



# Hudson Valley Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Videoconference via Zoom

- 1) **Call to Order:** HVRC Board Chairwoman Bridget Gibbons called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM and provided information on meeting logistics. 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:** Nadia Rajs, Legislative Chair, Sullivan County
  - b. **Second:** Tracy Bartels, Non-Government Member, Ulster County
- 3) **Chairwoman's Report:** Chairwoman Gibbons gave her report at 4:08PM. Chairwoman Gibbons discussed that she and Ms. Castillo had concluded their in-person one-on-one meetings with Board members and expressed appreciation of their input and time. Gratitude was also expressed towards the Board members whose terms had ended, and a welcome was extended to new Board members. At 4:11pm, Chairwoman Gibbons turned it over to presenters from the New York State Department of State, Revitalization Specialists Susan Landfried and Amanda Wild, to discuss the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program and Smart Growth Community Planning Program.
- 4) **Financial & Executive Director's Report:** At 4:42 PM, Chairwoman Gibbons turned it over to Ms. Castillo, who gave her Executive Director's Report highlighting HVRC's accomplishments following the December 2024 Board of Directors meeting. At 4:47 PM, Ms. Castillo gave an update on the financial status of HVRC and discussed the impacts of the disruption in federal grant funding on the HVRC budget and operations. Ms. Castillo thanked the Region's current and past Federal elected officials for reaching out to the federal agencies on behalf of HVRC and the Board officers for their assistance in navigating this uncertainty.
- 5) **Resolution: Board Officers' Appointment / Reappointment:** At 4:59 PM Ms. Castillo provided information on Resolution Number 1 – 2025, which would appoint and reappoint HVRC's Board Officers. Westchester County Director of Economic Development Bridget Gibbons will remain Chairwoman. Ulster County Non-Government Member Tracy Bartels will remain Vice Chair. Dutchess County Legislator Michael Polasek will remain Treasurer. City of Kingston Sustainability Coordinator Julie Noble will now serve as Secretary in place of City of Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey. Ms. Castillo expressed her gratitude to all the Board Officers as well as Mayor Harvey for his past service. 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 5:01 PM.
  - a. **Motion:** Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning, Ulster County
  - b. **Second:** Nadia Rajs, Legislative Chairwoman, Sullivan County
- 6) **HVRC 2025 Quarterly Meeting Looking Forward:** At 5:01 PM, Ms. Castillo provided information on the subsequent 2025 Quarterly Meetings.
- 7) **Public Comment:** At 5:02 PM, Chairwoman Gibbons asked for public comment. There was none.
- 8) **Adjournment:** At 5:02 PM, Chairwoman Gibbons asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

- a. **Motion:** Peter Criswell, Legislative Chair, Ulster County
- b. **Second:** Amy Sayegh, Legislative Chairwoman, Putnam County

Minutes submitted by Water Resources Coordinator Lauren Bunce.

Minutes reviewed and approved by Board Secretary Julie Noble.

**The official listing of attendees of the HVRC Board Meeting of February 19, 2025, appears on the following page.**

## Attendees of the HVRC Board Meeting on February 19, 2025

Quorum met: Yes.

Barbara Barosa, Putnam County Commissioner of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation	Althema Goodson, Westchester County Committee Staff for Appointments and Veterans, Seniors & Youth Committees
Tracey Bartels, Ulster County Non-Government member	Matthew McPhillips, Sullivan County Legislative Majority Leader
Heather Brown, Sullivan County Commissioner of Division of Planning, Community Development, and Environmental Management	Juile Noble, Ulster County City of Kingston Sustainability Coordinator
Devan Cleary, Dutchess County Largest Urbanized Area member	Michael Polasek, Dutchess County Legislator, District 3
Peter Criswell, Ulster County Legislative Chair, Legislator District 7	Joshua Potosek, Sullivan County County Manager
Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Director of Ulster County Planning Department	Nadia Rajs, Sullivan County Legislative Chair
Vivian England for Legislative Chair Jay Hood Jr., Rockland County Legislative & Constituent Liaison to the Chair	Amy Sayegh, Putnam County Legislative Chairwoman
Carolina Fonseca, Westchester County City of Yonkers Commissioner of Planning and Development	Alan Sorensen for Deputy County Executive Harry Porr (designated representative for County Executive Steve Neuhaus), Orange County Commissioner of Planning
Vedat Gashi, Westchester County Legislative Chairman	Michael Specht, Rockland County Town of Ramapo Supervisor
Bridget Gibbons, Westchester County Director of Economic Development	Eoin Wrafter, Dutchess County Commissioner of Planning and Development

**Members of the Public Attending Remotely:** Lisa Hochman, Westchester County

**HVRC Staff Attending Remotely:** Carla Castillo, Eleanor Peck, Lauren Bunce, Caleb Fine, Elizabeth Sun, Ryan Corbett, Meenakshi Viswanathan