

Meeting	Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council
Date	Thursday, August 23rd, 2018 Quorum: 5:35pm Adjourn 7:17pm
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) ● Supervisor Jay Baisley, ToP (Vice Chair) ● Councilwoman Emily Svenson, ToH (Secretary) ● Supervisor Shannon Harris, ToE ● Melanie Marino, ToE Outreach Coordinator ● Elizabeth Spinzia, ToR ● Randy Alstadt, PWTF (sitting in for CoP) ● Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper ● From the public: Doreen Tignanelli (ToP), Peter Dutton (Rhinebeck), Bill Carlos (ToP), Dan Shapley (Riverkeeper), Lydia Biskup (Senator Serino's office), Jeff Christensen (Rhinebeck).

AGENDA: [VIEW](#)

Regular Business

1. Public Comment.

a. Doreen Tignanelli

- i. The Hudson 7 is subject to open meetings law and FOIL law.
- ii. How much sewage is discharged at a single discharge point?
- iii. Please explore a solution to the Rinaldi Blvd (CoP) combination of stormwater/sanitary discharge.
- iv. Doreen supports applying for grants as long as money is well utilized. There is plenty to do without grant money to make a

difference in water quality such as enforcing stormwater regulations, and adopting and enforcing wetland regulations.

2. *Adoption of Minutes from 7/19/18*

- a. Gary Bassett, motion.
- b. Elizabeth Spinzia, second.
- c. Passes 5/1. (Elizabeth abstains).

3. *Communications.*

- a. Emily Svenson as Secretary will also take on the role of FOIL Officer. Rebecca will support.
 - i. Elizabeth Spinzia, motion.
 - ii. Jay Baisley, Second.
 - iii. Passes unanimously.
 1. Discussion: All information will be uploaded to the website as we move forward, so there will be no reason for anyone to FOIL.

New Business

1. Create a website and/or Facebook page for Hudson 7.

- a. The group decided it would create a simple website to post minutes, agendas, contacts, etc. Elizabeth offered to create a facebook page. Gary wants to first create/adopt a policy before doing anything on social media. There were also concerns about having the capacity to manage social media debate. A fact finding, informational site is what the Hudson 7 should promote, not online debate. Emily agreed to work with Rebecca to create a website The group agreed upon the following names for its Website: “Hudson7.org” and social media, when applicable, “Hudson 7”.
 - i. Gary Bassett, motion.
 - ii. Elizabeth Spinzia, Second
 - iii. Passes unanimously.
- b. *A second motion was made for municipalities to cover the cost of the website page.*
 - i. Gary Bassett, motion.

- ii. Elizabeth Spinzia, Second
- iii. Passes unanimously.

**1. ACTION: Emily to set up domain name, website.
Hold on Facebook page. Discuss how any website fees
are to be paid.**

2. Upcoming Events.

a. Hudson 7 “Mappy Hour” (Public)

- i. The concept could be hosted by the Hudson 7 as an outreach opportunity at a local brewery. Riverkeeper could help to create a map of the watershed (From New Hamburg to Catskill). A launch in one municipality could be a model for all the others to host in others. Shannon Harris of the ToE suggested that municipalities who host/co-host could also speak about local efforts in protecting drinking water quality.

**1. ACTION: Riverkeeper to create map. Printing done
by one of the municipalities for a shared expense?**

b. September 25th on Riverkeeper’s Patrol Boat for Hudson 7.

- i. September 25th scheduled boat ride from Poughkeepsie to Kingston. Estimated departure at 8am. There is room for 7 - 8 people. Details will be worked out after we get a head count.

**1. ACTION: Rebecca to send a doodle poll to group for
head count.**

c. EFC Roundtable in October in Poughkeepsie with Scenic Hudson and its partners, the Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley, Inc. and Riverkeeper (Public)

- i. An hour and a half long meeting in Poughkeepsie is being scheduled to discuss ways the state and local government can work together to identify opportunities for infrastructure projects and more effectively mobilize funding. Date TBA.
- ii. A good opportunity for EFC Staff to get to know the group, their needs and to make the case in their investing in the Hudson 7 as an Intermunicipal Council working on the same drinking water supply (the Hudson River).

