



Commentator

JUNE-JULY 2012

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action

The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.

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CALENDAR		
2012		
JULY		
2	Mon. 2 pm	Resource Development Committee meeting , home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, 845-339-3180, mcsellers@aol.com . Time, date and location tentative; please confirm with Margaret.
4		HAPPY BIRTHDAY, America!
10	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge, Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
18	Wed. 4 – 8 pm	LWVMHR Board Annual Planning Meeting , home of Jean and Jim McGarry, 180 South Rd, Ruby, NY 12475 (http://goo.gl/maps/YmTy) 845-336-6622, jfmcg@hvc.rr.com , for directions.
AUGUST		
7	Tues. 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
9	Thurs. 2 pm	Resource Development Committee meeting , home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, 845-339-3180, mcsellers@aol.com . Time, date and location tentative; please confirm with Margaret.
25	Sat. 7 pm	“Iron-Jawed Angels,” 2004 HBO film about Alice Paul’s (Hilary Swank) and Carrie Chapman Catt’s (Anjelica Huston) struggles to win the women’s vote. Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave. at Whittier Blvd., POK 12603. 845-454-2870. Friends Meeting co-sponsoring.
26		WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY Women won the vote 92 years ago http://www.nwhp.org/news/equalityday_quiz.html
28	Tues. 10 am	Dutchess Shared Services Committee meeting , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, echarwat@yahoo.com

Check our Calendar on-line at
<http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>
 for updated information

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool?
 Contact: Dare Thompson: darethompson@gmail.com
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Prez Sez...

Happy Summer, all!

While summer means that things slow down a bit for the League in terms of public events, please note that we'll have a special Dutchess County showing of "Iron-Jawed Angels" in August (see info elsewhere), and our Observer Corps and many committees will still be hard at work following our local governmental bodies and planning League events for the fall. Don't hesitate to join in on anything that interests you.

In Ulster we're carefully following the final revisions being proposed to the County Charter and deciding what the League can support. We welcome your participation, but let me or another board member know that you're interested so we can notify you when we meet. The next meeting will probably be between July 11 and July 18.

And looking more broadly at the political scene, you may want to go to the "library" on the national League's website - <http://library.lwv.org/events-series/convention-2012> - and see videos of some of the speakers at the recently held LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC. It was an impressive collection and some of the least famous often had the most to say - like Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She talked about what we can do about the blatantly wrong third party ads that all parties circulate as the races heat up. We CAN urge our media outlets to "just say no" - and the media outlets CAN legally do it!

Probably the most dramatic speaker was US Attorney General Eric Holder, who could not take questions. He gave a great speech, which was often about the League and was posted immediately on the Dept. of Justice website as well as ours, and he appeared to give it completely from memory. Considering all the trouble swirling around his office, it was especially impressive that he came, but voting rights is clearly a passion for him, so visiting the LWV made sense.

Talk of Citizens United (and campaign finance generally), along with concerns about voter suppression, dominated the Convention, but we still managed to adopt a full review of our Agriculture position, which will be particularly interesting to members in our region. Be watching for details and let us know if you'd like to be in the study group. It should get underway sometime in the fall.

Dave Thompson

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Annual Report and the revised Bylaws can be found at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>

VOTER SERVICE

Your donations to the League's Education Fund have helped create some excellent tools to guide you through the upcoming election in a thorough and unbiased manner. Be sure to visit VOTE411.org and lwvny.org as well as our own page at lwvmidhudson.org/elections.html for national, state, and local information to help you with nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| ➤ Absentee ballot information | ➤ Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races | ➤ ID requirements |
| ➤ Ballot measure information (where applicable) | ➤ General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye | ➤ Registration deadlines |
| ➤ Early voting options (where applicable) | | ➤ Voter qualifications |
| ➤ Election dates | | ➤ Voter registration forms |
| | | ➤ Voting machines |
| | | ➤ Polling place locations* |

***NOTE:** Some polling place tools have difficulty finding addresses associated with small unincorporated places... like Ruby NY. For Dutchess and Ulster County residents, the best tools are at websites of the respective Board of Elections. You can find those links at the "Where To Vote" section of our Elections page. Other county Boards may use the same tool as well.

