

Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance
Rondout Municipal Center Room M15

Notes

1/16/19

Regular Business

1. Adoption of notes from 11/28/18

i. Adopted.

2. RCWA Distribution List

i. Legislators.

1. Manna Jo thought it was a good idea who is an Ulster County Legislator and chair of the Energy and Environment Committee. She can call the RCWA to people's attention as a model of watershed protection in all of the watersheds in the county.

a. RCWA to visit the UC Legislature when ready.

ii. Add Supervisors of all watershed communities to the mailing list.

3. Introductions

a. Name and what is your favorite spot on the creek?

i. **Emily Vail** (Napanoch sewage treatment outfall); **Matt Iago**, Rosendale Town Board (Creek Locks); **Manna Jo Greene**, Legislator and Clearwater (train trestle over the creek in Rosendale); **Hank Alicandri**, Shawangunks ranger/park manager. Chairman Wawarsing intermunicipal parks commission. (Hudson River Greenway - Upper Rondout Creek, wild and untrampled stream. Creek below the maritime dam looking like the creek above the maritime dam). **Sarah Underhill**, Wawarsing, ECC, Clearwater. (Favorite swimming hole at her home, Fordmore and bridge and loves the rondout where the Maritime Museum entrance is and goes out to River).

Eric Stewart, Town Board Marbletown, ECC, EMC. (High Falls below the Falls). **Hank Bartosick**, Wawarsing, ECC.

4. Guest

a. Emily Vail, Hudson River Estuary program

- i. Emily has been at the HREP for 8 years and is available as a technical resource. Her project, Tracing Tannery Brook: <https://www.tracingtannerybrook.com/the-project/>. HREP is a non-regulatory program. Provides assistance and grants for stewardship that includes watershed planning, tributary restoration, culvert work and dam removal.
- ii. Hudson River Estuary Program - Rondout Creek Projects. Each grant has a technical advisor.
 1. 2015 Stewardship grant with Riverkeeper for bacteria monitoring, bacteria source tracking in the Wallkill River and Rondout Creek, and watershed plan update for sewage contamination
 2. 2017 NYS Water Resource Institute research grant for bacteria source tracking in the Wallkill River and Rondout Creek (partnered with Riverkeeper)
 3. 2016 Stewardship grant with Mohonk Preserve for Coxing Kill water quality monitoring and watershed assessment
 4. Culvert assessment in Coxing Kill watershed to identify road-stream crossings that may be barriers for fish and wildlife, or undersized for flood flows:
<https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/hudson-river-estuary/watershed-management/aquatic-connectivity-and-barrier-removal-culvert-dams/>
 5. 2015 Stewardship grant with Town of Rochester for Rochester and Wawarsing open space plan Helpful resources:

- iii. Helpful Resources
 - 1. Estuary Grants: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5091.html>
 - 2. Trees for Tribs applications for spring are due by March 1, and plantings will be supported in May and early June. For more information:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html>
- iv. Mapping resources from DEC.
 - 1. Hudson River Estuary Program's Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper (now includes the mapped riparian buffer areas): <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/112137.html>
 - a. Streams and watersheds.
 - b. Stream classification
 - c. Priority waterbodies list. (how impaired)
 - 2. DEC's Environmental Resource Mapper:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/gis/erm/>
 - a. DEC info locator (SPEDES permit locations, industrial, brownfield sites).
 - 3. DEC's Info Locator:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>
- v. Hank: HREP stewardship with Mohonk Preserve in Coxing Kill, Rondout. Monitoring of assessment.
 - 1. Culverts where streams/roads meet to make sure appropriate size for animals.
 - a. Coxing Kill (2018)
 - b. Mombaccus
- vi. Other
 - 1. Rochester/Wawarsing open space plan
 - 2. Wawarsing open space inventory
 - 3. Rochester open space inventory
- vii. Manna: We envisioned that someday there would be a plan for the entire watershed. That might be something to be thinking about in updating the 2010 document, and explore what can be

done. Interim, Kingston initiated Rondout for tidal. *DOS grant for the tidal portion.* How could we weave them in?

1. Projects along the Rondout were outlined. Went through interim plan, picked out what we want to work on. Sewage was not in there.
2. **Laura and Eric to ask Rich (Marbletown) to be fiscal sponsor for any HREP grants.**

5. Logo Design

- a. Maryann McCorkle was present and provided three logos (color/BW) for the group to choose from.
 - i. Hank: Noted that the Heron was a species identified are all in the tributaries.
 - ii. Logo design selected #1
 1. **Send Wappinger Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Council logo to Maryann to review color. Maryann will look at other 'blue' options.**
 2. **The group wants to try to get business cards and letterhead done before the RVGA Annual meeting on 2/28 where the RCWA will attend.**

Upcoming Events

1. Riverkeeper Sweep: May 4th.
 - a. Sarah Underhill has signed up to do a 3 mile stretch (Kerhonkson - Prison), though needs permission from landowner (OSI) across from her driveway. 3 miles stretch, kerhonkson to port ben (prison). Clear, walkable/hikable.
 - i. **Hank will speak to OSI.**
 - b. Pete Seeger's 100 birthday. Riverkeeper/Clearwater sweep in Beacon. Beacon Sloop Club?
 - i. **Place Clearwater and Jen Benson at Riverkeeper in touch to discuss ("Pete Sweep")**
2. HRWA Omelet Breakfast on 2/14
 - a. The item that morning is the Environmental mapping tool.

Old Business

1. RVGA Regular Meetings and Outreach Update

- a. Matt Iago: RVGA will host a yearly board meeting on 2/28. workshop, environment/climate change on agenda, commissioner Ball will be invited.

- i. Laura: Matt to ask the board what they'd like us to address.
- ii. Matt: Does CCE have a water person? ED just signed on, Jared Bono has water background. Don't know if they have staff yet, worth connecting with him.
- iii. Emily: Riparian zones corridors helps to keep streams healthy and influences water quality. A good exercise could be to overlay riparian buffer and growers in the fields to see what we are really talking about it.
 - 1. Maybe that's a service that the RCWA could offer? Sarah recommends that Andrew be involved as he is speaking to Beth directly about any RCWA Riparian projects.

iv. Farms

- 1. NIFA now owns Davis Farm
- 2. Hemp replaces Corn. another mono crop coming.

v. Legislation

- 1. Didi Barrett's bill: Regenerative ag and cover cropping. CCE is big on climate solutions.
- 2. Manna is working to encourage a major conference/summit on cover cropping including discussions on carbon fee as a potential solution to draw down/sequester carbon.

- a. **A member (s) of the RCWA can present an introductory topic at the meeting? Matt will check into the agenda to see.**

2. RCWA Guiding Document

- a. Project Committee: Communications

- i. Brochure:
 - 1. Final estimate from vendor for brochure
 - a. The timeframe for the brochure budget is still an outstanding question.
 - b. Laura requested digital signatures.
 - i. **Rebecca to resend LEWP map digitally to Eric.**
 - ii. **Send thank you's on letterhead to those who have pitched in for logo, etc.**
 - 2. Strategy for initiatives and raising funds and how vendors will be paid.
 - a. Hank: Municipal and NGO fiscal sponsor.
 - b. Laura: Other ideas include - Hudson River Watershed Alliance and RVGA? Mohonk preserve, Esopus Conservancy.
 - i. **Clearwater signed on as an "NGO" Partner as per Manna Jo Greene.**
 - 3. Finalize introduction and fundraising letter.
 - a. Manna: Ask Rich Parete if Marbletown would manage RCWA brochure money that is to come in? Marbletown and Rosendale share services so maybe there is a partnership there for the alliance.
 - b. Hank: made suggestions as to how to ask municipalities to participate in the initiative to protect a resource. 'Pitch in for water protection' for example. Not to only donate but to support the work with a resource that is in common.
 - c. Emily asked if there was a any kind of a working budget for the group. Manna said she thought it was a good idea as it could allow the alliance to request funds in an equitable fashion. If we succeed with this project for all to see, it sets a

good pattern before October to have a real budget for the future.

- i. The RCWA decided to request funds from the four towns (@ \$500 each) tht include Marbletown, Rochester, Wawarsing and Rosendale.
- ii. Work on google doc letter to change tone including language such as “we’re including a service”. **DRAFT Letter**

ii. Articles

1. “RCWA Articles” calendar layer was created. [LINK](#)

iii. Social Media

1. Conduct training on using google drive, docs and calendar, and how to access. Might be a simple overview that Riverkeeper can help with, or - find a specialist who can provide a more in-depth understanding.

b. Project Committee: Riparian Zone Planting (RZP)

- i. Andrew update: Projects on Rail Trail, Mike Callen and visits to Coxing Kill.

New Business

1. Outreach and Communications Committee

a. Education

- i. Manna will reach out to Rich Parisio. Clearwater has a large education file and, they could work to update powerpoints that exist. Laura mentioned that Rich also shared his interest in going back into schools.

- b. Select a RCWA Summit date for later in the year. The matter was tabled for now, but the group likes the idea of it landing sometime during “Creek Week” in the fall.

Next Meeting: New 2019 Meeting Schedule Forthcoming. Rebecca to send doodle poll to identify meeting times (4 - 6pm; 5:30 - 7:30 or 6-8)

