

Meeting	Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council
Date	Thursday, February 21, 2019 Quorum: 5:41pm Adjourn: Around 6:26pm
Location	Poughkeepsies' Water Treatment Facility, Marist College
Chairperson	Mayor Gary Bassett, Village of Rhinebeck
Secretary	Councilwoman Emily Svenson, Town of Hyde Park (w/ assistance by Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper)
In Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mayor Gary Bassett, VoR (Chair) ● Don Kiernan, ToE ● Bill Carlos ToP (ToP Alternate rep) ● Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper ● From the public: Doreen Tignanelli (ToP), Dan Shapley (Riverkeeper), Lindsey Drew (Bard Water Lab), Paul Malmrose (Tighe & Bond), Erin Moore (Tighe & Bond).

AGENDA: VIEW

Regular Business

1. Call To Order. 5:41pm

2. Roll Call & Quorum Determination.

a. Gary, Bill, Don. Without a quorum, the Hudson 7 meeting in February is a discussion meeting only with open forum. No decisions will be made.

i. ACTION: Send a reminder to all Hudson 7 Council members and clerks the evening before the meeting.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/17/19

a. Approval of minutes from 1/17/19 was tabled due to there not being a quorum.

4. Communications and Announcements

- a. Discussion regarding infrastructure projects. Pleasant Valley may be looking to purchase 200,000 GPD and would need a connection.
- b. The Town of Esopus secured funding for a new water storage tank.
- c. The Village of Rhinebeck, approved bonds for \$3.4 m. They received \$2.4 m for infrastructure projects. BIDS go out in April/ May. It will take approximately twenty-two weeks through November to improve 50% of the water supply issues. The village submitted grant previous year, but didn't score high enough for "health issues".

5. Public Comment (5 min)

- a. Doreen Tignanelli: Why is there a separate section in the Bylaws for volunteers? Could they be included in the non-voting section? Volunteers 'maybe; appointed as non-voting members'. Please make it clear that it should be approved by the council if that's to happen. Also, future presentations could include education on wetlands, stream protection. If we do have those laws, inherent to them. In ToP have laws, people getting permits for building in wetlands, floodplains, drainage issues. Concern on dredging. Dan Shapley seconds that. Esopus is going through its master plan re-writing, Dan gave Shannon Harris (the ToE Supervisor) and authors of the document currently being created plan recommendations on natural buffers along streams.
- b. Erin Moore: Asset management in Esopus. Drainage goes both ways to the Rondout and Hudson River. [Hudson River Estuary Program has had grant funding for inventory and culverts, stream road crossings](#). Not just for precipitation drainage. Dan asked if there has there been any vision for an HREP intermunicipal grant on this? Erin said that if you don't come with an intermunicipal project, you won't be considered.
 - i. Mayor Gary Bassett (VoR) said that there is a science class at Marist that studies the effects of runoff into the Landsman Kill and into Crystal Lake. Is the group interested in a report from students?

1. ACTION: Gary to propose the topic with the class and request that they present to Hudson 7.

Reports and Actions on Old Business

1. Hudson River Source Water Protection initiatives (15 min)

- a. Update by Erin Moore of Tighe & Bond: NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program application and 2/15 submission.
 - i. Erin shared hard copies of the Hudson 7's final submissions and had not yet received any additional communication from the state. The package was impressively complete. They will select 30 municipalities. The time frame for that is not yet clear. Dan said that the DEC has said that they want to move quickly, which is why the application period was short.

2. Follow-up: Disinfection byproduct precursors at Hudson River drinking water intake.

- a. Hyde Park and Lloyd are missing from the survey. If Tighe and Bond receive that information, they can make a presentation at the next meeting. They are Talking directly to water operators. There are no engineers involved.
 - i. An update from Randy regarding the survey being resent to water operators was tabled due to Randy being out.
- b. Dan Shapley, potential Syracuse University Project**
 - i. There is research funding to study precursors of the constituents in the water. It looks at the source side, using techniques to see 100 different things in a water sample, and identifying which is a precursor of the byproducts that you want to avoid. An application will be sent in next week as a 'pre-proposal'. If they are invited, then a full proposal would be submitted for funding to do the work. If that is the case, we will come around to get permissions from municipalities. There are no letters of support needed at this time - and, there would be no cost to the municipalities.