Moderating Guidelines

New on our website are guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events. Check it out and please refer anyone who is interested in sponsoring a debate to our website. The guidelines can be found directly at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.

Ulster County Charter Revision Commission

The commission has submitted to the Legislature a series of recommendations of changes to the current charter which is being considered by the Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee. Be sure to read the Committees Agenda and Minutes at the county Website: Access the Commission's pages from the County home page or at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/charterrevision/index.html> (Links to an unadulterated Charter and to a "codified" version are also available)

Voter Service Report Annual Meeting 2012

This report was removed from the annual report by its editor by mistake before the report was printed. The editor wishes to apologize for the error and hopes that you will read it and admire the work that Voter Service did last year. Lee Ridgway

Last year was an 'off' year, but we had a busy autumn anyway, moderating six events and sponsoring two-Family Court Judge in Dutchess County and the City of Kingston Mayoral candidate forums. This spring, we moderated four more forums, one in Dutchess and three in Ulster. Thanks go out to Dare Thompson, Ellie Charwat and Lee Ridgway for a job well done! I had the honor of running an event for contentious race for Onteora school board and was gratified to receive the following comment from the organizer. "I am truly grateful for your participation and for creating an opportunity for all the candidates to represent themselves impartially. Even I (who have been following this closely for months), learned new things last night. ...which made the civil discourse last night so exceptional." Of course, no event runs without our skilled and trusty timekeepers, Doug Thompson and Chris Henning, our partners who keep us going and make us look good.

I do want to make note of the fact that our primary election process has been expertly streamlined by the Ulster County Board of Elections, with a resulting significant cost savings and efficiency. Well done!

This coming election season is guaranteed to be an exciting one and we are gearing up for an 'on' year. We'll be looking for assistance with Facts for Voters distribution, events and moderating/timekeeping and other activities. Join us!

Cindy Bell

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ulster & Dutchess Counties Solid Waste

MORE MATERIALS AVAILABLE regarding Solid Waste Management:

Independent Review of Solid Waste Management System and LSWMP - 07/06/2011 at

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Legislature/CLSolidWasteMgmtSystem.pdf>

NYSDEC Requirements vs. DCRRA LSWMP - 07/06/2011 at

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Legislature/CLNYSDECVSDCRRA.pdf>

Solid Waste User Fee, Roger Aceley. Acting Solid Waste Commissioner, November 13, 2009 at

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/SolidWasteMgmt/SWindex.htm>

Mid-Hudson Sustainability Plan's Website Now Online

Engage MidHudson is an online platform where citizens and government of the Mid-Hudson Region share knowledge and brainstorm project ideas and initiatives that will help build a more sustainable region. Engage MidHudson is being developed in support of the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Planning Project, led by the Mid-Hudson Sustainability Planning Consortium. The Consortium is steering the development of the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan as part of the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in his 2011 State of the State address.

Visit <http://www.engagemidhudson.com/> to register and help spread the word!

UCRRA board backs flow control regulations

TOWN OF ULSTER, N.Y.; So-called "flow control" rules were endorsed Monday by the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency to move toward ending taxpayer subsidies for trash handling operations.

The unanimous vote come nearly a year after the board voted 3-2 against supporting the proposed law that would require trash haulers to bring all solid waste collected within the county to agency facilities.

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below:

<http://freemanonline.com/articles/2012/06/19/news/doc4fdcf00020233405198183.txt>

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

Golden Hill LDC

The Golden Hill Local Development Corporation (GHLDC) met three times during the month of May, 2012 (May 2, 16, and 23). With the exception of the May 16 meeting (Dr. Iannuzzi was absent) all of the 7 members of the board were present at the other meetings(Beckman, Bernholz, Hanson, Iannuzzi, Provenzano, Sudlow and Thompson(chairman).

