

Meeting	Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council
Date	Thursday, November 17, 2022 Quorum: 5:30 pm Adjourn: 6:28 pm
Location	Hybrid
Chairperson	Mayor Gary Bassett, Village of Rhinebeck
Vice Chair	Supervisor Jay Baisley, Town of Poughkeepsie
Secretary	Shannon Harris, Town of Esopus
In Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gary Bassett, Mayor (VoR) ● Randy Alstadt (CoP) ● Bill Carlos (ToP) ● Elizabeth Spinzia (ToR) ● Lynn Ruggerio (ToHP) ● Nick Butler (ToE) ● Russell Gilmore (ToL) ● Shannon Harris (ToE) ● Paul Malmrose, Technical Advisor (Engineering) ● Emily Svenson, Technical Advisor (Land Use) ● Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper (Coordinator) ● Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Planning ● Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper ● Michael Forgang, Department of Health ● Grant Jiang, Department of Health

Regular Business

1. Call To Order: 5:33pm
2. Roll Call & Quorum Determination.
 - a. **Voting members: Randy Alstadt (CoP), Bill Carlos (ToP), Lynn Ruggerio (ToHP), Shannon Harris (ToE/arrived at 6:00pm)**
Quorum (4 in-person)
3. Approval of minutes and adjournment
 - a. **Motion to approve 10/20/22 minutes. Alstadt/Bassett (Carlos abstained). Motion carried.**
4. Communications listed in the agenda
 - a. (Recap) Diane Dintruff: 1) Will Ulster and Dutchess Counties begin receiving lower cost energy from CHPE between 2026 and 2030

along with NYC, or will outer regions of the greater NY metro system be phased in at a later time? 2) Does CHPE run both ways, i.e., from south to north as well as north to south? 3) What is the political decision making process that concludes: running a power line over 300 miles, using a power source from another country that may not be sustainable under severe climate conditions in future years...is better than using wind and other marine power and storage approaches that are right outside NYC and other coastal cities?

- b. [Clean Water Infrastructure Project Announced](#): City and Town of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County - A funding package for a joint project to improve operation of a shared water treatment facility, including upgrades to the existing ultraviolet disinfection system, replacement of the uninterruptible power supply system and improvements to the HVAC system in the pipe gallery.
5. County representative update
- a. Dutchess
 - i. **DR:** Working to figure out a path forward for the MOA. As soon as we hear from the council that they are in agreement with the proposed Ulster County terms, Linda Fakhoury can work out the MOA. Flexibility that if the project coordinator doesn't get hired before mid-2023, that the salary is prorated.
 - b. Ulster
 - i. Not present, but submitted a comment letter for during the Hudson 7 coordinator position discussion.

6. Public Comment.

- a. Diane Dintriff was present, but not able to be heard. Diane typed a question for a response. **DD:** What are the benefits to Hudson 7 residents by the CHPE project? **PM:** There is none except maybe they will hire a few people, though I doubt it. **GB:** Will follow-up with an email.

Reports and Actions on Old Business

- 1. Hudson 7 Priorities
 - a. Hudson 7 coordinator position
 - i. Update on MOA
 - 1. **RM:** UC wants to be a voting member like Dutchess County. A proposed change to the MOA includes that the County Executive in consultation with the legislature can

appoint a member from Ulster County. The process for making the change within the Ulster County legislature was included. **ES:** Suggested that the council look at their funding source, and to fund this position through water users. Does not want to enter into an agreement with the two counties. Wants the Hudson 7 to fund this themselves. **SH:** Is there an expiration of membership for the counties? **RM:** Is there a sunset clause? **GB:** Three year commitment. The MOA is loosely written that at the end of the three years we can revisit. **DR:** Loosely alluded to, but if that needs to be clarified by the council, that's something to take back to Dutchess County. **GB:** We voted on that the last time. Does anyone else think we should look into alternative sources for funding? **SH:** The possibility of the counties involved as a potential positive. It could be beneficial. Voting privileges tied to the MOA for three years, and then we can decide whether it is to continue. Understands Elizabeth's concerns, too. **ES:** Counties are slowing us down, we can do this ourselves. I would like to discuss why we are not using water users. **GB:** Water users would also be a long process. Everyone benefits equally to what we do to protect the Hudson River. **RM:** The reason we are talking about this tonight in UC/DC was communicating on the MOA. When the UCL took this up to vote, the question was asked why they too didn't have an equal vote. The UCL is asking to have the same vote as Dutchess. **PM:** Hyde Park plant is run by Dutchess County. To raise everyone's fee \$1 will take some time, especially working with the authority. We need more cooperation between all of you. The Salt Front, for example, **RM:** What is the process for doing what you are suggesting? **ES:** I don't know what it would be for the water/wastewater customers. The ToR does not have authority. I don't know if we have to pass a resolution or start a water district. It's the most equitable way. I don't like being beholden to higher levels of government. **LR:** To ask the Town of Hyde Park for a \$1 raise for water

users will be a great delay. Maybe revisit it in three years is what I would suggest. **GB:** We are collecting \$75k which isn't a lot of money. It barely covers a coordinator. Maybe the solution is tier 1, let's stay where we are and then tier 2, let's create a 501c3 to find additional revenues to help fund the Hudson 7 in the future. (Elizabeth Spinzia left the meeting). **BC:** I don't see a problem with adding \$1 to the PWTF per year in the future. This conversation is about funding a staff person. **RM:** Riverkeeper is segueing out of the coordinator role that it filled part time for the past six years. Some of the work of an incoming coordinator could be to establish a future user fee. **DS:** I understand Elizabeth's concerns. The counties have slowed us down, but it's also been a catalyst. I don't have any concerns about their having a vote. **BC:** Let the counties have a vote. It would still be 7/2. Let's keep our eye on where we're going. **SH:** We've carved out the long term plan. Short term, the counties contribute. Long term, the coordinator carves out sustainable funding using water user rates and other sources. **DR:** Dutchess county will approve once all the Hudson 7 communities approve the changes to the MOA. They will be the last to sign. Next DC Legislature meeting is 12/8. **A call will be organized with Hudson 7 members and Dutchess County corporation council for further discussion on timing.**

a. Motion to accept Ulster County proposal to be a voting member. Bassett/Harris. Motion carried.

2. Letters of Interest/Legal

a. Tabled. **RM:** **GB:** \$19,999 technically goes away, but it was put in the budget for next year to be carried forward. Devin will triple check.

3. NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program

a. **GJ:** A subcommittee meeting is being set-up on 12/8 at 10am. The goal is to get things cleared by the subcommittee in order to share what the group has been working on.

2. Hudson River Drinking Water Source Issues

a. Champlain Hudson Power Express

- i. **RA:** We now have data from the pilot tests and are analyzing the results. Nothing is high enough to be concerned, but we need to think about that more. **GB:** We got the data, this data has been shared with Randy, Dan and Paul. Asked if Dorothy needed access, too. We are restricting access until the council agrees with the results. **RA:** Dorothy has access by way of an excel sheet. **RM:** What are the next steps? **GB:** We need to put a timeline on ourselves as to when we are ready to discuss data and then we'll need to set-up a meeting with TDI. **PM:** January. **GJ:** Has the copy of data been sent to the state (DEC/DOH?) **GB:** Not from us or by TDI. They won't share the data until they hear from us.

1. Next steps: Set up a mid-January meeting and prior to the next Hudson 7 meeting with TDI, Dan, Paul, Randy, Gary.

b. Esopus Creek Committee updates

- i. **RM:** DEC/DEP is hosting a presentation on the proposed modified Interim Release Protocol (IRP) on Friday, November 18 for the Ashokan Release Work Group (ARWG). A comment period for the ARWG on the modified IRP closes on January 17. **PM:** Rebecca organized key partners to identify questions and a strategy going into the meeting.

c. Other

- i. **ES:** Attending the Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) meetings on behalf of the Hudson 7. Scott Cuppett was hoping to get involved with the Hudson 7 on Source Water Protection issues. Anna Palmer is their new source watershed specialist.
- ii. **SH:** Is it possible for Gary to relay to Ulster and Dutchess County that at the time they approve the MOA, they approve their representative at that time so that we are not delayed further. **GB:** I'll add that to the list.
- iii. **LR:** DCWWA received a \$4m grant for the green field area of Hyde Park for the water. Hyde Park is very excited, as it's had brown water problems for years. **DS:** As a reporter 15 years ago they were having brown water issues. Do you know if that district would connect to the central Hyde Park system to get

drinking water from the Hudson? **LR:** That's the plan. They still need another \$8m to do that.

- iv. **NB:** The Town of Esopus had the last three bids that came in, and all three were bid on. Based on Tighe & Bond recommendation, we can move forward. Emergency Planning Grant for sewer system was awarded to the ToE.

Adjournment: 6:28pm Bassett/Carlos