

**Energy & Environment Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** March 6, 2017 at 6:30 or immediately following the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee Meeting

**LOCATION:** Conference Room, 2d Floor, SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman Richard Parete (left at 7:30) and Tracey Bartels

**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk

**PRESENT:** Legislators Tracey Bartels, Jonathan Heppner, Ron G. Lapp, Jr and Mary Wawro (arrived at 7:02).

**ABSENT:** None

**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Manna Jo Greene; Evelyn Wright, Citizens for Local Power; Chris White, Deputy Director of Planning; Dave Halderman, Ulster County Environmental Council; Tim Hoover; Samrat Pathania, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition; Michael Kamm, Capital District EV Drivers Group

Chairman Parete called the meeting to order at 6:35.

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**Motion No. 1:** To Approve the Minutes of December 12, 2016

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Lapp  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators R. Parete, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro (7:02)

**Voting Against:** None

**Abstaining:** Legislator Bartels (7:02)

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Abstaining:** 1

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 7: Resolution No. 119** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A State Assistance Contract With The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation For Grant Funding For The Butternut Cove Culvert Rehabilitation and Slope Stabilization Project along the Ulster & Delaware Railroad Corridor

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would authorize the Chairman of the Legislature to execute a contract with NYSDEC for a restoration project to repair flood damage to the U&D Corridor at Butternut Cove.

**Motion By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Heppner

**Discussion:** Mr. White distributed a map and photos showing the location of the culvert at Butternut Cove on the U&D Corridor. He explained the ongoing collapse of the culver walls and the culvert itself. Currently the culvert blocks fish migration. Currently there is no way to get into the area with the equipment needed to do the work. They estimate the entire repair to be about \$750,000.

Mr. White explained the extent of the repairs that will be done sometime in the future as part of the overall Ashokan Rail Trail (ART) project. At this location, the existing culvert and collapsed walls will be removed and the stream will be “day lighted” with a bridge crossing the area to accommodate ART. This will return the stream to a more natural state and improve fish migration.

Mr. White said the UC Environmental Department applied for the grant which will cover 44% of the cost of the repair. The county will be applying for a number of grants and is planning ahead to ensure the grant funding is in place when the work on ART begins. He said he will be back for formal approval of the total ART plan in the future.

A discussion ensued regarding this and other upcoming issues along the U&D Corridor.

<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Legislators R. Parete, Heppner and Lapp
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	4
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	Approved

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**Motion No. 3: To discuss Resolution No. 87 - Amending The Electric Vehicle Charging Station Policy**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would amend the policy for the use of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on County property.

**Motion for Discussion By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Heppner

**Discussion:** Chairman R. Parete said his intention was to introduce this resolution for discussion only at this time and did not intend to vote on it tonight. It still needs the approval of the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee.

Mr. Pathania told the committee that he has an Electric Vehicle (EV) and discussed some of his concerns with the County’s charging stations. He appreciates that the County does not charge a fee for EV charging but said that most EV users are not looking for a free charge they just want a place to charge. He noticed that one of the EV charging spots is always taken with a County vehicle, even at nights and on weekends.

The Committee had an extended discussion about how the charging stations are funded, how they might be regulated, and how any policy will need to evolve as more EV are used.

Michael Kamm, Capital District EV Drivers Group offered information and support. He discussed tags that allow an EV user to communicate to other EV users permission to unplug the vehicle when it is fully charged.

No Vote was taken

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**Motion No. 4: To sign a memorializing letter** for State Grant funding of Community Choice Aggregations Resource Study by the Citizens for Local Power.

**Moved by:** Legislator Bartels  
**Seconded by:** Legislator Heppner

Chairman R. Parete introduced Evelyn White from the Citizens for Local Power (CLP).

Ms. White said CLP had established a working group made up of representatives of local municipalities that are interested to create Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCA pools the buying power of the municipality, local businesses and other interested people in the municipality on an opt-out basis to get better rates, cleaner electricity and ultimately to build out better power infrastructure.

Ms. White told the committee that the CCA wants study what and where the best opportunities exist in Ulster County and how to design cost effective programs that will work for and appeal to the public. Assemblyman Kevin Cahill put in a State budget request to help fund this resource study. She asked the committee to support this effort.

Legislator Heppner said this is a project that the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee has been following. He reported that in areas where this has been done they have seen significant improvements in infrastructure along with savings in costs for the consumer. Due to the timing of the State budget process he took the liberty of writing a letter of support and distributed it to the committee.

Chairman R. Parete said this seems like a huge undertaking and asked Ms. White to explain what the CLP does.

Ms. White explained that CLP is a research and education organization and described some of the work and projects they are involved in and organizations they partner with. The committee had a brief discussion about CLP efforts in Ulster County.

