

Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance

Rondout Municipal Center Room M15

Start time: 6:10pm

End time: 8:00pm

Notes

1/29/20

Regular Business

1. Present at the RCWA meeting was Laura Finestone, Eric Stewart, John Messerschmidt, Ben Ganon (UC Department of the Environment), Rebecca Martin (Riverkeeper), Emily Vail (Hudson River Watershed Alliance, HRWA), Marie Perfect (Kerhonkson), Katherine Betts (Accord), Mary McNamara (HRWA)
2. Presentation: Emily Vail, HRWA.. Emily gave an overview of what the HRWA has to offer including the Mid-Hudson Roundtable, Ulster Roundtable (March 5) and coming soon, a roundtable for the entire Hudson River watershed (HRWA is currently searching for a location. The Mohawk River area was mentioned). In the spring of 2020, there will be a stream and buffer protection focus (last year, stream barriers and water quality monitoring). On October 27, 2020, the annual HRWA Conference will take place in partnership with the DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP). New this year are the HRWA outreach events at Brown's Brewery in the Upper Hudson (Troy, NY) and working towards a 9 Element Plan for the Wappingers Creek. HRWA is hosting LULA in Columbia County this year (Roe Jan/Saw Kill Watersheds) in Dutchess County (invitation only via Pace University) to discuss municipal land use processes. She said that maybe LULA can be held in the Rondout Valley in 2021. Eric asked if there were points for municipalities who attend towards that could go toward Climate Smart Communities? Emily said that she would look into those connections. Emily outlined ways that watershed groups could organize, including the creation of watershed plans (Quassaick Creek Watershed group could provide a good model approach as they make a work plan from their watershed plan that is reviewed each year).
 - a. Actions.
 - i. Eric Stewart asked if the HRWA would speak to the ECC regarding the Esopus and Rondout Creeks.

- ii. Communications pledge from watershed groups during the summer months: sharing stories, media, metrics, up-to-date contact information for the HRWA website.
- iii. Update the HRWA Watershed Group site with new RCWA information (Rebecca)
- iv. RCWA members please sign-up for the HRWA Watershed Digest: <https://hudsonwatershed.org/join-our-mailing-list/>

Upcoming Events

1. Earth Day (week?) starts on April 22 this year.
2. Riverkeeper Sweep is on May 2.
 - a. **Marie would like to create a team in Wawarsing [in a tributary near her home off of 44/55 near Don Juan restaurant](#).**
 - i. **Laura offered to send her municipal contacts.**
 - ii. **Ben would locate the name of the stream.**
3. May/June: Creekside Clean-up in High Falls w/ Marbletown ECC and Rondout School District
 - a. To occur in the municipal parks in the ToHF. Creekside Walk (there is an existing pathway that runs along the Rondout Creek). The goal is to make it user friendly and to connect it to the O&W rail trail (Kingston to Ellenville). They are currently stuck in Rochester/Wawarsing with gaps along the trail to fill in. The town has received grants from Senator Amedore and Assemblyman Cahill. The town has signed a 99 year lease for that portion and they are working on making it a park.
 - b. **Eric will reach out to Rondout School District to see if they have an Earth Day event and that they could connect to.**
 - c. **Katherine suggested having volunteers there with “Ask Me to walk the Creek” signs. Rebecca to connect them to discuss further.**

Old Business

1. Communications: Brochure update. Ben brought a map that he's been working on for the brochure. It shows the Rondout looking at Rivers and Streams from downstream. There was an option to use different colors for subwatersheds. The group decided on a map that outlined the municipalities in the whole watershed and the basin delineation made in a simple/informative way. The group would like to use the more colorful map on its website, poster or - watershed puzzle. The group needs funding

for the brochure. Mary McNamara mentioned that the Esopus Creek brochure was paid for by a grant (HREP?)

- a. Action
 - i. Open a google doc to for RCWA text for brochure.
 - ii. Laura to speak to Town of Marbletown Supervisor Rich Parete again about fiscal sponsor for brochure.
 - iii. Identify hot spots in the watershed
2. RCWA Domain name is up 3/29/20. Credit card info?
3. The group tabled updates on the Riparian Zone Planting project committee with Andrew not present.

New Business

1. The group decided to keep its meetings the same in 2020.
 - a. Rebecca will provide the Town with a Certificate of Insurance for the year on the RCWA's behalf via Riverkeeper.
2. Some discussion ensued regarding the RCWA creating a work plan in the near future. Laura said that she, Dan Shapley and Laura Heady went through all of the Rondout Creek plans at one time. The group could do that again to outline ideas for a new work plan for the RCWA. Engaging land trusts and conservancies in the watershed might help to identify buffers and potential easements. Another intermunicipal agreement to include all municipalities could be placed on the table as a goal someday.