

Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council

Thursday, June 20, 2019

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Rhinebeck Water Treatment Facility

76 Slate Dock Road, Rhinebeck

Chairman: Mayor Gary Bassett (VoR)

Vice Chairman: Supervisor Jay Baisley. (ToP)

Acting Secretary: Emily Svenson (ToH)

Regular Business

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call & Quorum Determination.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (from 5/16/19)
4. Communications and Announcements
 - a. [Riverkeeper Hudson 7 one year anniversary and CoP CSO posts.](#)
 - b. Municipalities paying dues to a watershed group (see Simon Gruber update attached).
5. Public Comment (5 min)

Reports and Actions on Old Business

1. Hudson River Source Water Protection initiatives
 - a. Emily Vail, Hudson River Watershed Alliance (10 min)
 - i. Community resilience building workshops for municipalities
 - b. [Climate Smart Communities, Dutchess County](#)
 - i. Water does not appear to be on its radar, however, "Implement a source water protection program" is a 6-point action (probably among other relevant actions). Is there a desired role for the county with Hudson 7 as a helpful avenue to get that support moving?
 - c. HREP Grant Application due July 10
 - i. Application for a coordinator for the Hudson 7
 - ii. Village of Rhinebeck grant sponsor

- iii. Hudson 7 Communities items for application
 1. Support letter?
 2. In-kind?
 - d. Discuss/Set quarterly meeting for operators
 - i. July 19, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21.
 - e. Mapping of largest water users in each community.
 - f. Hudson 7 Water Quality Reports: Release
 - g. Hydrodynamic Dye Test Study updates
 - h. Wheelabrator Ash Issue in Catskill resolved
2. Bylaws
 - a. Vote to approve.
 3. Hudson 7 Secretary

New Business

Adjournment

Simon Gruber: *“At the recent MCWIC meeting I referenced below, we had a presentation from five high school students who did water quality testing in two reservoirs with a small grant we gave them, using some of the municipal dues we collected. This presentation was very inspiring - they found relatively good water quality (though the methods and results are not robust in some ways), and the students found it very interesting and exciting. In passing, their teacher mentioned that this is the only HS class they'd ever had that enabled them to do class work outdoors (a stunning statement but not shocking), and this is an AP class so they're the luckiest of the whole student body, and even they only did this in one class. Part of this experience included a tour of a water treatment plant at Walton Lake, a water supply for the Village of Chester, with the operator. The treatment plant operator came to our meeting and also spoke after hearing the students, and he said it was very inspiring to have them come. Responding to questions, students said this showed them career opportunities they didn't know about, one said he wants to work outdoors and this showed him one path to do so, and we discussed the fact that in the water and wastewater operations world, there's a big problem with aging workforce and lack of young people coming into a sector that pays pretty well. (NYC DEP is clearly sending this message based on a presentation I saw last year - they are pitching people to consider applying for their jobs.)*

There are several points here relevant for municipalities paying dues to a watershed group: 1) involving young people in doing something relevant and then helping them present information to elected officials can be a very effective way to reach officials - the reception can be very different vs. adult environmentalists asking for something; 2) the related jobs and career link can be very powerful with people who may be more interested in economic development and jobs vs. the environment; 3) for \$500, this teacher was able to get materials to do water testing in two academic years, and we'd had a similar presentation last year from the first group (there was no water plant tour or water operator involved then, so the career piece is newer). This is a low-cost way to give high school students a way to do something that can lead to some local outreach to elected officials to show the value of the dues they are paying. “