- ii. Dan shared this project with Randy a week ago to see if he thought it was of value, and he was enthusiastic.
- c. **Lindsey Drew, Thesis research for Bard's Center for Environmental Policy: Disinfection Byproducts (DPB)**
- i. Lindsey has not created her thesis question yet. She is currently just speaking with municipalities to gauge their concern on the issue and, to learn of any ways they may have found to solve it.
 - ii. In a follow-up, Dan suggested putting into writing how Lindsey might tackle a policy paper about DBPs and the Hudson 7. “Poughkeepsie invested \$18 million primarily to deal with DBP. Highland has defined a \$7.5 million project to deal with DBP (at least in part). Port Ewen had to notify customers of violations. These communities were each dealing with DBP issues in isolation, responding primarily to regulators and regulations, even though they share a drinking water source, and are nearby to one another. The Hudson 7 coming together has allowed for each to share technical information, and to begin to look to source water improvements as a solution, in addition to or instead of treatment plant upgrades. The process is only beginning, but previously, there wasn't a forum to share technical information among plants; Rhinebeck's operator advised Port Ewen's operator of a technique that he said had helped reduce Rhinebeck's DBPs, as one example. Randy Alstadt, the operator in Poughkeepsie with the most experience (and responsibility for the most complex plant) has offered technical assistance to all operators. The presence of Tighe and Bond engineers at the Hudson 7 meetings allowed them to (pro bono) offer to conduct the survey of the five plants, to assess why three of the five had had DBP issues, but the other two had not, and to see if there are recommendations that they can make to benefit all. The research proposal by Teng Zeng I outlined was rejected by funders two years ago, but I think it has a much higher likelihood of success now, given the collaboration

among municipalities, their interest in DBP as a water quality concern, their ability to offer letters of support as a collective, and finally from the collaboration Riverkeeper has with each, which will give us a much better chance of getting permission to access each plant for sampling than would have been the case prior to the Hudson 7 formation. So on the subject of local capacity to respond to DBP and explore cost-effective and health-protective strategies, the policy decision to organize as an intermunicipal group has provided many more options for municipalities to explore. Looking at the likelihood that in the future more DBPs will be identified as health concerns and/or regulated, the value of this collaboration will only grow over time. In that, DBPs are probably the best example to date, but other water quality concerns that have been raised by the group include risk of spill of crude oil or other hazardous material transported by barge/rail on/near their intakes; PFAS and other unregulated/newly regulated contaminants; and pharmaceuticals and other micropollutants. With each, they will be able to face the challenges presented by health concerns or regulations together, sharing resources for research, technical advice, and political power. Imagine Port Ewen, for instance, with 4,500 people drinking the water, going up against federal or state regulators, or the rail or oil industries, over better protections for crude oil shipments. Then imagine the collective of 7 with 100,000+ people, and their voice has more meaning, political weight, etc.”

3. Bylaws (*10 min*)

a. Approve final items

i. Tabled due to there not being a quorum.

b. Review meeting cancellation policy

i. Meeting cancelation text following CoP School District

1. Suggested draft language: The Hudson 7 Intermunicipal Council will follow the City of Poughkeepsie School

District school closing when canceling a meeting due to inclement weather. By no later than noontime on that day, the information will be posted on our website:

www.hudson7.org.

4. Designation of Alternates (5 min)

- a. Town of Esopus
- b. Town of Lloyd
- c. Town of Hyde Park
 - i. **ACTION: Make request to all 7 municipalities to ask for primary and alternate.**

1. Doreen pointed out that the Town of Lloyd had two alternates. Councilman Guerrero had resigned from his position as alternate.

5. Potential Upcoming Presentation Ideas (3 min)

- a. Kingston/Esopus. Goals to highlight funding streams to pay for water infrastructure occurring on March 13. Suggest Gary bring up sea level rise to help connect the dots.

New Business

1. Hudson 7 Secretary
 - a. Tabled
2. May 31: Hudson 7 One Year Anniversary

Adjournment 6:26pm.

- **Table adjourn for lack of quorum.**