And also, there's a municipality up north that... Oh, and also, Resource Vermont is another website that we're looking at. But we're trying to see the best of what's being done to beef up an already good Zero Waste Implementation Plan and get it to be very specific. But that's an easy thing to do is to share that folder. And also to pull out the documents that were mentioned and send them around as an attachments.

**Legislator Petit** 1:20:38

Yeah.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:20:42

And with that, I would entertain a motion to adjourn. Unless before we do that I see... yes, please.

**Dave Haldeman** 1:20:50

Just make you all aware. We got involved in this at our last meeting, the State House and Senate had passed a bill, what was going to offer additional protection on class C rivers: the Wallkill, Rondout, Esopus, and so forth. We sent a supportive letter with regard to that. It was on the Governor's desk, and unfortunately, he vetoed it. So, that, is what I heard the other day anyhow. And so, just for those of you who do have those streams that are going through your districts that are less protected. It may come down upon each municipality to strengthen the rules around the protections around their various streams. So, just to let you know.

**Legislator Petit** 1:21:47

The legislators signed a letter in support of that. I'm wondering if their processes like ours, it's going to go back to the bodies. So, could we send out another letter of encouragement asking them to pass that? You probably need a two thirds vote?



**Dave Haldeman** 1:22:08

I don't know the answer that question, obviously. But I mean, even our towns sent a letter. So, I mean, it's...

**Legislator Petit** 1:22:15

Yeah.

**Dave Haldeman** 1:22:17

It's too bad. I mean, in the town of Chicago, for example, the little teeny Shawangunk Kill, has amazing protections around it as a wilder stream. But the nasty, dirty Walkill has very little protections.

**Legislator Petit** 1:22:33

Mm hmm.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:22:37

I could reach out to Jeremy Cherson at Riverkeeper and try to find out the answer to that question about whether or not there's a way to override a veto, or at least re-introduce it next year.

You know, I know that a piece of legislation that Clearwater was working on for a Statewide Decommissioning Oversight Board has not been acted on it. And a lot of that has to do with COVID and the COVID priorities. But we're planning to be sure it's reintroduced next year because it's very important.

But I'll try to find out the answer to sort of the next steps. In terms of the Stream Protection Bill, we will add everyone on the committee to the Zero Waste list.

And there was one other thing I can't think of it right now. But it'll be in the minutes and probably remember when we get off the call. But at this point, I would entertain. Well, let me just ask before I entertain a motion. Any other questions or comments? Okay, I would now entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Bruno** 1:24:13

I'll make that motion.

**Legislator Criswell** 1:24:16

Second that.

**Legislator Greene** 1:24:17

All right, all in favor of adjourning this meeting, please signify.

**Committee Members** 1:24:23

Aye.

**Legislator Greene** 1:24:23

Again, we'll send our condolences to Legislator Wawro whose mother passed away. So, okay, thank you all.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:36 right about on time.