

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, HELD IN THE LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM, ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK, ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2011.**

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**PRESENT:**

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman  
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Deputy Chairman  
CATHERINE TERIZZI  
MICHAEL MADSEN  
JACK HAYES  
CARL BELFIGLIO (Excused)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

DONALD C. KATT, President, SUNY Ulster County Community College  
MARK KOMDAT, Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster County Community College  
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
MELINDA HERZOG, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
EVE MADELENGOITIA, Director of Programs & Art Service, Dutchess Co. Arts Council  
VICTOR MELVILLE, League of Women Voters  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:03pm and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting of the committee. Such motion was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote, the minutes of the meeting of this committee dated August 9, 2011 were unanimously approved. Chairman Harris then recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension:**

Ms. Reidy said she had been working with the agricultural community and with March Gallagher and with Dennis Doyle on the effects of Hurricane Irene and anticipating possible effects of a new one they think is coming. She advised everyone that everything they are sending out and whatever information they obtain is being put on Cornell Cooperative's website so anyone can go and look at it. Ms. Reidy said it was important that people know that people should be taking their water to the Health Department for testing if their well was under water and they should not be drinking that water until it has been tested.

Agriculturally, she said, the main concern at this time is with the vegetable growers. The apple growers seem to have made out alright but the vegetable growers along the streams did not. She said on September 8<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting in Goshen for farmers on food safety issues for crops that have been under water. There will be FEMA people there and information about the Governor's \$15 million aid plan. Ms. Reidy said she believed some of that disaster relief money will be coming from the Farm Aid Housing money they usually apply for but they are not doing that this year. She said some of the local farmers have lost everything and we don't know if they can recover. She said Ferrante's in New Paltz is still under water.

Ms. Reidy said the 4-H children were doing a food and clothing drive; then it was just a food drive and now it is only a prepared food drive. They got a lot of donations. She reported almost everyone had power back now; some just got it back yesterday. Ms. Reidy said she will stay on top of the farm things and try and get information out.

The current rain is only compounding the problems and almost all of the farms affected were at the point of harvesting. If any of these farms had crop insurance they may have a chance of surviving but if they did not she doesn't know what they are going to do.

She also said that for some people some of the damage is covered under their homeowners and for others it is not, depending on your insurance. She stressed that while FEMA helps, it does not put you back to the way you were. She also said she is still trying to help out in Sullivan County Cooperative Extension part-time but the road situation is bad everywhere. She will keep trying to get as much information out as possible.

At this time Ms. Reidy introduced Melinda Herzog of Cornell Cooperative Extension who is heading the "Creating Health Places to Live, Work and Play" program. This is a grant funded program through the New York State Department of Health to fight obesity and type 2 diabetes and is currently operating in Kingston, Ellenville and Phoenicia. The aim of the program is to go into the community and make changes that are long-lasting such as helping people to choose healthier foods and to get more exercise.

Ms. Herzog said the program is a collaborative partnership with other agencies. In the area of physical activity they partner with Gilmour Planning on the "Complete Streets" program and with Gilmour and City of Kingston Parks and Recreation on the "Use Your Park" campaign to improve open spaces and recreation and to identify parks and increase usage.

In the area of healthy eating, Ms. Herzog said they were partnered with the Kingston Land Trust in a number of community gardens in the County. She said the Ulster County Health Department is our partner in the Healthy Snacks in After Schools Program as well as in the Healthier Restaurants field where we are advocating for smaller portions and making sure calorie counts are posted pursuant to County Local Law #1.

She said we also partner with The Community Heart Health Coalition of Ulster County through the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Childcare Centers Program to improve nutrition, increase physical activity and reduce screen time at childcare centers.

Ms. Herzog's presentation being concluded, Ms. Reidy advised the committee that she would have her budget request for them by September 15<sup>th</sup> and would send a copy of all committee members and to the County Executive.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairman Harris said that funds allocated by Ulster County to be distributed for the Arts had been disbursed and he recognized, Eve Madalengoitia, Director of Programs & Art Services of the Dutchess County Arts Council.

