

Meeting	Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council
Date	Thursday, March 18, 2021 Quorum: 5:31pm Adjourn: 6:33pm
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"> ● Deputy Supervisor Neil Krupnick (ToHP) ● Supervisor Jared Geuss (ToE) ● Deputy Supervisor Shannon Harris (ToE) ● Randy Alstadt, WWTP Operator/Technical Advisor (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), Suzie Ross (Bard College)

Regular Business

1. Call To Order 5:31pm
2. Roll Call & Quorum Determination.
 - a. Voting members: Neil Krupnick (ToHP) Shannon Harris (ToE), , Randy Alstadt (CoP), Elizabeth Spinzia (ToR). **Four voting members (quorum)**
3. Approval of 2/18/21 minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: **Alstadt/Harris. Motion carried.**
 - i. PM: Correction: Item 'I' line 3, should be amended to 600 million gallons per day
4. Communications
 - a. Alex Dean, Confidential Assistant: Town of Esopus: Shannon Harris stepped down as supervisor a/o March 5 @ noontime. Jared Geuss

will take her place, and she will serve as Deputy Supervisor and remain on the Hudson 7 as Esopus contact.

- b. Mary C. Kremble of the Citizen Science Program at Bard College re: Rhinebeck 2019 Water Quality report.
 - c. Risk and Resilience Assessments discussion among water plant operators, Tighe & Bond and Hudson 7 technical advisers.
 - d. Daily Freeman: “[Esopus Hopes to Catch Illegally Parked Barges on Video](#)”; “[Esopus adding surveillance cameras at water treatment plant.](#)”
 - i. SH: The board passed authorizing outward facing cameras to watch the drinking water intake. Some confusion between ToE water and sewer board about what the camera was meant to do. The camera is meant to protect drinking water intakes, capture barge #'s, etc. parking too close to the intakes.
 - ii. JG: It was approved, and the water and sewer board were not on the same page for the use of the video. Spoke to a security firm, and everything is mocked up to take care of the plant and some of the river. We have channels to mount more when needed. Sh annon and Jared will speak to Water/Sewer boards to explain the purpose of the cameras and the Hudson 7. Expects to expand.
 - e. [Danskammer public hearing on March 31](#)
 - f. Dutchess County Historical Society: “[Our Epic, Eternal Struggle to Tame Poughkeepsie’s Water](#)” [Documentary \(3/10\)](#)
5. Public Comment
- a. Susie Ross, Bard College: Request for Follow-up/Interviews with H7 Members, Susie Ross
 - i. Susie visited the Hudson 7 in October to introduce her thesis project on potable water sources for the Hudson 7. She is at a stage where she wants to interview stakeholders, such as the Hudson 7 and others suggested.
 - 1. Action: Connect Susie with water operators**
 - b. John Lipscomb, Riverkeeper
 - i. Update on ToE camera. He has another report of a vessel anchoring off of Esopus. He just sent to Commander Singletary and will forward the Hudson 7 the report and the response.

- About to respond to Esopus about how to report vessels. They have come up with a protocol to make sure reports are accurate.
- ii. SH: Observed two more overnight vessels parked outside North of the water plant in Port Ewen. The cameras are not up yet to capture on record, but hopefully soon when the cameras are up, we can observe and apply to the new policy if deemed a violation.
 - iii. JL: It would be great if whenever you see something, send someone out with a phone to get a photo. That whole area is not an authorized anchorage. Report all vessels North of Hyde Park. The more complete that list is, the better it will be. Per our instruction on how to report them, send them to him so that he can vet them.
 - iv. NK: You can hear when they anchor.
 - v. JL: Key is to get photo documentation. I'll run with it from there. We spoke to Congressman Maloney, who put through legislation that the Coast Guard must suspend anchorages in the Hudson and it's permanent.

Reports and Actions on Old Business

1. Hudson River Drinking Water Source Issues

a. Discussion and/or Decision items

i. Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE)

1. 2/25 meeting with TDI on [Hudson 7 concerns](#)

2. Legal Representation

- a. ES: There is a lot to unpack from the TDI discussion. The Hudson 7 bylaws allow the council to start committees to discuss issues and bring back recommendations to the council.
- b. PM: Next steps. Write a letter to the Governor and NYC Mayor. Letters to the county executives (Dutchess/Ulster) and a letter to the Department of public service, as we are not getting any cooperation from TDI. Gene (TDI) said that "the idea of moving the cable out of the river and onto the land is not going to happen". To pursue TDI any longer is not worth it. They want to speak to

