

**Ulster County Legislature
Environmental Committee
P.O. Box 1800
Kingston, New York
County Office Building, Legislative Library
6:00 PM, 2/20/08**

Call to order:

6:05, Brian Shapiro, Chair

Agenda:

Beef recall

UCRRA issues

Climate Change Advisory Committee

Department of the Environment

Deer Program

Chodikee Lake acquisition

Beef recall:

Chairperson Shapiro offered a letter, directed to all nine County school superintendents. It expressed concern regarding the USDA's beef recall and its relevance to one (Kingston) or more Ulster County school districts. Brian Shapiro asked for, and received unanimous approval, to mail the letter. (letter on file)

UCRRA:

Brian Shapiro reported the membership of the current UCRRA Board as Chairman and Treasurer, Dennis Helm; Vice-Chairman, Arnold Bernardini; Member-at-Large, Michelle Rodden; and Member-at-Large, Don DeBrosky.

Katherine J. Beinkafner, PhD, and Fred Wadnola are being considered for the vacancies on the board.

Michael Bemis reported the January 2008 recycling tonnage and transfer station tonnage figures. (hard copy on file) Recycling, by weight, is up 3% since 2007. UCRRA's minutes and financial reports are available on line at <http://www.ucrra.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm>.

Michael Bemis introduced Michelle Leggett, the new Recycling Coordinator/Educator. She reported several recent projects, including a new informational pamphlet designed for distribution throughout Ulster County via municipal and private haulers. Also, new durable, uniform and legible signs have replaced shabby signs for various recyclables, e.g. glass, plastic, paper, at eighteen of the County's twenty recycling centers. Michelle's goals include increasing recycling's visibility, making recycling information more uniform throughout the county, and promoting household hazardous waste (HHW) collection. The next HHW and electronics collection is April 19; see <http://www.ucrra.org/recycling/hhw.htm>.

Climate Change Advisory Committee:

Melissa Everett was absent; no report. [see below]

Department of the Environment:

Amanda LaValle, new director of the Department, introduced herself and outlined her plans for the new department. After a kick-off meeting with all the relevant department heads, she will schedule separate meetings with each department head to develop an Action Plan for 2008. She will report back regularly to the Environmental Committee throughout the year.

Deer hunting:

Richard Parete proposed a memorializing resolution requesting that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) make permanent the existing Deer Harvest strategy which restricts harvesting of bucks to those with a minimum of three points on one side. This resolution would be sent to Pete Grannis, the Commissioner of the DEC. Gary Bischoff and Rich Parete proposed the resolution, Dean Fabiano seconded, and it carried unanimously. See <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/96-08.pdf>. [FYI- The DEC extended the program for another year, so the UC Legislature referred the resolution back to committee.]

Chodikee Lake acquisition:

Brian Shapiro reported that the owners of adjacent parcels are claiming that there is no lake access from the parcel. Until the late 1970's, there was a town road which provided access. This road has "*magically*" disappeared from subsequent maps. A

meeting scheduled for March 2008 should move this dispute towards a positive resolution.

Public comment:

Pete Robbins promoted the Permaculture courses being offered through continuing education at UCCC as part of their Sustainability Training for Homeowners and Professionals. (See <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/96-08.pdf>.) Permaculture offers sustainable Stormwater Management solutions for landowners.

Climate Change Advisory Committee:

Melissa Everett reported that the Committee was preparing to report to the Ulster County Legislature, but has delayed its report, in part, to match its timing to the Department of the Environment start-up.

County progress to date:

The Ulster County Planning Department has a facilities study, which it is preparing for release.

UCAT is already modifying its fleet composition and fuel use. It has some hybrid buses as well as some vehicles running on a biodiesel blend fuel.

A plan for Ulster County will need several parts:

First, a funding mechanism is crucial. Melissa has met with Michael Hein's deputy to brainstorm financial mechanisms to fund a climate change program.

Increasing the energy efficiency of county buildings will be some of the 'low hanging fruit' to reduce the County's carbon footprint. The towns, including Saugerties, Shawangunk, and Woodstock would welcome support for their climate change programs from the County. The Committee is proposing that Ulster County use the tools developed by the Cities for Climate Protection program of Local Governments for Sustainability, ICLEI, <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=800>.

The Committee will meet before the Legislature's April 2, 2008 caucus night to prepare a report for submission to David Donaldson.

Adjourn:

Hector Rodriguez proposed, and Dean Fabiano seconded, a resolution to adjourn at 7:15. Approved unanimously.