Dutchess County Arts Council on behalf of the Ulster County  
Cultural Services and Promotion Fund:

Ms. Madalengoitia said distribution of the grant funds was made at a reception in August at the Woodstock School of Art and Carl Belfiglio, Don Gregorius and Wayne Harris were able to attend. She also advised that Dutchess County Arts Council has a link where self-employed people such as artists can obtain information for help with disaster relief efforts.

On the arts fund distribution, Ms. Madelengoitia said everyone was very pleased they were able to apply in such a manner to obtain Ulster County funding. There were nineteen applications from established artists and arts and cultural groups and there were ten awards made after a lengthy application and approval process. She said they start with a review panel of five Ulster County people who review all applications, looking at the guidelines and the funding criteria, including not-for-profit status and business management. They were also scored on merit. Ms. Madelengoitia said they also look at geographic location to make sure the funds are somewhat spread around the county as evenly as possible. The review panel then makes their recommendations and the applications are forwarded to the Arts Council Allocation Committee which brings in more Ulster County people. This group also reviews the recommendations of the review panel and final recommendations are sent to the full Dutchess County Arts Council Board for final review. The grants funded are:

Arm-of-the Sea Productions, Malden on Hudson, NY for social media marketing;  
Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, NY for streaming lectures;  
Mount Tremper Arts, Mt. Tremper, NY for Summer Festival expansion;  
Shadowland Theatre, Ellenville, NY for its New Play Series;  
UPAC in Kingston, NY for social media marketing;  
Vanaver Caravan, New Paltz, NY for the Symphony Premier with HVP;  
Woodstock Artists Assn. & Museum, Woodstock, NY for U.C. Artists on Line;  
Woodstock Film Festival, Woodstock, NY for WFF Playhouse Initiative;  
Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, NY for their Web Rehab; and  
Woodstock School of Art, Woodstock, NY for A New Deal for Youth.

Chairman Harris asked if Ms. Madelengoitia knew how much their administrative fees were and she said she was not sure but that she knew Ulster County was getting a good deal. Chairman Harris said committee members who were around at an earlier time know distribution of the funds was not close to being objective and he is very happy with this procedure. He said it is a much more reasonable and fair way to support the arts. Ms. Madelengoitia said it is also a very good way to get some of these artists to understand what it is to get a grant and how to fill out applications, and also for the panel to get to know the artists so much better. She also advised the committee that Dutchess County Arts Council recently held an "Insurance for Artists" workshop which was very well attended.

The report of Dutchess County Arts Council on the 2011 Ulster County Cultural Services & Promotion Fund being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized President Donald Katt and Dean Mark Komdat of SUNY Ulster County Community College.

Ulster County Community College:

President Katt said he was very pleased with the County Executive's nomination of Mr. William A. LeDoux to the Board of Trustees of Ulster County Community College. He said Mr. LeDoux has an extensive background in education, having been the Superintendent of Schools of the Kingston City School District as well as the District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of Ulster County BOCES. He said Mr. LeDoux, who is now retired, was the first Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley. He will be replacing retiring Board member Harlow DeForest. President Katt said Mr. LeDoux will be an excellent addition to the college's Board of Trustees.

At this time Chairman Harris presented to the Committee on behalf of Ulster County Executive Michael Hein, a proposed resolution as follows:

"WHEREAS, the County Executive has appointed the following individual to the Ulster County Community College Board of Trustees:

William A. LeDoux  
26 Elm Street  
Tillson, NY 12486

Term: July 1, 2011  
thru  
June 30, 2018

and, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature confirms the appointment of the aforementioned individual as a member to the Ulster County Community College Board of Trustees for the term indicated above,  
and moves its adoption."

A motion to approve the proposed resolution as presented was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Hayes, and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote said resolution was unanimously approved.

President Katt said he had a call from Marshall Beckman asking if FEMA could establish a base of operations at the Business Resource Center in the wake of Hurricane Irene. He said they will be there seven days a week for several months.

On enrollment, the President said we took a hit last spring and again this summer. We thought it might have been due to some of the new health insurance offerings for students living at home under their parent's health insurance, who were switching from full time to part time, but we are still not sure. He said the trend is continuing in the fall semester and we hope to come in at twenty-five FTEs or about 3% below our budgeted projections.

