

Meeting	Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council
Date	Thursday, February 18, 2021 Quorum: 5:30pm Adjourn: 6:35pm
Location	Remote
Chairperson	Mayor Gary Bassett, Village of Rhinebeck
Vice Chair	Supervisor Jay Baisley, Town of Poughkeepsie
Secretary	Deputy Supervisor Neil Krupnick, Town of Hyde Park
In Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mayor Gary Bassett (VoR) ● Deputy Supervisor Neil Krupnick (ToHP) ● Board member Bill Carlos (ToL) ● Supervisor Shannon Harris (ToE) ● Randy Alstadt, WWTP Operator (CoP) ● Paul Malmrose (Technical Advisor, Engineering) ● Emily Svenson (Technical Advisor, Land Use) ● Brad Barclay, Dutchess County Representative ● Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper (coordinator) ● Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper ● GUESTS: John Lipscomb (Riverkeeper), Rich Slingerland (Historic Hudson River Towns)

Regular Business

1. Call To Order 5:30pm
2. Roll Call & Quorum Determination.
 - a. Voting members: Gary Bassett (VoR), Neil Krupnick (ToHP) Shannon Harris (ToE), Bill Carlos (ToP), Randy Alstadt (CoP).
Seven voting members (quorum)
3. Approval of 1/21/21 minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: **Bassett/Carlos. Motion carried.**
 - b. Paul Malmrose asked if the slides from the CHPE presentation were included in the minutes? Rebecca Martin said that a hyperlink to the deck is available in the minutes and also on the Hudson 7's website under 'meetings'.

4. Communications

a. Town of Esopus: tug Gracie M. Reinauer (J. Lipscomb)

- i. John Lipscomb asked if the Hudson 7 heard back from Ryan Clark (USCG) from the meeting we had two years ago. One of the questions asked was to identify the products that are being transported on the Hudson so that communities can be prepared for what might be spilled. Clark said he would investigate that and get back to the group. Did the Hudson 7 receive that information, what is being transported in tanker type vessels on the Hudson? GB: A follow-up email did come through, but he needs to go back and look. We asked for more detailed info, not only what but where and how much. JL: Happy to help with that, but needs to see what his response was.
- ii. Supervisor Shannon Harris of the Town of Esopus provided an overview of the tugboat discovered parked on the banks in/near the Town of Esopus within 1000 feet of the ToE intake valve. When something is too close for comfort, who do we call? Board approval to put two outward facing video cams at our water drinking plant, and crafted a policy to outline things such as get video, get numbers and apps and report it. We need a contact who will respond immediately. Would like help with a one-page policy. The channel is a hidden location, and easy to do so without anyone seeing. It's loud while they wait for a carrier (and is unauthorized) heading up to Albany for commercial purposes. JL: Will help to keep it simple and standard. Commander Singletary is chief of barge traffic for NY and who we should go to for a quick answer. [If you're going to mess around in the Hudson 7 it has to be legit and not in this zone of the river because we're watching.](#)
- iii. JL: Spoke about the progress that's been made since Hudson 7 has engaged with the Coast Guard. PAWSA just elected Randy as the community rep to the steering committee and Riverkeeper has recently been in touch with Rep. Maloney's office who chairs the committee of the coast guard's budget. The group got an answer from Shannon and John's letter so fast it made heads spin. The Coast Guard said 1) We will resend the

2015 advisory to all commercial traffic anchoring outside of the designated anchorages is not permitted; 2) We're going to reach out to the vessel and find out what happened. That will get through the industry like wildfire; 3) Letter from the commander in charge of vessel traffic is "please send my regards to Shannon." It sets us up in light of new legislation to have a new thing. There was no Hudson 7 the first time on anchorages.

1. ACTION: John and Shannon to work on a one-page policy that is simple and standard on barge traffic in the estuary.

- b. Historic Hudson River Towns (HHRT), Richard Singlerland
 - i. We run from CoYonkers to CoPeekskill, roughly 13 communities in Westchester. IT would be a value to our groups if we could collaborate and work together re: the anchorages and other items. 35 years of experience in local government (county, town and village). Rich is happy to come to future meetings, but if there are any issues to discuss intimately, happy to facilitate that.

