

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD IN THE LIBRARY CONFERENCE
ROOM, COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK, ON THE 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2010.

LEGISLATORS:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Dep. Chairman
CARL BELFIGLIO
DONALD GREGORIUS
JACK HAYES
CATHERINE TERRIZZI
MICHAEL MADSEN

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

MARK KOMDAT, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College
LYDIA REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of UC
PATTI ZELLMER, Cornell Cooperative Extension of UC
JAMES COSGROVE, Ulster County Library Association
JENNIFER ZELL, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010, meetings. Such motion was made by Leg. Belfiglio and seconded by Leg. Madsen. Upon Chairman Harris' calling for a voice vote the motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010, meeting was approved.

Ulster County Community College:

Chairman Harris recognized Dean Komdat who gave an enrollment report noting we are at 1070 FTEs, which is 5% ahead of last year at the same time and 94% of our goal. He stated we still have 140 FTEs to record for the Collegian Program and that will put us about 6% ahead of our goal.

Dean Komdat noted receiving an excellent response to our offering 7 credit day courses at the Business Resource Center (BRC) in Kingston this semester and that we are looking at doubling offerings at the BRC for the Spring 2011 semester.

Dean Komdat announced the College has submitted a request through the County's Capital Program for an Extension Center Site Analysis to examine current and future extension site requirements and locations.

Dean Komdat referenced the planning and design phase of the Water Distribution and Acquisition Project and the current issue of the extension of the High Falls Water District to campus versus a purchase agreement. He noted the College could pay as much as 3.5 times the rate paid by High Falls customers if a purchase agreement was in place, thus the College is hoping for the extension.

Dean Komdat stated the College hosted the annual strategic planning session for the Hudson Valley Educational Consortium (Sullivan, Orange, Rockland and Ulster Community Colleges) on September 17.

Discussion regarding the Water Distribution and Acquisition Project ensued. Chairman Harris referenced if we are making it available all along the trunk? Dean Komdat noted the extension of water to campus could be a benefit to neighbors along the way. Leg. Gregorius offered some considerations regarding a rate, i.e. an educational rate. Dean Komdat noted government entity

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options as well. Leg. Gregorius noted a separate category, i.e. a not-for-profit rate or a large usage rate. He also referenced in-kind, what could the College do for High Falls, a potential swap? Dean Komdat noted that possibility being part of the equation.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Ms. Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC).

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County:

Ms. Reidy noted the Agricultural and Economic Development event has been postponed till October 25 due to the weather and announced the CCEUC and Ulster County Farm Bureau's upcoming annual dinner and silent auction on October 29 at Twiin Lakes in Hurley.

Ms. Reidy reported local farms have been hit with hail, and the sweet corn production is finished.

Ms. Reidy noted the upcoming Walk, Bike and Roll to school day on October 6 and that 12 schools in Kingston are participating in this international event, which is part of the A Healthy Kingston for Kids project funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She also shared that some schools are busing students to another school in order to enable them to walk, and there will be a CCEUC staff member dressed in a chicken suit encouraging students to get to school safely. Ms. Reidy also shared the success of school gardens and noted the recent publicity in the *Daily Freeman*. She noted planning for volunteers to care for the garden during the summer and as the produce cannot be used in the school's cafeterias the excess has gone to soup kitchens.

Ms. Reidy announced an upcoming meeting of the Farm Labor Housing Rehabilitation Program in February or March and indicated CCEUC had applied for funding with Rural Ulster Preservation Company, but would not be funded since the County received funding the last two years. Chairman Harris referenced the economic conditions of today's farmers and finding workers to do farm work. Ms. Reidy noted Stephen Colbert's recent visit to Gill's Farm in Hurley and shared John Gill's comment that Colbert's visit to his farm brought light to people in our area regarding farm work and expectations. Ms. Reidy noted the concern of immigration and migrant workers. She stated unless people are willing to accept an increase in price for local food that farms will close. Ms. Reidy noted our small farms are dependent on migrant labor and are not big enough to keep workers longer, as they have short seasons. She reiterated the best people to talk to about this are our farmers who are spending less time out on the fields and more time in offices preparing paperwork for agencies.

Ms. Reidy introduced Ms. Patti Zellmer, 4-H Youth Development Leader, who gave a report on CCEUC's 4-H Youth Development Program. She explained that the program couldn't be run without the volunteers who serve as club leaders, evaluators, teachers, and thanked Dr. Beth Alden and Chairman Harris. Ms. Zellmer referenced the 5 C's for Positive Youth Development (Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, Compassion) and the 4-H Pledge. She also showcased a few 4-H projects that received special recognition from State Fair evaluators this year and explained that these projects are great examples of youth learning. Ms. Zellmer noted 4-H is connected to Cornell

