

# Rebecca Martin Consulting Report

April, 2024

The Hudson River Source Water Protection Coordinator (as consultant) will carry out the goals of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7).

## Goals and Results

- **Organizational**
  - Scheduled weekly one-on-one meetings with Mayor Gary Bassett, Chair of the Hudson 7;
  - Organized and prepared all materials for monthly Hudson 7 meetings;
- **Goal 1: Create a 501c3**
  - Coordinated communications with Hudson 7 lawyer re: its organizational structure;
  - Coordinated organizational structure committee meetings;
  - Continued to research potential organizational models for the committee's ongoing 501c3 for discussion;
  - Continued to update the worksheet for the Hudson 7 organizational structure committee to compare the five options committee members have identified that include: Continue as a Joint Municipal Board pursuant to the intermunicipal agreement; Establish a separate Not-for-Profit Corporation and seek to establish 501(c)(3) tax exempt status; Establish a separate 501(c)(3) and maintain the existing; Work with a Fiscal Sponsor, or; work within the Joint Water Board (JWB) structure.
- **Goal 2: Establish Policies & Procedures with the Hudson 7 Executive team**
  - Ongoing organization of the Hudson 7 files and mapping document;
  - [Ongoing updates of the Hudson 7 motions document that tracks motions and approval from 2018 - 2024;](#)
  - Developed a draft Social Media Policy for the Hudson 7
  - Follow-up with Bruce Cadman of Ecode to provide information on a repository system for the council's documentation. He has recommended the following for future discussion:
    - [Laserfiche | ICC CDS \(icc-cds.com\)](#) / <https://youtu.be/GM8j1DjiN9U>
    - White Paper Laserfiche Digital Transformation Mode / [Laserfiche | Enterprise Content Management, Process Automation](#)
- **Goal 3: Develop a strategy for maintaining sustainable funding streams for operation and development expenses**
  - Ongoing work to create a Hudson 7 "book" that outlines the council's efforts on numerous issues, to be used for outreach, future monetary support and grantmaking. A draft will be presented to the council by the end of 2024.
- **Goal 4: Become an important resource for Hudson 7 drinking water operators**
  - Organized and facilitated Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Committee meeting on April 16 at the Poughkeepsies' Water Treatment Facility (PWTF) in the City of Poughkeepsie;
  - Maintained the Hudson 7's shared services files that includes a sample shared services agreement and an Available Equipment and Resources living document for all Hudson 7 municipalities;

- **Goal 5: Education**
  - Created a blog post on Hudson 7 Highlights: "[PCBs and Drinking Water: A presentation by Riverkeeper's Science Director Shannon Roback to the Hudson 7](#)";
  - Developed a draft Social Media Policy in order to open a Facebook account that can promote the Hudson 7's ongoing work.
- **Goal 6: Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)**
  - No activity in April.
- **Goal 7: Salt Front Study**
  - No activity in April.
- **Goal 8: Maintain watchdog role on key issues threatening water quality**
  - [Coordinated an update from Riverkeeper Science Director and Hudson 7 technical advisor Shannon Roback](#) on Hudson River PCBs and impacts to drinking water, ahead of the upcoming PCB Five-Year-Review public comment period and during the full council meeting in April.
- **Goal 8a: CHPE Committee**
  - EM&CP/19B
    - [Coordinated an update from Drew Gamils, Staff Attorney of Riverkeeper](#) on the CHPE EM&CP/19B process during April's Hudson 7 council meeting;
    - Following the release of the EM&CP/19B, built files with all related EM&CP/19B documents to allow easy access for Hudson 7 municipalities;
    - [Worked with Hudson 7 technical advisors](#) to submit a letter from the Hudson 7 to Public Service Commission requesting a 90-day public comment period extension;
    - Worked with technical advisors to develop a public comment letter on the CHPE project addressing Hudson 7's concerns (forthcoming);
    - Worked with technical advisors to update the Hudson 7 Suggestions to WTP operators and the Hudson River Public Water Supply Protection and Contingency Plan document.
- **Goal 8b: Lower Esopus Creek Committee**
  - Coordinated with Hudson 7 Technical Advisor (Engineering) to develop concerns regarding flooding and water quality impacts on behalf of the Hudson 7.
  - Provided support for technical advisor Paul Malmrose to provide an [update](#) to the full council in April on the [Effects of Floods on the Environment and People](#) and the Ashokan Reservoir's releases to the Lower Esopus Creek and impacts to Hudson River drinking water supplies.
- **Goal 8c: Anchorages Committee**
  - [Hosted Riverkeeper's Staff Attorney Drew Gamils](#) during April's full council meeting for an update on the Hudson River Protection Act (currently H.R.7659 - Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024) and impacts to the Hudson 7 Regulated Navigation Areas (RNA) efforts. There are no new threats to drinking water as it stands. Drew provided a [timeline of critical events](#) for the council's review.

### **Notable Next Steps**

1. CHPE EM&CP/19B
  - a. Follow-up with the PSC re: the Hudson 7's 90-day public comment extension letter;
  - b. Try to collect unredacted appendices for Hudson 7 municipalities to review for their public comments;

- c. Submit Hudson 7's public comment letter re: CHPE EM&CP/Segment 19B that currently ends on May 13;
2. Keep an eye on the upcoming Hudson River PCB draft third FYR public comment process;
3. Continue to coordinate and/or provide support for all Hudson 7 committee meetings;;
4. Ongoing work on Hudson 7 "book";
5. Assist technical advisors in their project work and advocacy;
6. First annual Water Operator Appreciation week
  - a. Send out press release
  - b. Interview water plant operators for blog posts
  - c. Outreach to local schools and colleges to attract youth to attend a tour of the PWTF on May 31
7. Review Ecode materials for a future repository system for the council's documentation;
8. Create a Hudson 7 Facebook account.