Other attendees at most of the meetings were Ken Crannel (DCE),Clinton Johnson, First Asst. County Attorney, Justin Miller, general counsel to the LDC from Harris Beach, Frank Ruggerio, UC Budget analyst, Amy Borden, assigned secretary to the LDC,Mark Myers & Josh Jandris of Marcu and Millichap (M & M).

Initially, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the meetings. The May 2 meeting was very short addressing: the contracts between the GHLDC and the county, requiring only Mr. Sudlow as president of the Corporation to sign such; and being reminded about the training schedule that each of the board members needed to participate in. By the end of May Legislator Provanzano and Dr. Iannuzzi had taken training and Mr. Beckman and Mrs. Thompson were scheduled for June 6. The meeting was then adjourned as the board moved to executive session to discuss which company it would hire as a consultant in the sale of the county nursing home.

Between the May 2 and May 16 meetings Marcus and Millichap was hired as the consultant company to handle the sale of the county nursing home. Mark Myers and Josh Jandris will represent the company.

The May 16 and May 23 meetings dealt with the following areas:

- a review of the marketing strategy and project time line for the sale of the county nursing home
- vast amounts of information regarding the nursing home (financials, bed census, visuals of the property, etc.) have been sent to M & M to be used in developing the data room, which by the end of May was up and running and the password has been sent to the members of the LDC to use.
- the M & M representatives explained how they developed the time line working backward from the county's September 1 deadline at which point the buyer was to be identified:

- a. June 4 "go to market": the information on Golden Hill would be provided to all those who have registered interest in the tri-county area plus the 2000 in the M & M data base. Additionally, M & M will call everyone who shows an interest in Golden Hill;

- b. June 4-July 27: M & M will call for offers: During the week of July 16 tours of Golden Hill for those interested. Suggestion made that the Golden Hill administrator and others from the board to escort the potential buyers through; suggested the tours be 90 minutes long. By July 27 those interested to submit bids, letter of intent, price, time of closing

- c. July 30-August 3: UC team would tour the facilities of who who have bid;

- d. August 6-10: solidify bids, final adjusted offers; weeks of August 20 and August 27 LDC Board to process decision;

- e. September 1: select final bids; considered a few days extension to the 4th given it is Labor Day weekend.

Mr. Myers commented that nine months would be needed to effect the actual change of ownership from the LDC to the successful bidder giving a date of April 2013; Mr. Miller felt June 1, 2013 a more realistic date for completing everything and clearing the title to the facility. Mr. Johnson reminded the group that the NYSDOH would have to approve the sale, to which Mr. Myers suggested that 3 months would cover that aspect.

To cover the above, M & M representatives and Mr. Miller discussed the process as well as the various documents to be developed. The M & M representatives indicated they would have such and recommendations, price information, etc. for the board to review at the next meeting, which was decided to be June 6 at 6:30.

The lease/lease back agreement to be used like the one used in Orange County; Mr. Miller to have such in place apparently by time of the June 6 meeting.

It was noted by the board members that it was important for them and the corporate officers to know the same things about the process they were engaged in and handle those operational issues it needs to which up to this point the county executive's office had handled.

Additionally, M & M indicated that it could set up some type of site: Ulster Land Development Corporation for the board so that the latter could easily access materials, keep abreast of developments from home computers, which would reduce the number of meetings every time there was a new document to review. Group favored communicating by e-mail and telephone with Robert Sudlow the CEO of the Corporation and leaving it up to him to finalize matters as needed.

As with the other meetings, there were comments, observations, reminders that the process that the board engages in should be open, transparent, and give no appearance of anything being hidden.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Legislative
Programs,
Education
and
Community
Services**

Date: June 5, 2012

Start Time: 5:08 p.m.

Recess Time: 5:50 p.m.

Chairman Wayne Harris called the meeting to order and the minutes of the May 1, 2012, were adopted.