d. *“Rhinebeck Loves Riverkeeper” Fundraiser*

- i. “Rhinebeck Loves Riverkeeper” fundraiser hosted by Elizabeth Spinzia and Gary Bassett (TBA). The group discussed the event not being hosted by “Hudson 7” but by individuals. There was some concern raised that municipalities should not host a fundraiser for an organization. Elizabeth stated that her community is benefiting from the services Riverkeeper is providing for Hudson 7 and it’s important that they also support Riverkeeper. They would like to start raising awareness and fundraising for Riverkeeper upstate. Screening ‘Source to Sea’ and a party. Hudson River beer, wine.. Silent auction of art centered around river to thank Riverkeeper. Gary/Elizabeth would speak local initiatives. Others are invited to co-host. Shannon Harris thought it was a good model, and could be moved to other communities, for instance “Esopus loves Riverkeeper”, etc.

a. ACTION: New date set for event, December 7th. More details shortly.

3. CSO Discussion: Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper (10 min)

- a. A CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) system is designed to discharge sewage when it rains. Back during the time they were installed out and into the river, there was less public awareness. The public has more concerns today.
- b. Dan asked if the Hudson 7 was interested in writing a letter to the DEC to ask for a presentation on where Kingston, CoP, etc. is at on the timeline for upgrades to their wastewater systems (CSOs), and whether the investments can be sped along. The CoP, for example, has a 20 year program. Agreements were set to fit that time schedule during the time when few state grants existed, but more funding could enable an accelerated schedule. Impacts are relatively localized, for example, Poughkeepsie discharges are near the Poughkeepsie intake, while Kingston discharges are near the Esopus intake. The closer, the

more impact. What is the plan? What are the investments coming along?

- ii. Elisa Chae, DEC: Communities collectively with EFC (Environmental Facilities Corporation) projects might come together to create a long term control plan so to better understand what's happening riverwide. It's smart to go into the meeting with EFC knowing what they want.
- iii. Shannon Harris: Likes the idea of a discussion rather than a presentation. More of a dialogue with the goal to accelerate projects.
- iv. Emily Svenson and Elizabeth Spinzia were concerned with it sounding intrusive to CSO communities.
- v. Randy Alstadt wanted an overview of all locations, not only Poughkeepsie.

1. ACTION: Table conversation until CoP is present.

4. USACE Storm Surge Barrier Municipal Actions.

- a. The group requested to review Senator Serino's letter regarding the proposed storm surge project.
- b. Dan Shapley acknowledged that the Storm Surge proposal was a Hudson River issue, but was it a drinking water issue? Elizabeth Spinzia felt the group had a responsibility to help to advocate for the overall health of the river as well.
- c. Gary Bassett suggested the Hudson 7 write a letter.

1. ACTION: Resend information and letters from Serino. Elizabeth to write the Hudson 7 letter with Dan.

5. HABs (Cyanobacteria) Discovered along Beacon Hudson River waterfront. (5 min)

- a. Cyanobacteria was discovered in Beacon Harbor. Dan Shapley has reached out to the scientific community to learn more. It is unusual to have HAB's in the Hudson River, and it should be on our radar.
- b. The group wanted to understand what water treatment plants should be looking for.

- vi. Elisa Chae: At HAB Summit in New Paltz, USGS out of Kansas office has two staff that relocated to Troy. They would be good to talk to, as they have done monitoring that has helped water operators there. This issue could also be brought up at the winter meeting on source water that will occur in New Paltz.
- vii. Emily Svenson asked if there is evidence of changes that could cause HABs in the Hudson, such as nutrient increases. That information could be used to justify infrastructure upgrade funding. HAB's are more preventable than treatable.
- viii. The Cary Institute has a student looking at HAB's (in the Hudson?). Could the Hudson 7 tie in with their studies?
 - a. **ACTION: Look into training programs available for water operators. Create an alert that each municipality can send to their treatment facility. Randy will help.**

6. Special Guest: Elisa Chae, Source Water Specialist of the Hudson River Estuary Program (NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell University, NYS DEC) (20 min)

- a. *DEC Hudson River Estuary Program's Source Water Evaluation*
 - i. Elisa recommended the group be in touch with Sarah Ferguson of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve at Norrie Point. Sarah is the research coordinator and could help the group to find models on the flow of materials (oil, etc) on the Hudson River.
 - ii. NYHOPS (Stevens Institute of Technology) might have more monitoring information (although their data may not be useful in learning how materials move).
 - 1. **ACTION: Elisa to introduce Randy to Sarah at Norrie Point.**
- b. *Hudson 7 Source Water Assessment Letter (any updates from DOH/DEC?)*
 - i. Gary Bassett has not heard anything back from the DOH (Department of Health) or DEC.

