

Rebecca Martin Consulting Report

March, 2024

The Hudson River Source Water Protection Coordinator (as consultant) will carry out the goals of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7).

Goals and Results

- **Organizational**
 - Scheduled weekly one-on-one meetings with Hudson 7 Chairman Mayor Gary Bassett;
 - Organized and prepared all materials for monthly Hudson 7 meetings;
- **Goal 1: Create a 501c3**
 - Coordinated communications with Hudson 7 lawyer re: its organizational structure;
 - Tracked all legal fees for payment through Dutchess County;
 - Coordinated organizational structure committee meetings;
 - Continued to research potential organizational models for the committee's ongoing 501c3 for discussion;
 - Continued to update the worksheet for the Hudson 7 organizational structure committee to compare the five options committee members have identified that include: Continue as a Joint Municipal Board pursuant to the intermunicipal agreement; Establish a separate Not-for-Profit Corporation and seek to establish 501(c)(3) tax exempt status; Establish a separate 501(c)(3) and maintain the existing; Work with a Fiscal Sponsor, or; work within the Joint Water Board (JWB) structure.
- **Goal 2: Establish Policies & Procedures with the Hudson 7 Executive team**
 - Ongoing organization of the Hudson 7 files and mapping document;
 - Ongoing updates of the Hudson 7 motions document that tracks motions and approval from 2018 - 2024;
 - Follow-up with Ecode to provide information on a repository system for the council's documentation.
- **Goal 3: Develop a strategy for maintaining sustainable funding streams for operation and development expenses**
 - Ongoing work to create a Hudson 7's "book" that outlines the council's efforts on numerous issues that can be used for outreach, future monetary support and grantmaking.
- **Goal 4: Become an important resource for Hudson 7 drinking water operators**
 - Organized and facilitated the first Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Committee meeting on March 16 at the Roger Mabie Water Treatment Plant in Port Ewen;
 - Refreshed the Hudson 7's shared services files that includes a sample shared services agreement and an Available Equipment and Resources living document for all Hudson 7 municipalities;
 - Outreach to DWCCA executive director Mike Keating to request a possible presentation on a topic, TBD.

- **Goal 5: Education**
 - Updated the Hudson 7 blog with Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7) Fact Sheet in 2024.
- **Goal 6: Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)**
 - Provided support on WFP Grant Application to “advance the science and theory of drinking water source protection monitoring via shared governance” and a one-sheet for Hudson 7 water operators.
- **Goal 7: Salt Front Study**
 - No activity in March.
- **Goal 8: Maintain watchdog role on key issues threatening water quality**
 - Scheduled Riverkeeper Science Director and Hudson 7 technical advisor Shannon Roback to provide a presentation on Hudson River PCBs and impacts to drinking water (out ahead of the upcoming PCB Five-Year-Review public comment period) during the full council meeting in April.
- **Goal 8a: CHPE Committee**
 - Created a memo for Hudson 7 council members on some significant and most-recent activity with CHPE’s EM&CP 19A and 19B.
- **Goal 8b: Lower Esopus Creek Committee**
 - Coordinated with Hudson 7 Technical Advisor (Engineering) to develop concerns regarding flooding and water quality impacts.
- **Goal 8c: Anchorages Committee**
 - Met with Riverkeeper’s Staff Attorney Drew Gamils for an update on the Hudson River Protection Act (currently H.R.7659 - Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024) to discuss the impacts re: Hudson 7 Regulated Navigation Areas (RNA) efforts. The Coast Guard Bill will be added to the Defense Bill to be reviewed at the end of the year. At this time, we are in a holding pattern and there are no new threats to drinking water pertaining to the Hudson River Anchorages issue.

Notable Timely Next Steps

1. Anticipate the CHPE EM&CP/Segment 19B Public Comment period in April;
2. Anticipate the upcoming Hudson River PCB draft third FYR public comment process;
3. Ongoing Hudson 7 organizational structure committee meetings;
4. Support the Hudson 7 DWSP2 committee in their efforts to create a source water protection map for the Hudson 7 drinking watershed;
5. Ongoing work on Hudson 7 “book”;
6. Assist technical advisors in their project work and advocacy;
7. Work with Ecode to set up a presentation for the council’s executive board on a repository system for the council’s documentation;
8. Work with Hudson 7 leadership to identify a presentation for the Hudson 7 by Mike Keating, Executive Director of the DCWWA;
9. Facilitate upcoming WTP committee meeting at the PWTF on April 16 at 10:00am to outline events for Hudson 7’s first annual Water Operators Appreciation Week (May 28-31).