Lydia Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), briefed the committee on: New World Foundation - positions are nearly filled; growing conditions - damage to fruit trees unknown, late blight too early to know, sting bugs - little damage; CCE and Family of Woodstock with UC Farm Bureau are planning an event Sept. 22-23 at UC Fairgrounds; Co-packers at TechCity want to expand; youth interested in ag; 10,000 awards (2) for food deserts.

Steven Masee, Director, Veterans' Service Agency, addressed a proposed resolution initiating a home rule

message to the New York State Legislature requesting the transfer of real property owned by New York State to the County of Ulster to be used as a transitional home for veterans. The committee discussed several aspects with the committee: how many vets to be served, what are their needs and how would the Safety Net funding be affected. The committee approved the resolution.

Ann Marrott, V-P, and Dean of Enrollment Management, SUNY Ulster (UCCC), described the SUNY Ulster Scholar Program that offers scholarships to the top 10% students in high school. Mr. Harris has assisted in initiating this program. A letter has been drafted by the Mike Hein, County Executive, and Terry Bernardo, Legislative Chairman, to prospective students to inform them of the program. Legislators may sign on.

Reconvene at about 7:15 p.m.

A resolution approving Ulster County Community College Budget for the Year 2012-2013 was approved.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 6/22/12

**Laws and
Rules,
Governmental
Services
Committee**

Date: May 14, 2012

Start Time: 6:02 p.m.

Finish Time: 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order and the minutes of April 16, 2012 meeting were approved.

A proposed resolution setting a public hearing on a proposed public law entitled "Mandate and Taxation Information Act" passed.

A proposed resolution amending the rules of order of the Ulster County Legislature to establish a procedure for removing the Chairman of the Ulster County legislature was discussed by the committee and Counsel to the Legislature Erica Guerin. Legislator David Donaldson stated this is not a move to remove the current Chairman. Legislators Peter Loughran and Hector Rodriguez are to work with legislative counsel and bring back to the committee.

A late proposed resolution setting a public hearing on amended proposed local law "Hydraulic Fracturing Brine Prohibition Act" was discussed with a focus on the definition on brine and penalties. Voted.

A late proposed resolution proclaiming Friday, May 18, 2012 Distracted Driving Awareness Day in Ulster County passed.

A late proposed resolution amending a resolution the powers of and duties assigned to the Ways and Means Committee was approved.

Another late resolution proposed by Legislator Carl Belfiglio regarding a payback to taxpayers from a budget surplus was discussed but there was no second to move the motion.

New business was a discussion of a letter from the Charter Revision Commission Chairperson Cynthia Lowe and Charter with tracked changes. The letter drew comments from County Attorney Beatrice Havranek, Esq. regarding an August 14 deadline. The committee discussed some revision provisions in anticipation of a special meeting in two weeks where recommendations will be considered.

Date: May 29, 2012

Start Time: 6:05 p.m.

Finish Time: 8:28 p.m.

Special Meeting

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting to order.

The purpose of the meeting was a review of proposed Charter Revision Commission amendments or revisions to the Ulster County Charter. Counsels to Legislature Langdon Chapman and Christopher Ragucci reviewed all of the proposed changes and discussed several at length. They discussed changes and agreed to propose language changes at a subsequent meeting of the committee.

Date: June 5, 2012

Start Time: About 7:00 p.m.

Finish Time: 7:05 p.m.

Special Meeting at UCCC

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting to order.

A proposed resolution initiating a home rule message to the New York State Legislature requesting the transfer of real property owned by New York State to the County of Ulster to be used as a transitional home for veterans. Voted.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 6/22/12

**Economic
Development
& Tourism
Committee**

Date: June 6, 2012

Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

Finish Time: 6:55 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order and took attendance. The May 2, 2012, meeting minutes were approved.

A proposed resolution in support of building and operating a Class III Gaming Casino at the former Nevele Hotel site was discussed in the committee with Counsel to the Legislature, Langdon Chapman. The developer is to be invited to the next committee meeting. An environmental impact study is in the works. The resolution

was approved.

A proposed resolution requesting the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) file an annual report card (Elliott Auerbach, Comptroller, wants it) was approved.

A technical amendment to the UCDC agreement requested by the Elliott Auerbach, Comptroller, was approved.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 6/22/12

Environmental Energy & Technology Committee

Date: June 7, 2012 Start Time: 5:46 p.m. Finish Time: 8:34 p.m.

Carl Belfiglio, Chairman, called the meeting to order, took attendance. The May 3, 2012, meetings minutes were approved.

Steve Noble, Chairman of the Ulster County Environmental Management Committee – Update of Environmental Management Council (EMC) Annual Report. The EMC serves as an advisor to the UC Legislature. The CACs serve as advisors to their towns.

A proposed resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to amend the contract for audit services to execute an engagement letter to authorize the county's external independent certified auditor to issue a consent letter for the proposed Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency's 2012 Solid Waste System Revenue Refunding Bond including \$2,000 for an official statement from the bonding agency. Following discussion with Tim Rose, P.E., UCRRA Executive Director, the resolution was approved. The \$2,000 expenditure from the budget was referred to the Ways and Means Committee for clarification.

Dennis Doyle, Director, Ulster County Planning, presented an extensive review of the draft consent order and protocol on NYC Water release. Mr. Doyle, the County Chairman Terry Bernardo and County Executive Michael Hein have expressed concerns and objections to various provisions of the consent order and protocol. The committee expressed many concerns. A public hearing will be held June 19, 2012.

The Hudson Valley Regional Grant of nearly \$1m from NYSERTA for addressing green house gases has been awarded.

The committee discussed suggested revisions of the proposed local law "Hydraulic Fracturing Brine Prohibition Act" regarding brine definition, loopholes, minimum standards, and test procedures. Voted to refer to Laws and Rules Committee.

The committee discussed some UCRRA items and issues (not on the formal agenda). Legislative Chairman Bernardo wants proposals for the future of UCRRA to be made in writing. The NY legislature may be requested to approve the right to dissolve the agency. The legislature wants County Executive Michael Hein to be a partner in resolving the future of the UCRRA – a leaders meeting will be held June 27.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 6/24/12

Legislative Health and Personnel Committee

The UC Legislative Health and Personnel Committee was convened at 5:32 on June 4, 2012 by Chairman Legislator Robert Aiello and adjourned at 6:35. The next meeting is Monday, July 2, 2012.

Present: Aiello, Provenzano, Belfiglio, Parete, Rob, Ronk

Other attendees: Ken Crannell, DCE, Erica Guerin, a legislative counselor, Tammy Wilson, secretary to the committee, members of the public.

Initially, the committee took up Resolution #155 which Mr. Crannell addressed for the committee (he had to leave early). The subject of this resolution dealt with the standard work day for elected and appointed officials who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement and who exercise policy making authority.

The State Comptroller is authorized to deal with the above subject by Sections 34 and 334 of the Retirement and Social Security Law.

The State Comptroller promulgated Regulation 315.4 which imposes certain reporting requirements for elected and appointed officials of participating employers (UC is a participating employer in the State Retirement System).

This information was to have been collected and provided within 90 days of election (which was not done, which is apparently part of the reason it is being brought up now).

The list of individuals covered all appropriate personnel who meet the qualifications noted above as well as indicating the number of hours per day in their standard work day: 7, 7.5 and 8.

The committee passed the resolution; also an amendment which would include the legislators.

The second Resolution was #142. This referenced that UC Department of Mental Health would receive \$5,000 from NYS. The money, per the resolution, was to be used by the UC Department of Mental Health "to contract with Family of Woodstock to provide online parent support groups which shall provide peer support

and cross-system resource information and to produce and archive webinars and online seminars.”

During discussion Legislator Belfiglio raised questions about how the money would be used: he commented on a group that dealt with eating disorders and somewhat more than \$8,000 had been allocated for dealing with such in the 2010 budget, but zero in 2011 and 2012. His question was why some of the \$5,000 couldn't be allocated for that group. It was suggested that he bring such up during the 2013 budget sessions, which he indicated he would do.