- ii. Elisa said she would see what she could do to move things along. In order to do evaluations, we will need the DOH to get GIS of drainage areas. Without that, we are at a standstill as to know these areas can help us to identify management needs. Know the areas, to know management. Once we get that information, we can run a GIS analysis for land cover types, existing inputs (toxic release inventory, gas stations, airports, dry cleaners, etc) MS4 areas, existing protective areas (green, conservation easements). At which point, we can analyze this information to gain a rough idea of what we are looking at. “Here are the areas that drain into the river, and where land management discussions should revolve around.” It provides starting point data. A rough cut, not field checked, but a starting point to have maps.
- iii. Emily Svenson asked about the DOH data layer. Elisa explained that the DOH role was to provide general boundaries statewide during the SWAP program in the 2000’s. Today, the information is outdated and doesn’t provide information on land cover analysis, protected lands analysis or a broader watershed scale.
- iv. It was unclear if by asking for a revised SWAP from the DOH whether or not we’d receive one. DOH has not committed to do them at this time.
- v. Dan Shapley asked if the older SWAPs that define the watershed boundaries as they were at that time would be enough for Elisa to work with.
- vi. Elisa Chae explained that the SWAP’s from the early 2000’s was funded by money from the EPA to map source/ground boundaries for the entire state. Because of the enormity of the task, there were great margins of error. Newburgh, for example, was off by a third. She would prefer that they were improved before starting the project. She would not be comfortable to improve the current SWAPs on our own, as the

original SWAPs had their own methodology. It would be more defensible to start with the state's work.

1. **ACTION: Elisa to reach out internally to DEC to learn the status. Connect Gary with Elisa for updates.**

7. Hudson 7 Agenda Items.

- a. All final agenda items are due one week prior to the meeting. Anything that comes in after that, must be moved to the following month.
 - i. Gary Bassett, moved.
 - ii. Shannon Harris, second.
 - iii. Passes unanimously.

1. **ACTION: DETERMINE EMERGENCY ITEMS THAT MIGHT COME UP AFTER DEADLINE?**

Old Business

1. Hudson 7 Infrastructure Report Review. (5 min)

1. **ACTION: MUNICIPAL LEADERS TO UPDATE FOR NEXT MONTH.**

2. September 7th Deadline for \$245k and Water Infrastructure Grants (5 min)

- a. Paul Gallay and Dan Shapley of Riverkeeper traveled to Albany to meet with the EFC. One of the main topics was the Hudson 7. It was a little discouraging, as there is not a category designed for multiple projects benefiting a single drinking water supply. They do fund single infrastructure projects that benefit many municipalities. It didn't seem like a hard and fixed position, and that we could change it over time. Dan would like to have them meet the group.
- b. Hudson 7 could consider writing letters of support to individual municipalities participating in their own grant applications. Gary Bassett was concerned that it could become competitive which is not the spirit of the council work.
- c. Individual letters of the support, however, would be helping us and not others throughout the state, be competitive in the grant cycle.

- i. Emily Svenson, Motion authorizing Gary to sign letters for support for municipalities applying for Water Infrastructure Grants.
- ii. Jay Baisley, Second
- iii. Passes unanimously.

**1. ACTION: HUDSON 7 LETTERS OF SUPPORT
CAN BE WRITTEN FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS.
AT TIME OF MEETING, THE ToE and ToP HAD
NOT SUBMITTED THEIR APPLICATIONS YET.**

3. Bylaws (5 min)

- a. The group will work on one section of their Bylaws each month.
 - i. Non-voting members.
 1. Update on Emily's outreach to Bridget at DCWWA.
 2. Inclusion of potential staff and/or volunteer support?
 - ii. Spokesperson or point of contact.
 1. Chair was decided upon as point of contact.
 - iii. Open Meetings Law
 1. Include in Bylaws from MOA.
 - iv. Consensus of a Quorum:
 1. Majority of the voting members?
 - v. Technical support staff
 1. Need for technical support staff, reporting to chairman.
Council will appoint.
 2. Include water plant administrators (Randy)
 - ix. Secretary to act as FOIL officer.
 1. Gary Bassett, Motion.
 2. Emily Svenson, Second.
 3. Passes unanimously.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

- b. Gary Bassett, motion.
- c. Randy Alstadt, Second.
- d. **Meeting adjourned: 7:17pm.**