- our operators, but they don't have more information than we do. They seem to think that the operators are not part of the Hudson 7.
- c. RA: The only way we'll have impact is if we can push to have them revise the EIS. They didn't address the water utilities.
 - d. ES: The committee can have voting and non-voting members. I would like to see at least one or two of the municipal officials be part of the committee.
 - e. SH: Critical to have water treatment operators to participate. TDI said that they didn't have insurance for things that might be unforeseen (impacts to intakes), as well as modeling, testing that we requested.
 - i. **Motion to start a committee for CHPE that includes at least two voting members of the Hudson 7. Spinzia/Alstadt. Motion carried.**
 - ii. BB: Municipal participation is good, strongly consider a two prong approach on the info/question asking path. To move it out of the river, the hudson 7 will need to approach a more political path. At the same time, he wants to take advantage of additional testing, etc. out front.
 - iii. PM: Does the legal representations work for us for both CHPE and the Esopus?
 - iv. DS: We know what the process is for the esoups process. It is straightforward at this point on how to participate. The CHPE needs the attorney given how complicated the process is.

1. ACTION: Assemble a committee of Hudson 7 members to discuss TDI presentation and next steps.

ii. Esopus Creek turbid discharges

1. RM: A memorializing resolution was created by Riverkeeper, and we are working with impacted communities now to encourage a unified voice. They are a good educational tool, to help communities understand the issue. We would love for the Hudson 7 to consider signing a resolution so that they can get their comments in by June 16.
2. PM: What was the purpose of the March 3 public hearing. Will they answer our questions?
3. DS: All of the comments go into the same bucket and then, they will respond to them at a later date. Paul's comments brought attention to drinking water as an issue.
4. PM: Should there be a working committee to address the Esopus?
5. SH: [The Town of Esopus has started to take turbidity readings that coincide with the releases. Important issues to raise and continue this process. When the ToE Foiled for past dates \(going back 10 years\) for releases, the DEP wrote back that it would not release that information until after the public comment period was over.](#)
 - a. ACTION: Paul, Randy and Shannon are interested in being on the committee.

b. Updates on ongoing issues

i. NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program

1. DS: Waiting from the state. Nothing yet.

ii. Spill prevention and response

1. JL: Delayed because of Covid. The tabletop drill might be organized in August. First time it will have happened North of NY Harbor.
2. SH: It would be a good test of resilience plans if nothing else and additional coordination with the Coast Guard.
3. PM: Reminded everyone that their risk
4. Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

iii. PCBs

1. DS: When the Hudson 7 was at the press conference in Oct., 2019 with Dutchess/Ulster County to highlight the court case challenging the EPA's decision that the GE clean-up was complete, the decision was made and GE prevailed. There are two pathways for further clean-up of PCB's: 1) EPA to order the remedial investigation of the entire downriver of Troy (to NYC) and 2) ongoing review data for the EPA to say further clean-ups are needed because health targets were not met.

a. ACTION: The Hudson 7 could make a statement to say the ball is in the EPA's court, and they must take action.

New Business

1. Risk and Resilience Assessments for community water systems, due June 30
 - a. Coordination on "proximity threats" (e.g., chemical spill, gas line explosion, etc.) that may affect all intakes; and/or other aspects
 - i. PM: These plans will take several months to do, and six months after that the emergency response plan must be updated. Only Esopus has done this so far. Sent an email out to all operators and got no response. To send out proposals to engineers, or to do this yourselves, you don't have much time. You will not get a notice from the state. It's a federal program. You'll have to respond to the EPA. Water source, financials - all needs to be evaluated.
 - ii. DS: Is this something that
 - iii. PM: AWWA, this is a federal program. The EPA should have sent them a letter (service area for more than 3,000). Lloyd is the only one who has less than 3000 people.
 - iv. DS: They have different systems that are different from one plant to another. They would collaborate on an oil spill.
 - v. PM: Someone placing a cable near your intake.
 - vi. DS: Could Paul identify the common issues?
 - vii. RA: Big push to have their emergency plan updated by the end of the year (2020) which they did.
 - viii. SH: Would offer the ToE's, though it's old.

- ix. PM: You're probably talking about the emergency response plan that was supposed to be done, came around after 9/11. Now they are going to risk resilience assessment. Then update the emergency response plan. Don said they were in good shape.
- x. JL: To send a worst case scenario contingency plan to the group that might be helpful.
 - 1. ACTION: Evaluate natural hazards, violent acts, infrastructure including water sources, computers, automated systems, monitoring and billing systems, chemical storage, operations and maintenance. Studies cost between \$15 - 30k, though you could do it yourselves. Required by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 ([EPA factsheet](#)). Randy and Paul Malmrose will connect.**

Adjournment: 6:33pm

Spinzia/Harris. Motion carried