Resolution passed as presented.

Resolution #131 covered the consolidation of the Vital Statistics Registration districts which encompass the 2 districts involving the a. Wallkill Correctional facility and the b. Eastern Correctional facility: a. would be consolidated with the T/Shawangunk Vital Statistics registration district and b. with the T/Wawarsing Vital Statistics registration district.

During discussion it was noted that the NYS Department of Corrections was in favor of consolidation, the T/Clerks of both towns were agreeable and would serve as the registrars. UC Legislature would be responsible for requesting that the NYS Commissioner of Health move forward and complete the consolidation. Resolution passed.

The minutes of the April 30 meeting were approved at this point. There was a brief review of the contract abstract.

When it was noted that there would be a public hearing on June 11 on the newly revised Sanitation Code by the UC Department of Health, there were some concerns raised regarding the concept that the Legislature should have been advised about this. The public hearing is June 11, 2012 at 7PM in the Legislative Chambers, UCOB (it was suggested that this was in place of the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health.)

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The UC Board of Health was convened on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:08 by President Dr. Marc Tack and adjourned at 7:35. The next meeting will be May 14, 2012.

Present: Dr. Tack, Ms. Authenreith, Mrs. Hilderbrandt, Dr. Delma Absent: Mrs. Veytia

Other Attendees: Dr. Hasbrouck, Dr. Heller, Cheryl Qamar, Dept. Commissioner UCMH, Katrina Kouhout, Secretary to Director DOH

Initially, Dr. Tack noted that Dr. Hasbrouck would be leaving at the end of the week to take up his new position as Commissioner of DOH for the State of Illinois. On behalf of the county and the board Dr. Tack wished him good luck.

Following approval of the March, 2012 minutes, Dr. Hasbrouck gave a brief report: he noted that Mrs. Veytia would serve as Acting Director of the DOH, as she had done for 6 months prior to his selection; and she would continue as well as Director of Patient Services;

-interviews had been held to secure a new Director of Environmental Health Services, but the committee was unsuccessful so far in filling the vacancy. As a consequence, the vacancy may continue until a new director is appointed. Denise Woodvine, an Environmental Health Manager will continue to serve as Acting Director.

-to Dr. Tack's question as to whether the section would be able to handle the upcoming demands as a result of the summer programs, Dr. Hasbrouck indicated that such matters can be handled by the people involved; cross training has been done, summer aides will be employed as in the past. Additionally, the Regional Office has been very supportive of the procedure. At this time they have not considered contacting Kevin DuMond for temporary assistance.

-Dr. Hasbrouck then reviewed the handout dealing with Synthetic Cannabinoids. These items "are a large family of chemically unrelated structures that are synthesized and marketed to mimic the action of THC, the primary psychoactive constituent of marijuana. The latter is listed as a Schedule I controlled substance in New York State, which are the most highly restricted drugs in NY and are not legal for sale to the public." From the handouts, usage appears to be in the teen and young adult population; it is packaged as incense, herbal mixtures with a variety of names: K2, Spice, Mr. Nice Guy. The most common negative effects include among other effects increased heart rate, paranoid behavior, confusion, hypertension, seizures, etc. These substances are prohibited from sale and distribution as of March 28, 2012. (Note: The information on the Synthetic Cannabinoids comes from the handouts at the meeting).

A community response plan has been initiated to deal with the subject of suicides. A coordinating committee of 15 members has been created, to meet April 26. The purpose of the committee is to handle the aftermath of suicides, ie. Managing the media, handling the related persons, etc. This was reported on by Deputy Commissioner of UC MH Cheryl Qamar.

There was a general discussion regarding Lyme Disease and how UC will be handling it. Apparently the

**Ulster County
Board of
Health**

county executive has determined the need for a task force (originally established by the UC Legislature) which has the responsibility of establishing what activities/procedures are in place in UC, what are the gaps, and then it is to decide as a group what its recommendations are to filling the gaps.

