

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Environmental Committee

DATE: September 16, 2009

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Library Conference Room, 6th Floor
County Office Building

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Brian Shapiro, Deputy Chairperson Laura Petit (left at 6:52 PM), Legislators Gary Bischoff, Richard Parete (arr. 6:10 PM), and Hector Rodriguez

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Dean Fabiano and Kevin Roberts

OTHERS PRESENT: Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of the Environment
Mike Bemis, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency
Michelle Leggett, Recycling Coordinator, UCRRA
Timothy DeGraff, UCRRA
Victor Melville, League of Women Voters Observer Corp.
EF Copplino, Reporter, Chronogram
Meghan Walsh, Student, SUNY New Paltz
Julia Walsh, Alumni, SUNY New Paltz
Connor Syrewicz, Student, SUNY New Paltz

1. Chairman Brian Shapiro opened a "Public Airing" of the Environmental Committee with no quorum present at 6:09 PM.

2. Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of the Environment:

- Presented the background information regarding the NYS Department of State grant for Watershed Management Planning and Implementation In The Esopus Creek Watershed

The Esopus has a strong stormwater management program by NYC Department of Environmental Protection which is well funded. The grant would cover the entire Esopus Creek, both upper and lower. The grant does require matching funds which have been found with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District. The County and municipalities can apply for the RWP.

- Added that should this grant be awarded and should local funding sources be realized as anticipated, will enable the implementation of best management practices to improve surface water quality in the Esopus Watershed, assess the sediment and runoff contribution of driveways and private roads to surface water systems, and assess and promote public stream access points along the Esopus.

Chairman Shapiro called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. With a quorum now being present the following action items were addressed:

- Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Bischoff to move the following resolution: **"Supporting A Grant Application To The NYS Department Of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Environmental Protection Fund For Watershed Management Planning And Implementation In The Esopus Creek Watershed."**

All in favor.

- Amanda LaValle stated that it became obvious that the Park was not part of Greenway. This request for becoming a designation will allow the County to become more competitive in applying for grants and Greenway also advertises destinations.

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Petit to move the following resolution: **"Request By The County Of Ulster, For Greenway Trail Designation Of The Sojourner Truth Ulster Landing County Park."**

All in favor.

Amanda LaValle also provided that there will be a Soil and Water/MS4 Stormwater workshop in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building on September 29th. The workshop is open to everyone and Ms. Brown will provide information on the MS4 audit process. The County and the 12 towns will all undergo an audit. The State does have a guidebook available on the process.

Ms. LaValle further added that the Department of the Environment and the Environmental Management Council will be setting up a workshop in November at SUNY Ulster, to bring together all of the various local environmental commissions. One goal is for there to be cooperative projects with the various commissions.

Chairman Shapiro offered that Mike Bemis had brought forth a memorializing resolution regarding e-waste at last month's meeting.

Legislator Petit mentioned that the law would require a \$5,000. registration fee.

Legislator Bischoff isn't for the law and doesn't like a lot of the provisions. The State has little manufacturing now and this law would put more of burden with fees and reports on manufacturers. In Europe they use a CE mark which indicates a plan for disposal. The law would require changes at waste management facilities which would become another mandate and an expensive option for localities. He feels this is overkill on New York State's part and another law where government grows government.

Legislator Petit offered that a lot of the issues could be incorporated in the revision of the current local law by the Recycling Oversight Committee.

Chairman Shapiro stated that the intent of the State bill is noble but agreed that the matter could be deferred to the Recycling Oversight Committee. He asked for Legislator Petit to keep

the Committee updated on this issue since she also is a member of the Recycling Oversight Committee.

The Committee agreed to take no action on the proposed resolution "**Supporting New York State Assembly Bill No. A09049, New York State Senate Bill No. S060647 And S06089 - Supporting Extended Producer Responsibility For Recycling, Reuse, And Safe Handling Of Electronic Equipment Sold In The State of New York.**"

3. Mike Bemis - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Budget

The proposed 2010 Budget was reviewed by the County Executive's Office two weeks ago.

The key Budget highlights are as follows:

REVENUE

- 3% increase to all categories except non-PPA commercial haulers
- Large tonnage increase due to new Waste Management agreement
- 800K decrease in budgeted sale of recyclables; partially offset by 100K increase in recycling tip fees
- Substantial decrease in banking interest rates

EXPENDITURES

- Increase in salaries/wages due to scheduled raises and vacation/sick accrual
- Increase in pension contribution rate (7% to 11.1%); due to poor economic conditions and its effect on NYSERS investment pool
- Health Insurance increase of 20% expected; standard 10% plus NYS surcharge increases to insurance companies that will be passed along to employers
- Liability Insurance to remain the same as 2009 actual
- Grinder lease ends in February (86K per year)
- Decreases in all areas of fuel costs
- Increases in vehicle repair/maintenance costs due to increased volume
- Increases in transport and disposal costs due to increased volume
- Final payment will be made on March 1, 2010 for Series 2000 Unrefunded Bonds

NET SERVICE FEE

- Net Service Fee increasing from \$148,871. from the prior year or 12%. This does not include any transfers in from Agency Reserve Funds.

There were questions and answers regarding the fuel used each year and the fact that there isn't any support for a County landfill therefore the trash is transported to Central New York State.

Mike Bemis mentioned the Agency's work with Hudson Valley Regional Council for a regional, collective approach to composting and other solid waste alternatives. There was discussion about companies that have proposed waste energy. There haven't been any companies that have moved forward with their ideas.

Timothy DeGraff - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

- Discussed the Net Service Fee/Debt Service Analysis - see attached. Mention was made of recycling being down and UCRRA was not able to save money during the first half of 2009.
- Reserves are in a comfortable area

There were questions and discussion regarding:

- Tipping fees
- Grinder lease
- Recyclables
- Bio-Diesel/Fuel Costs
- Hauler Agreements
- Food Waste

Michelle Leggett, Recycling Coordinator, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

- Created a wearable dress made from plastic bags. Chairman Shapiro will invite Michelle Leggett to the next Green Ribbon Task Force meeting.
- Mike Bemis mentioned that the public needs to be educated about the County's Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Law.
 - Any registered hauler must have a recycling plan on file.
 - The Agency is sending out a letter with a copy of the local law.
 - The Agency has begun the process of having this information available on the website. There are plans, enforcement and quarterly reports to be filed with the Recycling Oversight Committee.

The Committee took a five minute break.

Chairman Shapiro introduced Julia Walsh. She did a PowerPoint Presentation on SUNY New Paltz - PCBs and Dioxin Contamination - see attached.

There was lengthy discussion about the Executive Summary which was to be produced three years ago and has not yet been received. Chairman Shapiro maintained that the effort at this point should be put into obtaining the Summary.

Legislator Rodriguez will contact the County Executive tomorrow to discuss this matter.

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Bischoff to draft a letter to SUNY New Paltz President to obtain the Executive Summary. A copy of this letter should be sent to District No. 10 Legislator Susan Zimet. All in favor.

There was further discussion as to whether or not foiling Department of Health records should take place.

Julia Walsh advised that there is a website regarding the Dioxin issue: www.dioxindorms.com.

Legislator Richard Parete motioned, seconded by Legislator Shapiro to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Binder, Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature