



Hudson Valley Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

4:00 – 5:15 PM

Videoconference 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 4:05 PM
 - **Motion:** Althema Goodson, Committee Staff for Appointments and Veterans, Seniors & Youth Committees, Westchester County
 - **Second:** Nadia Rajsz, Legislative Chair, Sullivan County
- 3) **Hudson River Valley Greenway Presentation:** Ms. Castillo introduced the presenters at 4:08 PM: Project Director, Dan Jeanson and Regional Planner, Cody Arana. Mr. Jeanson and Mr. Arana discussed the ways Hudson River Valley Greenways can support local communities in the Hudson Valley. Particularly funding opportunities for municipalities and counties, legal protections, and benefits of compact status. They reviewed a case study on the Village of Irvington's strategic use of Greenway grants. Following the presentation a Board Member asked a question about becoming a compact community.
- 4) **New Jersey Institute of Technology Presentation:** Ms. Castillo introduced the presenter at 4:23 PM: Environmental Services Director, Cailyn Bruno. Ms. Bruno provided an overview of NJIT's TAB program, offering free technical assistance for brownfield redevelopment. After the presentation Ms. Castillo asked a question related to the revolving loan fund.
- 5) **Chairwoman's Report:** Chairwoman Gibbons gave her report at 4:41 PM. Chairwoman Gibbons:
 - Recognized the departure of Carolina Fonseca, former Commissioner of Planning and Development for the City of Yonkers.
 - Welcomed to the Board the new City of Yonkers Commissioner of Planning & Development, Charlene Indelicato, and thanked her for her willingness to serve on HVRC's Board.
 - Mentioned the annual 1-on-1 meetings were scheduled for the following week.
 - Previewed the Executive Director's report and thanked Ms. Castillo and the team.
- 6) **Treasurer's Financial Report:** Chairwoman Gibbons turned it over to HVRC Treasurer, Michael Polasek at 4:43 PM. Mr. Polasek gave an update on the financial status of HVRC.
- 7) **Executive Director's Report:** Ms. Castillo began the Executive Director's report at 4:47 PM.

- Staffing update: Three new hires (Financial & Administrative Director, Robin Sattin; Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator, Sofia diTommaso; Environmental Scientist, Dr. Sehrish Asghar).
- Hiring update: Clean Energy Communities Coordinators, and Resilience & Adaptation Interns by end of November.
- Financial & Administrative improvements: streamlined payroll and bank reconciliations, audit fieldwork completed, policy updates in progress.
- Grant Updates: EDA PPA funding received, NBRC and DOS grants supporting Sullivan County
- Programmatic updates across water quality, wastewater, climate action, and landfill mitigation.
- Annual conference scheduled for November 6th at SUNY Orange.

8) Resolution: 3-2025-Bylaws update to Include Article 12-B

At 5:02 Ms. Castillo provided information on Resolution 3-2025 which would amend HVRC’s bylaws to include reference to Article 12-B, Section 239-H of New York State law. This addition would support HVRC staff eligibility for participation in the New York State Retirement System. HVRC was originally established under Article 5-G, but many regional councils have since added Article 12-B to their founding documents to align with state retirement system requirements. The amendment adds Article 12-B as additional enabling legislation in Section 1 of the bylaws. This change is part of a broader effort to update HVRC’s governance documents and ensure compliance with state requirements. Ms. Castillo explained that this is a foundational step toward enabling staff to join the retirement system. She noted that HVRC’s current bylaws already reflect much of the language in Article 12-B. HVRC is awaiting further guidance from the state to determine if additional updates are needed beyond this resolution.

- Motion:** Nadia Rajsz Legislative Chair, District 2, Sullivan County
- Second:** Peter Criswell, Legislative Chair, District 7, Ulster County
- Vote:** Resolution adopted by majority vote, with one no vote recorded.

NOTE: Director of Ulster County Planning Department, Dennis Doyle expressed concern about potential conflicts between Article 12-B and county planning boards, particularly regarding land use reviews and subdivision plat authority. He initially abstained from voting, then later changed his vote to “no,” citing the need for further review and consultation with county attorneys and legislative bodies.

9) Resolution: 4-2025-Adoption of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

At 5:08 PM Ms. Castillo provided information on Resolution 4-2025 to formally adopt the 5-Year CEDS as the official regional strategy document.

- Motion:** Barbara Barosa, Planning Development & Public Transportation Commissioner, Putnam County
- Second:** Nadia Rajsz Legislative Chair, District 2, Sullivan County
- Vote:** Approved unanimously

10) Public Comment: At 5:12 PM, Chairwoman Gibbons asked for public comment. There was none.

11) Adjournment: At 5:12 PM, Chairwoman Gibbons asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.

- a. **Motion:** Nadia Rajs, Legislative Chair, District 2, Sullivan County
- b. **Second:** Charlene Indelicato, City of Yonkers Planning & Development Commissioner, Westchester County
- c. **Vote:** Meeting adjourned with unanimous approval

Minutes submitted by Financial & Administrative Director, Robin Sattin.

Minutes reviewed and approved by Board Secretary Julie Noble.

The official listing of attendees of the HVRC Board Meeting of September 17, 2025, appears on the following page.

Attendees of the HVRC Board Meeting of September 17, 2025

Quorum met: Yes.

| | |
|---|--|
| Kathleen Abels, Putnam County President of Putnam County Economic Development Corporation | Althema Goodson, Westchester County Committee Staff for Appointments and Veterans, Seniors & Youth Committees |
| Barbara Barosa, Putnam County Commissioner of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation | Steven Gross, Dutchess County Economic Development Director |
| Heather Brown, Sullivan County Commissioner Division of Planning, Community Development and Environmental Management | Charlene Indelicato, Westchester County City of Yonkers Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development |
| Devan Cleary, Dutchess County Largest Urbanized Area member | Matthew McPhillips, Sullivan County Legislative Majority Leader, District 1 |
| Peter Criswell, Ulster County Legislative Chair, District 7 | Jenna Nazario, Rockland County Director of Economic Development and Tourism |
| Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Director of Planning | Juile Noble, Ulster County Sustainability Coordinator of the City of Kingston |
| Vivian England, Rockland County Legislative & Constituent Liaison to the Chair | Nadia Rajs, Sullivan County Legislative Chair |
| Vedat Gashi, Westchester County Legislative Chair | Michael Specht, Rockland County Supervisor of the Town of Ramapo |
| Bridget Gibbons, Westchester County Director of Economic Development | Eoin Wrafter, Dutchess County Commissioner of Planning and Development |

Also Attending: Legislator Michael Polasek, Dutchess County

HVRC Staff Attending Remotely: Carla Castillo, Eleanor Peck, Lauren Bunce, Caleb Fine, Elizabeth Sun, Ryan Corbett, Mary Lambert, Robin Sattin, Sofie diTommaso, Sehrish Asghar