



## Hudson Valley Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 3:30 – 4:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting

- 1) Call to Order: HVRC Executive Director Patricia Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM and requested public comment on agenda items. There were no public comments made. Introductions by attendees were provided for all for virtual attendees.
- 2) Current Business
  - a) Programmatic & Municipal Funding Opportunities Updates:
    - i) Economic Development Administration: Three applications were submitted for the Good Jobs Challenge, two for Build Back Better, two for Economic Development Assistance, and one or two for regular economic development cycles.
    - ii) New Initiative: The Northern Border Regional Commission is conducting a special broadband research initiative in Sullivan County that HVRC will be supporting.
    - iii) CEDS Annual Update: Ms. Pomeroy indicated that the CEDS Annual Update is currently in process.
    - iv) 604(b): HVRC Water Quality Program Manager Chana Friedenbergl stated that the draft of the New Paltz Drinking Water Source Protection Plan is being reviewed by the DEC.
    - v) NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities: HVRC CEC Coordinators Eleanor Peck and Kat Carroll indicated that they are seeing an increased number of Community Campaigns, and that the Mid-Hudson Region continues to be the most active region of the State in both the NYS Climate Smart Communities Program and the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program.
    - vi) Kingston Organics: HVRC Deputy Executive Director Carla Castillo reported that the research and writing process is going well, but the target for completion will need to budge into early 2022.
    - vii) CARES: Ms. Pomeroy reported that she and the two CARES staff, Jake Mitchell and Caleb Fine, are continuing to call businesses to learn about the impact of COVID-19 on their businesses and gain meaningful insights. One new member of the team will be working with cities throughout the Mid-Hudson to determine impacts particularly on minority and women-owned businesses. A survey to collect information from local governments will be going out. Westchester County Director of Economic Development Bridget Gibbons requested that the CARES staff reach out to Sherri Aster, the Westchester County Liaison for Chamber of Commerce and Bids, to facilitate CARES staff's engagement with the Westchester County Chamber of Commerce.
    - viii) Westchester and Dutchess CAPIs: Ms. Castillo reported that there has been an increase in insurance requirements from NYS for the DEC Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, which has delayed the start of both CAPIs. However, both projects are very close to initiation and are in the final steps toward contracting finalization with the DEC. Hudson River Estuary Program will support the adaptation work for the interested CAPI communities.
    - ix) NYS DEC Climate Leadership Coordinator Services: Ms. Pomeroy announced that HVRC as a partner applicant on the Capital District Regional Planning Commission's application received the award for the Climate Leadership Services Grant. HVRC will be supporting local governments with CSC

registration and certification as well as with the development of greenhouse gas emissions inventories and potentially some transportation information sessions.

b) Organizational Updates

i) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2021: Motion made by Chairman Rolison and seconded by City of Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey and approved unanimously.

ii) Appointments: Officers, Executive Committee, Board:

(1) Appointments to the Board and New Member Onboarding: Ms. Castillo explained that many appointments on the HVRC Board are made by county legislative chairs. HVRC will reach out the chairs after county reorganizational meetings are completed in January to finalize the appointments. Once appointments to the Board are made, there will be an onboarding session after the February Board meeting.

(2) Appointment of Officers and Executive Committee Members: Ms. Castillo recapped the discussion during the October HVRC Board meeting about the creation of a nominating committee to appoint officers to the Board (a chairperson, 3 vice chairpersons, a treasurer, and a secretary). HVRC By-Laws further indicate that the officers are to be comprised of 4 public sector members, and 2 private sector members. With regards to executive committee members, HVRC By-Laws require 10 members – 6 officers and 4 at-large members, with a composition of 5 public, 4 private, and 1 minority representative. Ms. Pomeroy explained that the practice has been to have Board officers serve as the executive committee members. Chairman Rolison supported this continued practice and highlighted the need to streamline and update HVRC By-Laws as a top priority. Dutchess County Planning Commissioner Eoin Wrafter recommended that the By-Laws be amended to reduce the vice-chair requirement to 1 person prior to voting on HVRC's officers. The appointment of officers will take place in the first HVRC Board meeting of 2022.

iii) 2022 Budget Proposal: Ms. Pomeroy indicated that the draft budget for 2022 was sent. There are new funding sources, all of which have different fiscal years. Among those funding sources is EDA funding and funds due from the Hudson River Estuary Program. An updated budget will be presented to the Board at the first HVRC Board meeting of 2022.

3) New Business: Ms. Castillo reporting on projected agenda items for the February 2022 HVRC Board meeting: approval of the Board meeting minutes for December 7, 2021, and election of HVRC officers. HVRC will be coordinating recurring quarterly meetings for the year.

4) Public Comment: Ms. Pomeroy opened the floor to public comment and updates from Board members.

a) Orange County Planning Commissioner Alan Sorensen shared the County's work on a county-wide climate resilience plan and an open space plan.

b) Ms. Gibbons discussed Westchester County's completion a Westchester County CEDS due to the County's population reaching 1 million. The County's CEDS focused on the human and financial resources in four sectors.

c) Rockland County Director of Economic Development and Tourism Department Lucy Redzeposki discussed the County's focus on the sustainable use of CARES funding.

d) Ulster County Director of Economic Development Tim Weidemann discussed the County's distribution of CARES funds to businesses and the sale of TechCity parcels to a private entity. The TechCity parcels formed part of the former, larger IBM campus.

- e) City of Poughkeepsie Mayor and HVRC Board Chairman Rob Rolison discussed the City’s updating of its comprehensive plan, which had not been updated since 1998, and the debating of the City’s budget.
  - f) Dutchess County Planning Commissioner Eoin Wrafter discussed the County’s work on a housing needs assessment, its contracting efforts on CAPI, and the awarding of grants to local non-profit organizations through the County’s Learn, Play, Create Program.
  - g) City of Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey discussed the City’s infrastructure improvement needs, estimated at \$60 million by the City’s head engineer and water infrastructure manager. ARPA funding will be used for some of this work. The City is interesting in accessing forthcoming funding that addresses climate change and climate action. The City continues to address the DEC’s consent order to separate water and sewer systems.
  - h) City of Kingston Mayor Steve Noble discussed the City’s launch of Kingston Forward, which will update the City’s 1961 code to a form-based code. The City expects the update to be completed by the end of 2022. The updated code is expected to improve the availability of affordable and workforce housing.
- 5) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Rolison at 4:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kat Carroll.

Minutes reviewed and approved by Board Chairman Rob Rolison.

## **Attendance at the Hudson Valley Regional Council Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

### Dutchess County

Randy Johnson \*  
 Michael Polasek (for A. Gregg Pulver)  
 Robert Rolison (proxy for Addonizio, Johnson, Sutherland)  
 Eoin Wrafter (for Marc Molinaro)

### Orange County

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

### Putnam County

Toni Addonizio \*  
 Michael Specht \*

### Rockland County

Edward Day \*  
 Alden Wolfe \*

### Ulster County

David Donaldson  
 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)  
 Vivian England (proxy for Alden Wolfe)  
 Peter McCartt  
 Lucy Redzeposki (proxy for Edward Day)  
 Alyssa Slater (proxy for Michael Specht)  
 Alan Sorensen (proxy for Harry Poor)

\*Present by Proxy.

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