University, which serves as a land-grant university, and stated their responsibility of sharing basic and applied research throughout the New York State. She also shared the 3 big effects for positive youth development (positive youth, activities to build life skills, opportunities to use as participants and leaders) and how 4-H uses all of them. Ms. Zellmer referenced the loss of one full-time Youth Development staff member, three clubs and 45 youth participants, as a result of last year's budget

cut. Ms. Zellmer noted she absorbed added responsibilities; the volunteers do more and through donations support staff was able to be hired. She also noted working on securing grant funding. Chairman Harris referenced 4-Hs annual public presentations and her outreach to get volunteers for the event, which is held at Ulster County Community College traditionally on a Saturday in March. He noted it's really amazing to see the kids over the years and referenced Courtney Weiss' organ donation program that is now run throughout the state. Ms. Reidy noted Courtney received a \$1000 scholarship from the state. Chairman Harris gave another example of a program called Patriotic Pillows which is the distribution of patriotic pillows to veterans at Castle Point. Ms. Reidy asked for the Legislator's assistance in promoting 4-H to their constituents and encouraged attending the upcoming 4-H Fall Festival on Sunday, November 7 from 12-3 p.m. at the Ulster County Fairgrounds to find out more about the program. Ms. Zellmer noted she would follow-up with Chairman Harris on volunteers for the public presentations and thanked everyone for their support.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Mr. James Cosgrove, of the Ulster County Library Association.

Ulster County Library Association

Mr. Cosgrove referenced the Ulster County Library Association's annual meeting in September at Frank Guido's Little Italy in Kingston. He noted the New York Library Association's Executive Director attended who referenced the current funding situation and noted that for the first time in their budget they not seeing less money, as they are hoping to look at a little more money (25 % cut previously).

Mr. Cosgrove noted the database for the Ulster County InfoPortal is subsidized through the State, and he is not sure what is happening with state funding, as he referenced less support from them. He gave an example of one product that is being used by the Plattekill Library, Tutor.com, which is an interactive product for children to be tutored on an electronic blackboard with a live expert. Mr. Cosgrove also noted the website assists with career consultation and the hope of using extra funds (\$23,000 - \$30,000) for these career services, although if funding remains the same as it currently is, it wouldn't be possible. He noted most people are looking for assistance in finding a job, obtaining an e-mail account. Chairman Harris asked Mr. Cosgrove if he has reached out to the

County's Office of Employment and Training Office, as he referenced Director, Nancy Schaefer, being able to assist with this. He noted that they are still working with the company and are possibly looking at substituting Tutor.com with another product and offered sharing a webinar with anyone who would like to participate, as it might help their decision.

The report of the Ulster County Library Association being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Leg. Belfiglio.

Leg. Belfiglio noted that he wasn't able to locate a budget line for Evolve through the Department of Social Services and also noted the wrong figure being listed for the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District. Chairman Harris noted the County Executive's budget does include these except there were two errors. He noted that Karen Spinozzi has distributed breakdowns of each contract agency with further information on each one. Chairman Harris also noted a schedule for Legislators to put in requests for changes for the Finance Committee. Chairman Harris announced the review of contract agency funding will be conducted at the next Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee meeting on November 2. Leg. Belfiglio referenced UCDCs

budget and that \$10,000 is awarded for every job. Deputy Chairman Donaldson confirmed that a contract is in place and that an incentive was created four years ago to give base money for certain things that UCDC was retaining. He noted they were being more lackadaisical and that economic development wasn't being pushed, hence the creation of an incentive. Deputy Chairman Donaldson noted Lance Matteson has been doing a good job and that the state should stop all counties. Chairman Harris referenced definitive amounts of money for retention and for incentive with a \$400,000 cap. Deputy Chairman Donaldson noted at one point the contract gave an incentive if money was raised, although there was a cap on that as well. He also noted for a long time there was no funding from businesses, and gave an example of fundraising, i.e. the recent Walkway Over the Hudson event. Leg. Gregorius noted if UCDC does well that perhaps it needs to be revisited, as we are committed to looking at this. He noted the very tough times we are in and all need to be revisited. Chairman Harris noted one of the biggest changes being the economic development line and the Planning Department. Deputy Chairman Donaldson referenced the County Executive having that Department report to him. Chairman Harris noted the County Executive gives direction as he serves on the UCDC board. Deputy Chairman Donaldson referenced in Greene County economic development is run through the IDA, who can raise funds and establish fees, as compared to other areas that run it through the County Executive. He noted ours is through the Legislative branch which reports to the County Executive. Chairman Harris noted UCDCs administering funding for shovel ready sites and revolving loan funding. Deputy Chairman Donaldson referenced Kingston's Industrial Park extension and being able to only do municipal shovel ready projects. A question was asked if UCDC could give a report to the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee and Chairman Harris suggested making arrangements for Lance Matteson to attend a meeting. Deputy Chairman Donaldson noted that UCDC reports to the Economic Development and Tourism Committee that meets on Mondays.

Ms. Reidy referenced the budget approval process for contract agencies and the submission to the Legislature's Budget & Finance Committee and asked how to proceed? Chairman Harris referenced he thinks it will be ok by the November 2 Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services

Committee meeting. Leg. Belfiglio referenced the listing error for the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservations budget for 2010 (listed as \$102,000/received \$76,500) and CCEUC listing (\$355,300/received \$266,475).

There being no further business, Chairman Harris called for a motion to adjourn. Deputy Chairman Donaldson so moved, Leg. Gregorius seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Zell, Recorder
Administrative Assistant – President's Office
SUNY Ulster County Community College