



Hudson Valley Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Videconference via Zoom

- 1) **Call to Order:** HVRC Board Chairwoman Bridget Gibbons called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM and provided information on how the meeting may be attended. HVRC Executive Director Carla Castillo initiated the roll call to ensure quorum. Once quorum was met, Chairwoman Gibbons asked for a motion to open the meeting.
- 2) **Motion to Open the Meeting:** Meeting was opened at 4:08 PM
 - a. **Motion:** Tracey Bartels, Non-Government Member, Ulster County
 - b. **Second:** Michael Specht, Town of Ramapo Supervisor, Rockland County
- 3) **Resolution Authorizing Use of Videoconferencing:** At 4:08 PM Ms. Castillo provided information on a resolution to authorize the continued use of videoconferencing for HVRC's Board of Directors Meeting. Per the updated NYS Open Meetings Law, current as of 28 May 2024, meetings where business is discussed via videoconference require written procedures to be in place. The written procedures follow those of the NYS Open Meetings Law. There were no questions. Chairwoman Gibbons asked for a motion to accept and adopt the resolution. Motion was started and the resolution was approved and adopted unanimously at 4:12 PM.
 - a. **Motion:** Heather Brown, Commissioner of Division of Planning, Community Development, and Environmental Management, Sullivan County
 - b. **Second:** Nadia Rajsz, Legislative Chair, Sullivan County
- 4) **Chairwoman's Report:** Chairwoman Gibbons gave her report at 4:12 PM. Ms. Castillo has been working on finishing HVRC's personnel policies and has provided them to the committee for comments. Comments should be returned to Ms. Castillo by September 27th to be incorporated into the document. HVRC will be hosting its Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony on September 27th. Chairwoman Gibbons and Ms. Castillo will be reaching out to board members to schedule the second annual in-person check in.
- 5) **New Staff Introductions:** HVRC's new Water Resources Manager Ryan Corbett and Clean Energy Communities Coordinator Meenakshi Viswanathan introduce themselves and their background to the board at 4:16 PM.
- 6) **Financial & Executive Director's Report:** At 4:18 PM, Ms. Castillo gave an update on the financial status of HVRC providing details on accounts payable and accounts receivable.
- 7) **2024 HVRC Conference & Awards Ceremony:** At 4:23 PM, Ms. Castillo provided information on HVRC's Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony on September 27th. HVRC will have a funding panel where EDA Management & Program Analyst Lucas Martin will be speaking. Interested Board members are anticipated to meet with Mr. Martin at a private roundtable on the day of the conference.

- 8) **Grant Application Update:** Ms. Castillo, Deputy Executive Director Eleanor Peck, and Climate Action Planning Institute Coordinator Mary Lambert gave updates on the status of HVRC’s grant applications at 4:25 PM.
- 9) **Programmatic Updates:** At 4:34 PM, HVRC staff gave updates on technical assistance provided to the Mid-Hudson region in each of the programmatic areas: US EDA Partnership Planning Assistance Program, US EPA Wastewater Technical Assistance Program, NYS DEC 604(b) Water Quality Planning Program, NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities, NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Cohort Program, and CAPI-Adapt.
- 10) **Clarification Regarding Resolution Authorizing Payment of Membership Dues to the New York State Association of Regional Councils:** At 4:54 PM, Ms. Castillo provided an update on this resolution. There had been a resolution authorizing payment of membership dues to the New York State Association of Regional Councils, however Ms. Castillo updated the Board regarding a resolution adopted in 2022 that authorized the signing of checks in amounts over a thousand dollars that are not part of budget or contract programing associated with grants following the authorization from the Board Chair. There were no questions on this matter.
- 11) **Public Comment:** At 4:55 PM, Chairwoman Gibbons asked for public comment. There was none.
- 12) **Adjournment:** At 4:56 PM, Chairwoman Gibbons asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.
- a. **Motion:** Torrance Harvey, City of Newburgh Mayor, Orange County
 - b. **Second:** Nadia Rajsz, Legislative Chair, Sullivan County

Minutes submitted by Water Resources Coordinator Lauren Bunce.

Minutes reviewed and approved by Board Secretary Torrance Harvey.

The official listing of attendees of the HVRC Board Meeting of September 4, 2024, appears on the following page.

Remote Attendees of the HVRC Board Meeting of September 4, 2024

Quorum met: Yes.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Kathleen Abels for County Executive Kevin Byrne, Putnam County Putnam County Economic Development Corporation President</p> <p>Tracey Bartels, Ulster County Non-Government member</p> <p>Heather Brown, Sullivan County Commissioner of Division of Planning, Community Development, and Environmental Management</p> <p>Devan Cleary, Dutchess County Largest Urbanized Area member</p> <p>Dennis Doyle for County Executive Jen Metzger, Ulster County Director, Ulster County Planning Department</p> <p>Vivian England for Legislative Chairman Jay Hood Jr., Rockland County Legislative & Constituent Liaison to the Chair</p> <p>Bridget Gibbons for County Executive George Latimer, Westchester County Economic Development Director</p> <p>Althema Goodson, Westchester County Committee Staff for Appointments and Veterans, Seniors & Youth Committees</p> | <p>Torrance Harvey, Orange County Mayor of Newburgh</p> <p>Lisa Hochman for Legislative Chair Vedat Gashi, Westchester County Legislative Counsel</p> <p>Michelle Huck for County Manager Joshua Potosek, Sullivan County Deputy County Manager County Government Center</p> <p>Steve Noble, Ulster County Mayor of Kingston</p> <p>Nadia Rajs, Sullivan County Legislative Chair</p> <p>Alan Sorensen for Deputy County Executive Harry Porr (designated representative for County Executive Steve Neuhaus), Orange County Planning Commissioner</p> <p>Michael Specht, Rockland County Supervisor, Town of Ramapo</p> <p>Eoin Wrafter for County Executive Sue Serino, Dutchess County Commissioner of Planning and Development</p> |
|--|---|

Attending via Proxy:

- Ulster County Legislative Chair Peter Criswell
- Putnam County Legislative Chairman Paul Jonke
- Dutchess County Designated Representative for Legislative Chairman Will Truitt, Legislator, District 3, Michael Polasek
- Westchester County Designated Representative for City of Yonkers Mayor Michael Spano, Acting Planning Commissioner Karen Ramos, Esq.
- Orange County Designated Representative for Legislative Chairwoman Katie Bonelli, Legislator Janet Sutherland

Members of the Public Attending Remotely: Amanda Norton, Ulster County; Kevin Lynch, Ulster County

HVRC Staff Attending Remotely: Carla Castillo, Eleanor Peck, Caleb Fine, Mary Lambert, Liz Sun, Ryan Corbett, Mary Lambert, Lauren Bunce, Meenakshi Viswanathan