Legislator Bartels asked Ms. White to keep the committee updated on their progress.

<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Legislators R. Parete, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro (7:02)
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	5
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	Approved

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**Motion No. 5: To adopt Resolution No. 80** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2017 Appropriation - Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District for 2017 funding of \$68,625.

**Motion for Discussion By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Lapp

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators R. Parete, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro (7:02)

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 6: To discuss Resolution No. 82** - Reappointing Member to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would confirm the appointment of Frederick VanNostrand to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board

**Motion to Discuss By:** Legislator Lapp

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels is a Legislative representative on Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. She told the members that Mr. VanNostrand has been an active, trusted and valuable member of the Board but at the last meeting he said he was ready to step down.

The committee had a brief discussion and decided that because even when a term expires members of this Board serve until they are replaced, they would wait until they had a replacement for him.

**Disposition:** No Action Taken

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**Motion No.7: To discuss Resolution No. 83** - Reappointing Members To The Soil And Water Conservation District Board

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would confirm the appointment of Legislators Tracey Bartels and James Delaune to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board

**Motion to Discuss By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Lapp

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels explained that it is her understanding that Legislator Delaune would like to be replaced. He said the board meets in the morning for half the year and in the afternoon for half the year and Legislator Delaune has a conflict with morning meetings.

**Disposition:** No Action Taken

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### **Resolution No. 85 and Resolution No. 86**

#### **Resolution No. 85 - Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would confirm the appointment of an individual to be determined to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

#### **Resolution No. 86 - Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would confirm the appointment of an individual to be determined to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

**Discussion:** The committee noted that these resolutions did not have individuals names associated with them. The committee had a discussion about how to proceed with these appointments.

Legislator Bartels explained that although they were technically appointments by the Chairman of the Legislature, the Legislative Rules required one of them to be someone recommend by the Minority Caucus. She briefly discussed the history of RRA appointments. She told the committee that the Minority Leader Rodriguez had scheduled interviews for their March 7<sup>th</sup> Caucus. She mentioned that three people were being considered.

Legislator R. Parete said he spoke with Legislative Chairman Ronk and he seemed ready to reappoint both of the incumbent board member. He noted that Chairman Ronk felt the current board worked well together. Legislator R. Parete said the two incumbents are volunteers who have dedicated a great deal of time and energy to this board and felt it would be unusual not to reappoint them.

Legislator Bartels reminded the board that this committee interviewed candidates last year and discussed doing it again this time. She felt the only time the committee really has an opportunity to influence candidates is when they are interviewed prior to being appointed.

Legislator R. Parete noted that the last time there were no incumbents. The interviews were for open seats.

**Disposition:** No Action Taken

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**New Business:** Legislator Greene distributed materials from a meeting she attended entitled “Elected Officials to protect New York State’s Environment”. The program calls on the NYS Comptroller to divest NY from Fossil Fuel.

## Old Business:

- **Proposed Plastic Bag Legislation** – Legislator Bartels told the committee that NY Governor Cuomo had vetoed NY City’s Plastic Bag Legislation. She noted that NYC proposed legislation was different than that being discussed for Ulster County. NY City did not outlaw plastic bags, but instead mandated a fee be charged for them. She said that Governor Cuomo favored some kind of statewide legislation regarding plastic bags and she would do more research to see what he was proposing.

The committee had a discussion on how to move forward.

- **Climate Smart Committee** – Legislator Greene recommended a book called “*The Grid*” by Gretchen Bakke that describes the history of the development of our national power grid--how it developed, its current flaws, and how it must be completely reimagined for our fast-approaching energy future as more and more renewable sources are developed.

The committee is continuing to discuss nuclear subsidies and their impacts.

Issues were raised regarding the New York City Department of Environmental Protection’s (NYCDEP) use of the Shandaken Tunnel to move water between reservoirs and the turbidity this causes downstream. She felt that those concerns would be better addressed in the Energy & Environment Committee.

Legislator Heppner felt that there is a need for more dialogue between Ulster County, NYCDEP and NYSDEC.

Legislator Bartels recalled hearing from a few years ago and agreed that the Energy & Environment Committee should discuss it.

Legislator Greene suggested that perhaps they could invite representatives of Trout Unlimited to come to a future meeting.

- **Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission** – Legislator Bartels hope to have the report in a final draft form next month.

Deputy Chairman Bartels asked if there was any other business, hearing none

## Adjournment

<b>Motion Made By:</b>	Legislator Lapp
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Wawro
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	4
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0

<b>Time:</b>	8:05 pm
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<b>Respectfully submitted:</b>	Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
<b>Minutes Approved:</b>	April 10, 2017