1. ACTION: Rebecca to connect Rich and Gary

5. No public comment

Reports and Actions on Old Business

1. Hudson River Source Water Protection initiatives

a. Update on NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program

i. Dutchess and Ulster County updates

1. BB: Working on mapping documents.

a. DS: are still waiting on the state. Same story for months as we wait for them to roll out the program for months. They have been floating frameworks, and recently shared an email about the mapping that he shared with Ulster/Dutchess county.

2. EM: The Ashokan Reservoir releases and the Lower Esopus/DEIS public hearing comments were the primary agenda items discussed.

b. Champlain Hudson Power Express

- i. GB: The Hudson 7 will host a workshop with CHPE on 2/25. We submitted a list of questions and concerns for their powerpoint to be created around. The public will be invited.
 - ii. SH: Can we invite an attorney to the workshop? She spoke to someone in the legal field who is knowledgeable about the situation and recommended that they have a legal advocate on the Hudson 7's side to steer the initial discussions. Wants to avoid being off putting, but feels the group needs that support to help to re-route the powerline and tactics to take. Concerns about turbidity and PCB's and toxins that the CHPE construction will stir/dredge up running right by the ToE intake. Wants the route to be terrestrial and not to go through the estuary where drinking water comes from.
 - iii. PM suggested that the group review [Dr. Chant's letter](#), as he mentions due to the river being tidal, the turbidity/toxics may be moving around for two weeks. It's not hours, it's weeks.
- c. Esopus Creek/DEIS
- i. Paul Malmrose provided the group with a presentation and provided the group with the [Catalum DEIS Executive Summary](#). They are discharging 600 million gallons a day. That's 30x the capacity of the PWTF plant. Discharges are on a schedule where they pause for a couple days at a time, and then they release muddy water. There is no discussion in the DEIS of what happens when it enters the Hudson River where it impacts Hudson 7 drinking water intakes.
 - ii. Randy's turbidity slide shows raw water turbidity from 2016-2021. You can see that a lot of times, it gets high in the spring. There are indications of high turbidity in January since they've been discharging in the Esopus Creek. All the residuals in January in all of these years, they never experienced turbidites at their plant.
 - iii. Randy's solid slide shows what's happened in January for the last couple of years. In 2021, the increase was tremendous costing the City and Town of Poughkeepsie thousands of dollars to remove sludge. NYC should pay to dewater the system.

- iv. DS: Prepare testimony that is written and someone to provide it on March 3. Then, the Hudson 7 can create more detailed comments to submit before the end of the public comment period. Document impacts and call the DEP out for not looking hard at the alternatives. They need to look at a range of alternatives especially in the midst of climate change.
- v. SH: NYC is getting the purest water and we are dealing with all of the impacts.
- vi. PM: Raw water turbidity data to be sent to Randy and Paul so that they can look at it. Ask water operators if they are seeing more residuals throughout the turbid releases? They are increasing your operating costs at treatment plants.
- vii. SH: FOIL request for all of the turbid releases from the DEP stemming from that point. Randy would be best for all of htis data.
- viii. PM: NYC is navigating turbidity and solids numbers. We should get those numbers
- ix. RA: Definitely need to get something in by March 3. There is a lot of information that he has that shows the impacts in poughkeepsie. Major changes in operation procedures, and 1000's of dollars of extra money for removing sludge. We were never told about this action in the Esopus. Even just knowing would help us. GB: asked for the actual costs?

1. ACTION: Public hearing March 3. Public comment period ends on June 16. The Hudson 7 will submit testimony.

2. ACTION: Gary and Shannon to reach out to Kelly Turturro.

3. ACTION: Get the NYC DEP's turbidity and solid numbers via FOIL

4. ACTION: Hudson 7 members to reach out to both Dutchess and Ulster County Executive's. Gary will reach out to Dutchess. Shannon to reach out to County Executive Pat Ryan and will copy Europa.

New Business

1. Legal Representation: The Hudson 7 also discussed that at the February meeting, the Hudson 7 may want to discuss its potential need for legal representation and how this need can be met, e.g. through one of the municipalities' attorneys or otherwise.
 - a. ES: We don't know what box we are in legally or how far we will get. Let's go into the meeting to discuss this but that we are not agreeing to any solutions.
 - b. RA: Dr. Chant's letter helps us. We don't know what's on the bottom of the river, what is CHPE going to do about it?
 - i. **ACTION: Gary to set up a separate meeting to discuss**

Adjournment: 6:35pm

Bassett/Harris Motion carried.