

Meeting	Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council
Date	Thursday, November 21, 2019 Quorum: 5:35pm Adjourn: 6:35pm
Location	Poughkeepsies' Water Treatment Facility
Chairperson	Mayor Gary Bassett, Village of Rhinebeck
Vice Chair	Supervisor Jay Baisley, Town of Poughkeepsie
In Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mayor Gary Bassett, VoR ● Mayor Rob Rolison, CoP ● Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia, ToR ● Supervisor Shannon Harris, ToE ● Town Board Neil Krupnick, ToHP ● Town Board Bill Carlos, ToP ● Randy Alstadt, CoP ● Emily Svenson, ToHP ● Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper ● From the public: Doreen Tignanelli (ToP resident), City of Poughkeepsie Administrator Marc Nelson

Regular Business

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call & Quorum Determination. Bassett, Spinzia, Krupnick, Carlos, Alstadt. **Five voting members present (quorum)**
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes and Past Adjournment
 - a. 9/19/19 minutes **Gary/Elizabeth. Motion carried.**
 - b. 9/19/19 adjourn Emily/Gary. Motion carried.
 - c. 10/17/19 minutes **Gary/Elizabeth. Motion carried.**
Emily/Elizabeth abstain.

4. Communications and Announcements

- a. Gary Bassett thanked the CoP for their third film installment that included the Hudson 7.
- b. Dan Shapley (Riverkeeper) asked the council to consider supporting the coalition of nonprofits advocating to increase money from the state for water infrastructure (Clean Water Infrastructure Act). The coalition is asking for a billion dollar investment for water infrastructure (up from \$500 million last year). The increase is largely for treating drinking water supplies, more chemicals, and additional processing. Please consider sending a letter to the governor now. Mayor Rolison said that the Conference of Mayor's (NYCOM) and NYSAC would send out letters, too.
 - i. The Hudson 7 authorizes a letter to be sent out to the governor and to local NYS legislators. **Bill/Emily. Motion carried.**
- c. Stonybrook University (Cornell Institute) is collaborating with Riverkeeper and Patrol Boat and seeking a grant to do a water quality study on PFAS/PFOA in the Mid-Hudson River near the drinking water intakes. The goal is to gather baseline information to understand the conditions. It would be the first testing of this kind done in the area. Emily Svenson asked if Dan Shapley was aware of other funding sources that would be available for this project? Dan said that he did not, however - they did speak to the EPA. Shannon Harris was supportive in principle but wanted to see an outline of the letter.
 - i. The Hudson 7 authorizes a letter of support be delegated to Gary to view and distribute to the council for sign-off.
Emily/Elizabeth. Motion carried.
- d. Hudson River Watershed Alliance letter of support. Elizabeth asked that the letter be proof read before being sent out. **Elizabeth/Bill. Motion carried.**

5. Public Comment

- a. Doreen Tignanelli: The Hudson 7 is focused on things such as spills and other issues that need to be addressed. But there is a need to advocate for stream and wetland protection in the watershed. Kudos

to the Village of Rhinebeck for tree planting in November. Town of Poughkeepsie is cutting more trees down. With wetland and stream protection laws in place, the town's planning board agenda is to eliminate ½ acre of project site that is a tree site. This will impact water quality. The town needs broader protection as land use effects our assets. We must do a better job protecting them. She was glad to go over the scorecard results as it focuses on these very issues: land use, wetlands and streams.

Reports and Actions on Old Business

1. Hudson River Source Water Protection initiatives
 - a. Coast Guard invitation: Spill Drill in Mid-Hudson region. Coming to Statensburg in December.
2. Water Infrastructure
 - a. Mayor Rolison and City Administrator Marc Nelson to discuss CoP infrastructure and Veolia. They explained that they wanted to streamline city government around public works. Their first approach was to tackle the inefficiencies with the transit system, but they were careful not to lose any jobs. The city has been struggling with repairs and maintenance of water and sewer infrastructure. They are now down to six employees and the lack of capacity is making it challenging to get all the work done. Viola has been in Poughkeepsie since the 70's as operations of the water pollution control plant. They had approached the city offering to expand their services to do water and sewer repair. City administrator Marc Nelson discussed the possibilities with DPW and CSEA. When the decision was made to work with Veolia in this capacity, there was an increase in productivity in repairs. Shannon Harris asked how this was sustainable? Marc Nelson said that they expanded the scope of their contract. There was a 300% increase in work order completion. The union and collective bargaining was challenging. Today, they are saving \$300k - \$400k per year. Emily Svenson asked for a clarification. That Veolia was only contracted for infrastructure and

not water to the customer. Nelson said that they are already operating the sewage plant. The PWTF is still overseen by a board. Mayor Rolison said that they have never been in a position to hire enough employees to do the job the way it needs to be done. Now, he is able to beef up other departments. Marc said that they now have a weekend DPW Crew that are working 7 days a week. They are CoP “guys”. There is an uptick of 30% in their parks. Sewer line repair cost \$100k or more. The city used CDBG money to pay for it and that’s not how the municipality wanted to use that money. They have 30-40 breaks in pipes per year, 90% of them are emergency situations. When that occurs, the costs are tripled having to hire outside contractors. The water main break in February led to their not being able to turn off the water as the valves snapped, though water service was not interrupted mainly. The line stop crew had to use special equipment from New Jersey. Today, the maintenance and proactive nature of Veolia has decreased their costs by 40% due to the lack of emergency expenses. The Veolia contract is a 10 year deal. They have 6 ½ years left. Effective July 1, not done on a fiscal basis. The CoP can get out at any time. It’s a pay as you go from their sewer funding budget to help with bonding. Marc said that Veolia has equipment that they didn’t have and were able to take all of their sewer maps and turn them into GIS. Shannon asked if they use their own vac truck? Marc said that they do an inventory and use what the city has and include whatever they don’t. Mayor Rolison said that they have done more catch basin repair work since they began. As of July 1, they have filled 283 work orders. Veolia also offered their workers jobs for more money. None of the six DPW workers took their retirement. They chose to stay with the city. Elizabeth Spinzia asked if all city parcels were on sewer. Rob Rolison said yes, and that Veolia lowered sewer rates by \$0.50 or so. Veolia is based in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. They meet the city quarterly with their Senior Project Manager. Concerns about Veolia and Flint were raised. Rob Rolison said that the charges were dismissed in Flint.

3. PRESENTATION: Hudson 7 Scorecard results and recommendations refresher. The presentation was divided into four steps: Build capacity, Focus on high priority water quality concerns, Begin watershed-based data gathering and education. Shannon asked about Ulster and Dutchess sharing equipment - dual county shared services concept and stakeholders group. MS4 is a good shared service between counties. The group decided to focus on actions at the next meeting. Shannon suggested a call to flesh out in between.

Adjourn: 6:35pm **Elizabeth/Gary. Motion carried.**