Dr. Tack noted that the process to deal with this subject involved tick identification, prevention of exposure, appropriate use of chemicals, ie. Spraying clothes to deal with such.

Dr. Heller, UC Medical Examiner reported that there were 22 calls, involving 8 site visitations, 9 autopsies, no homicides or motor vehicle accidents. So far April has been very busy, however.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The UC Board of Health scheduled a public hearing on the UC Sanitary Code June 11, 2012 at 7 PM in the UCOB. The public hear was to serve as the monthly meeting of the UC Board of Health.

Present: Dr. Tack, Chairman, Joan Authenrieth, Vice-Chairman, Mary AnnHildebrandt

Other Attendees: Commissioner Smith, Nereida Veytia, Katrina Kouthout, County Attorney Havranek, staff personnel

By 7:15 there was no quorum of the Board of Health to enable the meeting to be convened or the public hearing to be held. The public hearing notice will again be posted to be held at a future date.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors

The May 15, 2012 meeting of the T/Supervisors of Ulster County was convened by T/Shawangunk Supervisor and President John Valk at 8:33 and adjourned at 10:31. The next meeting will be June 26 rather than June 19. (see below)

Present: Shawangunk, Denning, Plattekill, Marbletown, Rosendale, Hurley, Ulster, New Paltz, Shandaken, Olive, Hardenburgh, Wawarsing, Rochester, Saugerties, T/Kingston, Marlboro

Initially, County Executive Michael Hein offered remarks on a variety of topics:

-the summer camp area owned by the Shatmar group, may go to court, if not resolved by the parties involved. His concern was that the children who will be going to camp during the summer will actually be able to do so. County involvement comes due to the need to issue a clearance certificate by the UCDOH;

-mandate in taxation act: he wants to have this covered as an insert in the tax bill, which will be useful to the taxpayers;

-safety net program: Mr. Hein stated that how this is to be handled as to paying for it must be a process which will work for everyone involved. He looks forward to more dialogue on that and the usage of the sale tax as it is applied here;

-Resource Recovery Agency: he is concerned about the costs as is Mr. Rhodes, who is the Executive Director, as they are now as well as the prospect that the costs are rising. Such a situation could adversely affect every budget;

-Tourism: apparently there have been many positive comments from the private sector: businesses, B & B, restaurants, etc. regarding what has been put together/ highlighted by the county. Mr. Hein asked that the towns respond from their perspective.

During the Q & A that followed: Mr. Valk asked whether Mr. Hein could release proposed handling of Safety Net in 2013 budget sooner so towns could evaluate such. Mr. Hein said he would and also discuss such with the towns.

Mr. Bellows asked about the MSA figures that Ulster is designated with respects to the reimbursement for the hospitals. Mr. Hein said that the reality shows such is not likely to change as this is a federal program and can't get anything through Congress legislatively.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation regarding the changes in the DEC wetlands mapping. This was handled as a power point presentation by Mr. Lithco of Jacobowitz and Gubits, LLP. He provided considerable detail regarding how wet lands are determined, changes brought about by new understanding of what wet lands are, changes that have occurred locally as a result of the storms last year, and the need to improve the process of mapping so that all concerned are involved at the outset and thru out the process rather than piece meal. The handout referenced <Http://www.dec.ny.gov/imsmaps/ERM/viewer.htm>

UC Legislative Chairman Bernardo then introduced Frank Ruggiero, the newly appointed budget analyst. He referenced some of this resume, noting he is presently enrolled in the Rockefeller Institute SUNY Albany dual bachelor's/master's program in public administration.

Mrs. Bernardo referenced the following:

- she continues to attend the town board meetings;
- the truth in taxation law is to be voted on 5-15 by the county legislature;
- she has written to both US Senators for NYS regarding their speaking out in favor of changing the MSA designation that UC presently has;
- the county legislature is currently working on the problems associated with the RRA, Safety Net;
- she is working with Sandy Mathies regarding economic development.

