



## Hudson Valley Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order: Chairman Rob Rolison called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM and requested public comment on agenda items. There were no public comments. Introductions by attendees were provided for all for virtual attendees.
2. Current Business
  - a. HVRC Background: Ms. Pomeroy providing background on the Hudson Valley Regional Council's (HVRC) formation and role as a regional council of governments. Since its incorporation as a nonprofit in 1977, HVRC has served the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. HVRC is grant-dependent, with funding from the federal Clean Water Act through New York State's 604(b) Program, the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to support Climate Action Planning Institutes (CAPI) in Westchester and Dutchess counties.
  - b. Programmatic & Municipal Funding Opportunities Updates:
    - i. CARES Update:
      1. Ms. Pomeroy reported on the federal government funding received under the CARES Act. CARES funding is being used to develop a report on the economic impact of COVID on the region. Data is being gathered by Economic Disaster Recovery Coordinators Jake Mitchell and Caleb Fine to study the impact of COVID on the business community throughout the Mid-Hudson.
      2. Field work report: Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Fine provided an update on their work. They first connected with chambers of commerce in each county and followed with direct engagement to business owners. Common themes shared by business owners included economic distress, staffing issues, and supply chain issues with dry goods. Westchester County Deputy Director of Economic Development Bridget Gibbons offered to connect them to the Westchester Chamber of Commerce.
      3. Founder and CEO of Statebook, Calandra Cruickshank, was invited demonstrate the Statebook platform. Statebook is being used as part of the CARES funded program. This platform displays data aggregated from the Census, Bureau of Labor, Bureau of Education, and much more, and allows access to national data and community comparisons. As part of this grant-funded effort, HVRC will provide counties and cities with access to Statebook as well as the data collected for the CARES report and the economy recovery information.
    - ii. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Opportunities: Ms. Pomeroy provided assistance on several project applications to the recently closed Build Back Better Program funding opportunity. Ms. Pomeroy expressed her availability to provide

application assistance for other Mid-Hudson projects on forthcoming ARPA funding opportunities.

- iii. CEDS Annual Update: Ms. Pomeroy reported that an update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) will be ready in December for approval. This year's CEDs will go digital, making it a living document.
- iv. 604(b) Update: Ms. FriedenberG discussed recent 604(b) efforts. The 604(b) Program includes education and outreach around DWSP2 (Drinking Water Source Protection Program), 9-element watershed planning, and municipal separate storm sewer planning and education.
  - 1. DWSP2 is a program created by the DEC in collaboration with the NYS Department of Health to assist communities to protect their public sources of drinking water. The draft framework provides a step-by-step process towards the development of a community's unique source water protection plan. Ms. FriedenberG and project partners Chazen Companies and Fairweather Consulting have been working with the Village of New Paltz in Ulster County on the application of this framework. This project allowed the Village of New Paltz to create plans for protection of the reservoir (berm near nearby county road) and to consider land uses and protection strategies (updating zoning, critical environmental area, shooting range). The draft plan once DEC-approved will provide the Village with the added benefits of applying for Water Quality Improvement Points, using toward Climate Smart Communities Certification, and inclusion in comprehensive plan adoption.
  - 2. The other active 604(b) initiative is collaboration with Pace Land Use Law Center to develop and provide three-hour training to local land use, planning, and zoning boards on DWSP2, 9 Element Watershed Planning, and MS4.
- v. Clean Energy Communities Update: Ms. Castillo, Ms. Peck, and Ms. Carroll presented on their work on the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program.
  - 1. Ms. Peck shared that the Hudson Valley is the first in the state for the number of High Impact Actions completed and grants awarded. Ms. Castillo named a number of communities for whom the CEC Team has provide Designation support, grant application support, and Climate Smart Communities certification application review, including the Cities of Kingston and New Rochelle. Ms. Peck shared some of the uses of the grant funding that has been awarded to Mid-Hudson communities.
  - 2. Ms. Carroll shared an update on the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification High Impact Action. The Mid-Hudson has 108 registered CSCs, with 36 out of the 80 Certified NYS CSCs in our region.
- vi. Kingston Organics Update: Ms. Castillo reported that HVRC's work on the City of Kingston organics diversion plan is winding down, with anticipated completion by the end of the year. It will be shared with elected officials and the public in the new year. HVRC has worked closely with Environmental Education and Sustainability Coordinator Julie Noble and Environmental Specialist Arielle Gartenstein.
- vii. Westchester and Dutchess CAPIs Update: Ms. Castillo shared that the Westchester and Dutchess CAPIs will result in the development of greenhouse gas emissions inventories (GHGI) and climate action plans for 17 local governments. This group learning model was

piloted under the NYSERDA CEC Program in 2018-2019, which resulted in the development GHGIs for eight municipalities.

c. Organizational

- i. Succession – Pomeroy: Ms. Pomeroy announced her planned retirement at the end of June 2022, after the Economic Development Administration deadline. Ms. Pomeroy has been working to address HVRC’s joining into the NYS retirement system. Ms. Pomeroy shared steps underway to support the transitioning of Deputy Executive Director Castillo to executive director of HVRC, pending Board discussion and approval.

3. New Business

a. December HVRC Board Meeting:

- i. Election of Officers & Executive Committee: Ms. Castillo and Ms. Pomeroy discussed the election of officers and an executive committee as stipulated in HVRC’s by-laws. The by-laws call for appointments of both at the annual December meeting of the Board. Due to government annual reorganizational meetings being scheduled in January, consensus was reached that any HVRC appointments will take place at the February 2022 meeting of the Board.
  - ii. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Prior minutes will be approved at the December 2022 Board Meeting.
  - iii. Budget Proposal 2022: The December HVRC meeting will focus on the 2022 budget.
4. Public Comment: At 9:31am Chairman Rolison requests public comment, and then comments from members present. The staff was thanked for their presentations on HVRC’s work; no other comments were made.
5. Adjournment: At 9:32am Steve Noble made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Eoin Wrafter. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Kat Carroll.

Minutes reviewed and approved by Board Chairman Rob Rolison.

# Attendance at the Hudson Valley Regional Council Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Dutchess County

Michael Polasek (for A. Gregg Pulver)  
Robert Rolison (proxy for Sutherland)  
Eoin Wrafter (for Mark Molinaro)

## Orange County

Harry Poor \* (for Steve Neuhaus)  
Janet Sutherland \* (for Katie Bonelli)

## Rockland County

Edward Day \*  
Alden Wolfe \*

## Ulster County

Steven Noble  
Tim Weidemann (for Patrick Ryan)

## Westchester County

Bridget Gibbons (for George Latimer)  
Luis Albano \* (for Michael Spano)  
Lisa Hochman, Esq. (for Ben Boykin)

## Others

Mario Caruso (proxy for Luis Albano)  
Calandra Cruikshank  
Jody Dobrzynski (proxy for Harry Poor)  
Vivian England (proxy for Alden Wolfe)  
Lucy Redzeposki (proxy for Edward Day)

\*Present by Proxy.

HVRC Staff: Pat Pomeroy, Carla Castillo, Chana Friedenber, Eleanor Peck, Kat Carroll, Jake Mitchell, Caleb Fine.