Leg. Donaldson asked about on-line classes. President Katt said there were about fifty-five course selections offered which are all credit classes and most, but not all, are taught by the same instructors as those taught in the classrooms. The cost is the same as the average cost per semester of \$520 as it is

for attending classes. He also said there are about 1200 students taking on-line classes. (In addition, the college offers some continuing education classes on line as well.) In reply to a question from Chairman Harris, President Katt said a student can graduate with all on-line classes under the OASIS program by taking thirty credits of liberal arts and 30 credits of anything else.

President Katt presented each member of the Committee with a copy of "Ulster County Community College's Capital Program 2012-2017" and said he was here to keep the County up to date and to ask the committee to look and see ideally what we would like to do in the future. He said the college takes its lead from the county and is well aware of the state of the economy. He said he would like to discuss this in more detail at the end of the calendar year and see if there is any way some of these projects can be funded. He distributed a list entitled "High Priority Capital Projects 2011-2013".

The college, said President Katt, will be looking to relocate the Business Resource Center from its present location on Albany Avenue as the County advises that they need the space we are currently renting from them. We are looking at three potential spaces: the Edgewater property on Boices Lane; Tech City; and the Savannah property. We are looking for about 35,000-40,000 square feet of space.

Continuing, President Katt told the committee that the replacement of HVAC controllers at the main campus has become imperative as they are antiquated and are not functioning properly and in some cases not functioning at all.

Dean Komdat said we have no backup generators. He said he had a meeting just before the storm hit to see what systems we could power down to try and minimize the damage. Several of our battery backup systems failed and we had water damage in the Library basement and in the Vanderlyn Hall basement below the theater. This effectively put us out of business for a while. Backup generators will also keep the sump pumps operating, which they did not when the power went out. At present, none of our buildings have backup generators said the Dean. These would be LP units that are more economical with high efficiency and a greater power output. Leg. Madsen referenced the generators at the hospital, but the Dean said they would not be that big but would be commercial size and not the normal household size.

President Katt discussed the proposed revamping of the traffic roundabout and the results of the traffic survey and the alleviation of backups of students trying to leave campus, especially at peak hours. He also discussed our present Cisco telephone system and said our telephone system is breaking down and is just not working as it should..

The President then moved to the extension of the public water system to campus and the construction of a wastewater treatment plant to upgrade our current system. He said he did not expect any motions or resolutions at this time but that this was a priority. Leg. Terrizzi questioned some of the differences in the figures set forth in the Capital Plan and those in the Priority list. Dean Komdat explained that some of the differences, such as the \$500,000 difference between extending the water system in the capital plan and the amount in the priority list was that approximately \$500,000 has already been

allocated for engineering, environmental studies, etc. He also said that the new system would alleviate some of the safety concerns and allow for fire sprinkler systems, etc. , which could not be accommodated now because of water pressure and reliance on well water. He also said that the current water system passes quality testing but has a very high mineral content, which is corrosive and harmful to pipes and equipment.

Dean Komdat said the water system extension is in a holding pattern at the present time. The college attorney has been working on negotiating an easement with an adjacent property owner but it cannot be completed or finalized until such time as the balance of the project is approved and funding is provided. .

Leg. Terrizzi asked if the extension center was going to remain in Kingston. President Katt said it was presently in the Town of Ulster and all three sites are in the Town of Ulster. He said the current location has proven to be extremely convenient to residents of Kingston as well as Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Saugerties. Dean Komdat said there is a little bit of a push for us to move so that the County can use our part of the current BRC facility. There is a cost benefit to them that we do not have in this move. Leg. Madsen said he had occasion in the last few days to look at the Tech city property, and the ability to turn it into this type of use would be very quick. It is also right on the Route 209 corridor.

Dean Komdat said we are trying to work together to get the best site for the college to assure its continued success and continued operation and we want the best possible deal the college can get. He said the college is currently paying \$317,000 per year to the County for the current BRC. The Dean said most of what we have looked at does not fit within that number which means this move is probably going to cost more money and we still have to renovate the space.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Harris advised the committee that he had expected Jim Cosgrove of the Ulster County Library Association to appear this evening but he has had car trouble and is unable to appear. He was to present a report with a separate statement listing the various libraries in the county with their budgets and where they get their funding. Chairman Harris said he would ask Mr. Cosgrove to e-mail this statement to each of the committee members.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Madsen and after voice vote, Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:18pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri  
Recorder