Under Announcements and other business:

Michael Berg of Family announced that Family has committed itself to raising \$150,000 this year to avoid cutting programs for children. He introduced Genter Spillhouse who described the Bike event to take place in the fall. His group will be in touch with fire and police departments in the towns for assistance; will also contribute financially to them as well. Additionally Family and Cornell Cooperative Extension will sponsor a Harvest Festival the same weekend for those who come with the bikers to be able to enjoy the time.

Supervisor Leifeld, Treasurer announced all members were paid; and the group had over \$6000 in its treasury.

As a result of the Pattern for Progress 2012, Conference on local government (The Crisis in Public Financing, etc.) which will take place June 19, the group changed its June meeting date from June 19 to June 26 to accommodate those who will participate in that conference as well as just attend.

There was an extensive discussion among the supervisors regarding fracking in general, as well as their specific positions pro and con.

Supervisor Quigley T/Ulster reported that he had attended the Inter-municipal Council meeting as Supervisor Valk was unable to do so. One of the points that he quoted Mr. Hein as stating was that the county was more than willing to take over the Safety Net program as long as the towns paid for it and gave up the sales tax sharing. Mr. Quigley voiced some concerns about that.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Ulster County
Resource
Recovery
Agency**

UCRRA Meeting June 18, 2012 3:30pm

In attendance: Board Members: Dennis Helm, Leon Smith, Al Teetsel, Charles Landi Catherine Nilsen. Staff: Tim Rose, Stephen Wing, Tim DeGraff, Carlie Whittaker, Michelle Bergkamp.

Shirley Kobran introduced herself to the group.

Chairman Smith commented on a MidHudson News article that contained information that was inaccurate. He will bring it up at the next meeting of the Legislative Committee (EET).

Tim Rose reported that the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) projections have been close to actual material brought in. Recycling totals are down, especially for co-mingled material. Leachate collection is proportional to the amount of rain. The Agency collects at Ulster, New Paltz, Hurley, Jockey Hill & Lloyd.

Michelle Bergkamp made her Recycling Update. There will be a HHW/Pharmaceutical/Electronic Collection on July 21st at the Region 3 DEC property in New Paltz. You must register (they already have 150).

The Agency won a grant and will be offering 150 Recycling Containers to Towns for use at public events. Tim Rose explained that Michelle is "an excellent grantwriter" as evidenced by winning this highly competitive grant. She also writes grants to cover half of her own salary. Because of a grant the Agency will begin a pilot composting facility in July. A story about the Agency's program will be in the July national magazine BIOCYCLE. An example of the educational material Michelle is designing was passed out. The composting will be for commercial entities only. There was a discussion on the need for more public education. Charlie Landi will accompany Tim Rose to see the system at Onodaga County.

Tim DeGraff made his Treasurers Report. The Board accepted reports for both April & May. There was a discussion on issues with haulers that will be addressed when they go out to bid. They also discussed the weight of trucks leaving the facility.

The Board discussed Flow Control Legislation. Leon Smith said he had met with representatives from the UC Legislature. He called for the Board to vote to recommend Flow Control. Stephan Wing assured Charlie Landri that a legal challenge could be defended. Tim Rose said he believed the Agency would need a Code Enforcement Officer. The Board voted for Flow Control.

There was a discussion on the formula used to develop net service fees.

Tim Rose spoke about a visit of an International Team from India and the Department of State. The DEC arraigned the tour because they felt that UCRRA offered a good representation of a solid waste disposal

facility.

There will be a 5 Year Capitol Plan prepared for the next meeting.

The Board voted to pay for a letter that the auditors had to write for the refinancing of the bonds.

The Board was given information on a Lechate Study that is being proposed. The consultants will be at the next meeting to answer questions.

Tim Rose advised the Board that the bids to fix the Landfill Slide varied from 44K to 180K. FEMA is supposed to help the Agency pay.

At 4:45 the Board went into Executive Session.

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

