

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Environmental Committee

**DATE:** August 19, 2009

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**PLACE:** Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
County Office Building

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Brian Shapiro, Deputy Chairperson Laura Petit, Legislators Gary Bischoff, Hector Rodriguez, Dean Fabiano and Kevin Roberts

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** Legislator Richard Parete

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Bemis, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency  
Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of Environment

1. Chairman Brian Shapiro called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM.
2. Approved minutes from July 15, 2009.
3. Updates:

**Mike Bemis - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**

Mr. Bemis discussed:

- State legislation regarding e-waste responsibility. Research will be done regarding the proposed legislation and a draft resolution will be prepared for consideration at the next committee meeting; and
- Finances and the budget process. There has been a surge in volume and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year will reflect an increase in revenues. UCRRA will be meeting with Art Smith, Budget Director on Tuesday, August 25, 2009. The committee annually reviews the UCRRA budget and those details will be forthcoming; and
- Working with Suzanne Holt from the County Executive's Office on document destruction days. Northeast Data on Route 28 has offered 4 - 5 hours of time to hold an event for residents. The document destruction event is scheduled for September 26, 2009 and the location will be announced. The Department of Environment will help publicize the event

## **Amanda LaValle - Department of Environment**

Ms. LaValle discussed:

- The Department of Energy funding and waiting for the anticipated acceptance of the proposal. She believes the earliest this will happen is the end of the month.
- Working with Buildings and Grounds at Sojourner Truth Ulster Landing Park. DOE helped Buildings and Grounds apply for a grant for materials for improvements being done. The Eagle Scout (Saugerties) has been busy on his projects (clearing trails, benches, etc.). The upper parking lot, middle parking lot and beach kiosks have received a facelift. The maps were unreadable and they have worked with IS to produce new maps that can now be re-printed when necessary. She showed examples of the new maps versus the old maps.
- DOE has also been active in drafting a new brochure with a trails map. They suggested that the fee schedule be separate from the brochure so that it can be updated as needed.

### 4. Discussion:

- Idling Engines

The committee discussed the above topic. Copies of legislation from Westchester County and the New York City Council were circulated for informational purposes. Some committee members believe that this matter is already regulated by the FTA and/or State Law. Legislator Fabiano will check with the Department of Public Works regarding existing policy and will report to Chairman Shapiro. No action will be taken at this time.

Before discussion resumed, it was again mentioned that a resolution would be considered at the next meeting regarding New York State Senate Bill Nos. S6047 and S6089 (e-waste).

- Update on first Green Ribbon Task Force meeting held at 5:00 PM on August 19, 2009

Chairman Shapiro offered the following:

- The first meeting was constructive and reviewed issues of where we (the County) can partner with stakeholders, what the stakeholders can give and what the County can provide.
- David Gross, Woodstock Environmental Commission mentioned in the meeting that the consumer should be dissuaded by the money issue.

Legislator Fabiano stated that the public is still evenly split; the money becomes an issue. He believes plastic bags should be eliminated and if we can work out the money issue then people would be okay with the concept.

Legislator Petit commented that the education component is essential and doing a lot of public relations work. She thought we should look into a "Recycling Education Grant".

Legislator Bischoff stated that a big sign could be put in the front windows of stores asking, "Did you remember your cloth/reusable bags?"

Amanda LaValle offered that there are signs on the outside of Wegman's (central New York).

Legislator Fabiano motioned, seconded by Legislator Roberts to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Binder, Deputy Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature