



Commentator

MAY 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		
MAY		
24	Thurs. 6 pm on	LWV MHR Annual Meeting , Esopus Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen. Pot Luck Supper followed by 7 pm business meeting and remarks by (and Q & A with) long-time area Ulster Co. journalist, Hugh Reynolds . Area high school "Students Inside Albany" will also report on their trip. For more info: Dare Thompson, 845-236-3074, darethompson@gmail.com
JUNE		
5	Tues. 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
7	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.
11	Mon. 10 am	Dutchess Shared Services Committee meeting , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, echarwat@yahoo.com
12	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
		Discussion and consensus meeting on the proposed Ulster County charter revisions - time and date TBA. Contact Dare Thompson, 845-236-3074 or darethompson@gmail.com, for details.

Dues Are Due!

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

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool?
Contact: Dare Thompson: darethompson@gmail.com
(845) 236-3074

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 24, 6 pm

Town of Esopus Library
128 Canal Street, Port Ewen
(845) 338-5580, www.esopuslibrary.org

Featuring:

Pot Luck Supper
Remarks by Students Inside Albany
SHORT Annual Business Meeting

and

Special Guest:

Hugh Reynolds of Ulster Publishing

We've given him carte blanche, so watch out. He "knows where the bodies are buried" and is not afraid to tackle anyone – even US! (Heaven forbid!) He'll also take questions about what's really going on at the County Office Building and elsewhere.

NOTE: our new fiscal year begins June 1. **Dues are due!** Bring your checkbook!

Prez Sez...

May is the final month of our League year and I feel poised between the past and future.

We just sent out membership renewal notices and I trust you feel we've earned another year of your membership support.

To those who've been doing the "earning" and to those who've already joined, many thanks! We have had an amazing year.

If you're NOT a member yet and are reading this, **now's the time to join!** There is no other group on either side of the river doing the type or breadth of work we're doing.

For both new, continuing, and potential members, the **Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 24** is an event you won't want to miss. In addition to a brief business meeting, there will be reports from the two Saugerties HS students who participated in our state LWV's **Students Inside Albany** program. Hearing what our local teens learned about life at the State House is always interesting and entertaining and we're so glad to have worked with the **Saugerties League** on this project. Kudos to **LWVNYS** for another super job lining up speakers (including lobbyists like our own **Barbara Bartoletti**) and connecting students with their legislators. What an incomparable exposure to state politics!

As if that weren't enough, the meeting will also include the always surprising and informative Ulster Publishing journalist, **Hugh Reynolds**. An informal bio he sent is included below and I can't top that, but I'll just add that his column is the first thing I turn to in the New Paltz Times for the latest insights into the plays and players in county politics.

As for the future, you know we'll be following the **Charter Revision Commission** and once their work is finished, we'll be speaking out on those areas where we agree or don't. Mostly we feel very good about the work they've done. It's been conscientious and all the proposed changes are at least very thoughtful ones. Check the calendar for an opportunity to learn more.

We'll also be monitoring the **Resource Recovery Agencies** in both Dutchess and Ulster and deciding how we think they should respond to the new state "Beyond Waste" plan.

Beyond that, the **Shared Services** Committees in both Dutchess and Ulster are moving forward and welcoming new members, there seems to be an **anti-hydro-fracking** group forming, and the **Observer Corps** volunteers continue to attend meetings and make the elected and appointed officials nervous with their energetic note-taking!

Help us make YOUR government work. Join our efforts in whatever way works for you. And if you're not a member, please ask yourself *REALLY, WHY NOT?* Every county needs a strong League of Women Voters and members create that strength.

*Dare***ANNUAL MEETING – HUGH REYNOLDS BIO**

Born in Watertown raised in Dutchess County. Attended Poughkeepsie/Rhinebeck schools, Marist College, SUNY-New Paltz. Navy vet-Seabees. Stationed in Spain and Germany., Davisville, R.I.

Worked at IBM (briefly) after service. Poughkeepsie Journal (briefly), Daily Freeman (34 years). Founded and owned Ulster County Gazette (1976-84). Numerous awards for survival.

Political editor of Daily Freeman 1984-2008. Columnist for Ulster Publishing- 2008 to present. Interviewed every governor since Clinton (Dewitt). But seriously, from Rockefeller on. Wrote three columns and six editorials a week at the gulag called the Freeman for over 20 years. Served on editorial board.

Active in veterans affairs: four-time commander of Post 150 American Legion. March with Legion Color Guard.

Former board member of Kingston Library Association, Children's Home of Kingston, Red Cross, Kingston Newspaper Guild. Judge in journalism, beauty contests (pretty much the same thing), Local access TV co-host, TV and radio appearances too humorous to mention. Lectured from grade school to college.

Former runner, softball player/manager, bowler, bar hopper. Sang with Elvis Band and at son's wedding (Joy to the World).

Student of government propaganda, history, biography. History buff. Car buff. Drives snazzy convertible babe magnet. Avid gardener, grass man. Golfer. Likes to walk. Widely traveled, Europe, U.S., western hemisphere. Two adult sons, one a lawyer, the other a social worker. Two grandchildren.

Occasionally revered by readers, feared by subjects. Guiding principle: comfort the afflicted; afflict the comfortable, expose pomposity, avarice, and greed. Try to treat people fairly. Golden rule works most of the time.

When asked for a bio, this is what Hugh Reynolds sent. Those of you who have been following Hugh's journalism for decades will particularly enjoy the surprises it contains.

But you Dutchess folks who perhaps don't even know his name should also get a kick out of it!

Come meet the man in person on May 24. Even the LWV will probably not escape a poke or two.

**MEMBERSHIP
NEWS****NEW MEMBERS**

Thanks to the enthusiastic and able leadership of Cindy Lanzetta, the **Solid Waste Study Committee** has not only accomplished great things in our two counties but it has added NINE remarkable new members to the League this past year! The committee usually meets 2nd Tuesdays at 5:30 at the Gateway Diner in Highland and the discussion is always lively. Other long-time members who attend are **Manna Jo Greene, Emilie Hauser, and Dare Thompson**. Here is Cindy's bio along with bios of those great new members.

Cindy Lanzetta, long-time member with her husband, Al, joined the League of Women Voters when she was introduced to the "original" Garbage Lady - Shirley Kobran. "I was a young mother looking to raise awareness about environmental issues and I couldn't have found a better fit. I was mentored by the best people who taught me how to focus, educate myself, be patient and take action. It's twenty plus years later and we are revisiting the handling of Solid Waste in Ulster and Dutchess Counties and I am, again, surrounded by a group of exceptional people who want to make a difference in the conversation on Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Composting."

Kathie and Paul Beinkafner grew up in the Albany area and have been Ulster residents since 1986 (in Clintondale since '98). Kathie has a doctorate in geology from Syracuse University and works as a consulting hydrogeologist. An important facet of her professional work involves representing homeowner groups to make sure the SEQRA process is followed with respect to water issues. She served on the board of Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. Recently she testified against hydrofracking at a NY Senate Forum. Her business, Mid-Hudson Geosciences, was a generous supporter of the League's solid waste conference at SUNY New Paltz last fall. Paul is a retired maintenance supervisor. Together they are avid fruit and vegetable gardeners, jam-makers, and camper van travelers.

Susan Holland lives in a little cottage in Ulster Park (Town of Esopus) with three cats and a dog. An avid quilter and reader, she has been a technical writer at IBM for the past 24 years. She is the public policy chairperson for the Kingston branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She is a lifelong environmentalist, a dedicated "fractivist," and "a sort of a Johnny Appleseed of recycling who recycles wherever she goes." She recently joined LWV MHR "because I have so enjoyed working on the solid waste committee with such a great group of people."

Jolanda Jansen is a Dutch Civil Engineer, New Zealand Environmentalist, and American Attorney, focusing on the Mid-Hudson Region as her theatre of operation, and hoping that the League of Women Voters "will help me integrate my multiple identities."

Janet and Ken Kraft own the Crafted Kup coffeehouse on Raymond Avenue in Poughkeepsie. Ken, retired, was the Public Works Superintendent for the Village of Croton on Hudson and helped them achieve a top three highest recycling rate per person in Westchester County. He ran the sanitation and recycling program in Croton on Hudson for 12 years and is the Past President of both the Westchester County Association of Public Works Administrators and the American Public Works Association, NY Metro chapter. Janet is not necessarily retired but now only works part time as a Dietetic Technician on an on-call basis. Most of her time is spent making sure the right thing is done at the Crafted Kup.

Laura Petit is recycling coordinator for the Town of New Paltz and served two terms as a Ulster County legislator. She wrote the resolution to adopt a Climate Action Committee and pledge for Ulster County to reduce its carbon footprint. A resident of Port Ewen, she served on the Esopus Library Board for three terms during the building of the new "green" library. Laura is coordinating the Zero Waste Action Plan for New Paltz with Region II EPA and Region III DEC partners which is a pilot program that will be shared nationally. Her commitment to the environment happened through interaction with League members (and mentors) Manna Jo Greene, Shirley Kobran and Elizabeth Askue.

Pete Robbins is a resident of Stone Ridge and serves on the Marbleton Environmental Conservation Commission. He is a graduate of the Permaculture Design Course, passed the entry level test in fundamentals of photovoltaic design and installation from North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP), was trained in Biodiversity Assessment by Hudsonia, is on the Biofuels sub-committee of the Zero Waste initiative in New Paltz, and is working to produce fuel from organic food waste.

Sarah Womer, the founder of Zero to Go, produced the first two electronics waste recycling events in Beacon. She has been actively participating in local and sustainable organizations for the past five years. This work includes acting as Board Secretary for the former Hudson Valley Materials Exchange (now the New Paltz Reuse Center), Business Manager for Peoples Bicycle, and writing contributor to the Green Guru Network. She is currently organizing an electronics recycling day for 5/19 in Beacon, and developing a reuse/recycling business.

PROGRAM NEWS

“Zeroing in on New Paltz: How Our Community Can Be a National Model for Waste Reduction”

(A LWMHR co-sponsored event)

Thursday, March 29, SUNY New Paltz

The meeting was very well attended. Everyone who's anyone in the solid waste issues as it affects New Paltz was there - from Judith Erck, head of Region 2 of the EPA, to county Executive Hein, Mayor West, and Supervisor Zimet. Judith's presentation amused and inspired us. Dave Vitale, the top guy on this issue at the state DEC, was his usual enthusiastic, helpful and easy-to-listen-to self.

It is exciting that New Paltz was picked and that we have such great allies cheering us on, and that the League is part of it all.

Even in a group of committed environmentalists like this much education is needed. Even one of our best sources of up-to-date information on solid waste got some clarifying information from the executive director of UCRRA. This not an easy issue and it was generally agreed that education is a key factor in the endeavor. However there was a general optimism that improvement in solid waste disposal can be made. A goal has been set for zero waste has been set for the year 2020.

It was encouraging that so many young were present and actively taking part.

The meeting was run with as little paper waste as possible by using mostly projected media rather than paper and requiring that any paper distributed be on recycled paper.

Because 30% of solid waste at this time is organic, composting of organic material needs to be a main focus if we are to reduce solid waste. This is already in the plans but more needs to be done.

Many recycling ideas were generated by the break-out groups:

- Community sharing of tools

- Returning organic waste to farmers for composting or foraging

- Charging fees to residential and commercial consumers for discarding unsorted waste

Encouraging a greater use of recycled materials of all kinds including clothing, office materials, home appliances, etc.

Setting up and using already available websites that give consumers information as to where to donate or to find recycled goods

The present method of transporting solid waste across state creates its own environmental problems

It was generally agreed that education is a key factor in the endeavor.

The local refreshments served were delicious and served on compostable or reusable tableware.

Dorothy Winrow

“End the Confusion!”

a “Hot Topics” Event on Recycling

Thursday, April 12th



Photo: William Calogero, Sarah Womer, Dare Thompson, Michelle Bergkamp, Lindsay Carille, Chris Coady

The League sponsored another “Hot Topics” meeting on Solid Waste. This time it was all about Recycling. The event took place at the theater room at “Vineyard Commons” in Highland. League members met early to dine at the Commons “Bistro.” At 7 the public joined us for a forum moderated by League members Dare Thompson and Sarah Womer. (Sarah is an expert on recycling, herself – having recently been honored by the Dutchess Chamber for her Zero to Go business.)

Our panel consisted of William Calogero, Executive Director of the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency; Lindsay Carille, Dutchess County Solid Waste Coordinator, Michelle Bergkamp, Ulster County Recycling Coordinator, and Chris Coady, Regional Business Development Manager for ReCommunity Recycling (formerly Hudson-Baylor). We also had a surprise guest in the audience – Terry Laibach, Region 3 Solid Waste Expert from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The purpose of the forum was to educate the public as to what items can be recycled. After introductions, members of the audience had lots of questions. We learned that, though there are more items than ever that can be recycled; one really needs to know who is collecting the recyclables and where they are going. For instance, you could live in Ulster County, but your private hauler may be taking your recyclables to Dutchess, and vice versa. (How handy that we had experts from both counties there!)

Rules for single stream collection are different from rules at transfer stations. The entire panel agreed that the hope was to work towards a unified system. They also believed that a comprehensive regional approach to recycling & composting is key. Because of the hodge-podge collection system, enforcement of recycling regulations has been a huge frustration for both Agencies.

The subject of composting also came up in the discussions since organics represent 30% of the waste stream – but that's a matter for a future “Hot Topics”!

We encourage the public to view the following websites for additional information:

www.dcrra.org ; www.ucrra.org ; www.zerotogo.org

Cindy Lanzetta, LWV Solid Waste Committee Chair

“Iron-Jawed Angels”**March 28th**

They were votin' fools in my family. Never missed a chance to hit the ballot box. And my grandmother was right up there, thinking, weighing, deciding. And sometimes, in her quiet way, arguing.

I remembered Nana during last month's LWV presentation of Iron Jawed Angels. As the vanguard of young women, notably Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) sought to wrest the vote from an angry all male government, Nana was running her household and bearing her thirteen babies.

Women won – by a hair – and got the vote in 1920. Nana was 41. She could then join her husband and oldest son in the family sport. (My grandfather once caused a family row by arbitrarily postponing their move from Port Ewen to Brooklyn, so determined was he not to miss the 1932 presidential election.)

The early days in the long fought battle for women's suffrage was just lightly sketched in Katja von Garnier's "Iron Jawed Angels." She concentrated on the last battles: the parade on the day before President Wilson's Inauguration; the long vigils in front of the White House; physical attacks by hordes of men; accusations of treason; arrests; forced feeding. Representing the old guard which disapproved of the younger women's assertive tactics was Angelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt*, an on-again-off-again ally who came through in the end, finally confronting President Wilson.

These women won the vote for us. And then, except for the occasional obligatory mention, they fell into near obscurity. Why? We could note a major depression (my grandfather lost his Hudson River tugboat "The Mary Rose" named after my mother); a devastating war; a desperate rush to "normalcy" with women pushed out of jobs to make way for returning veterans.

But through it all my grandmother voted. Along with my mother, my aunts and finally, me.

My friends and I, the self-described feminists of the Sixties, took several years to realize our debt to 19th and 20th century women who gave our Nanans the vote.

Thanks to Katja von Garnier's powerful film, we may not forget again. I would love to read stories in the The Commentator about the recollections of LWV members whose ancestors include pioneers in the education, business, sciences and, of course, the suffragist cause.

Anne Needham



*Carrie Chapman Catt was selected by Susan B. Anthony to succeed her as head of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. This organization, with her encouragement, became the League of Women Voters in February 1920. As New Yorkers we can be proud that in the last half of her life she lived in New York City. Briarcliff Manor and New Rochelle. She died at age 88 in 1947 and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

VOTER SERVICE**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. 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)

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 Ackeley. Acting Solid Waste Commissioner, November 13, 2009 at

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

**Dutchess
County
Shared
Services
Committee
Update**

**Fairview Fire District Consolidation Study Public Meeting
March 22, 2012 at Poughkeepsie Town Hall**

About 60 people attended the public meeting to hear the initial findings of the study being conducted by Pace University of the feasibility of the Fairview Fire District consolidating or sharing services with neighboring fire districts, i.e. City of Poughkeepsie, Arlington Fire District, Hyde Park Fire and Water District, Roosevelt Fire District and Staatsburg Fire District.

About half of the audience was firefighters. The rest were taxpayers plus a couple of representatives of the NY State Real Property Office and the Department of State (who funded the study).

Michael Genito, a professor at Pace, made a PowerPoint presentation of the study and introduced other members of the study team who had expertise in the operation and management of fire districts, the financial aspects and the legal aspects. Ayeshah Parker is handling the survey part of the study for Pace.

The initial findings, the survey, the PowerPoint presentation, and a videotape of the meeting are on the web site for the study: www.sites.google.com/site/fairviewstudy/

Genito mentioned a couple of issues that were uncovered in the study:

- Under current state law, the City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department cannot consolidate with towns or other districts; for the other fire districts, no public vote is necessary for consolidation
- The Hyde Park district has some debt from equipment purchases that would have to be considered in any consolidation
- Who has the title to fire district properties would have to be investigated

Genito stressed that the results of the study would be findings, but NOT recommendations for action; that is up to the fire commissioners and the districts to determine

Time line:

--Next week - Surveys – 7,500 surveys will be mailed to a random sample of households in the affected fire districts. These come from voter registration rolls.

In addition, on-line surveys will be tallied – only one per household is allowed and screened so no duplications can get through from the same computer

I suggested placing paper copies in libraries, town halls and asking the Poughkeepsie Journal to publish it. I will follow up with a letter to Ayeshah and Michael.

--End of April - Surveys will be compiled and there will be another public meeting and a presentation of more complete findings, for example details on suggested location of fire stations, the impact of consolidation, legal impacts, etc

--End of May - the final study will be complete

June – a final public meeting will be held to present the study

Questions:

I asked about whether the study was looking at the consolidation of just the emergency medical services and was told that was not in the present scope of the study, but would have to be requested by the Fairview fire district. Other questions or comments from the audience (the non-firefighters) dealt with the public's frustration at not being allowed to vote on fire district budgets, not being listened to at budget hearings, and disgust at the high taxes, especially for fire districts.

NOTE To follow all the news on this issue you might want to go to the AFD-Reporter at <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9e7a0a897c11f47ab3b149c2a&id=e0a26b5c3d&e=5e81f95ea1>

Notes by Ellie Charwat

**ULSTER
COUNTY
OBSERVER
CORP**

LWVMHR Observer Corp - April 17, 2012 - Meeting Notes

Present: Lee Cane, Shirley Kobran, Vic Melville, Lee Ridgway, Margaret Sellers, Dare Thompson

Coverage: Lee R: Laws and Rules, W&M, Public Works

Lee C: Board of Health, Town Supervisors, Health and Personnel, GHLDL

Vic: Environmental, Energy & Tech, Economic Development, Laws & Rules, Legislative Programs

Margaret has attended a few Charter Revision sessions.

Observer Highlights:

Lee Cane reported that at a recent meeting (which was not one on the original schedule), only 4 out of 7 members were in attendance. Not all members are fully participating in the discussion. The Supervisors are going along in good form as usual. The Board of Health is in transition with the new Commissioner.

Vic reported that the RRA Board needs a close, non-passionate observer. There is the possibility of problems

and lack of clarity. The RRA Board is responding with guarded attitude and statements to the oversight that the Legislative Committee (Environment) is trying to provide. Dare suggested Susan Holland.

Lee Ridgway said that her committees were either not meeting or having short meetings.

UC Legislative functioning:

Vic sees improvement in trying to deal with policy. Lee C. sees no change.

Charter Revision:

We partially reviewed our meeting with Dr. Benjamin which covered the proposed Charter amendments but particularly the question of how we could help the Legislature's attention to policy. He suggested taking the study that his group had done, bringing pieces of the study that suggest where improvements can be made to the attention of the relevant committees as prospective policy issues. (Perhaps the League could advocate for more systematic evaluation of policy suggestions derived from such studies, if we are not ready to make our own recommendations.)

Margaret Sellers

Golden Hill LDC

During the month of April, 2012 the Board of Directors of the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation (GHLDC) met four times: April 4, 11, 18, 24. This is a summary covering those meetings.

While these were business meetings of the Board, the agendas allotted time to devote to interviews with Harris Beach, the law firm and those companies which had responded to the LDC's request for qualifications (RFQ) one of which would be hired as consultant in the sale of the Golden Hill Health Care Center (GHHCC), the county nursing home.

Background:

The GHLDC Corporate officers are : President Robert Sudlow, Treasurer J.J. Hanson, and Secretary Michael Bernholz. The Board of Directors are Chairman Dare Thompson, Vice-Chairman Marshall Beckman, Secretary Jeanette Provenzano and Robert Sudlow, Dr. Michele Iannuzzi, Michael Bernholz, and J. J. Hanson. The members of the corporation and the Board of Directors were nominated by the County Executive, the Chairman of the UC Legislature and the Minority Leader of the UC Legislature.

Those nominated by the Chairman of the UC Legislature were among 10 individuals interviewed by the Ways and Means Committee on February 27, 2012 and March 1, 2012 and then recommended for nomination to the Chairman by the committee (Note: a full summary of the committee's two meetings was published in the April, 2012 Commentator).

The LDC certificate of incorporation and its by-laws were approved at a meeting February 17, 2012. (Note: a full summary of that meeting may be found in the March, 2012 Commentator).

Additionally, the LDC has a mission statement. It is charged with transferring the land and facilities of the GHHCC to the highest qualified bidder. In determining such the LDC shall examine, where applicable, among the qualifications of the bidder's: competency and character; history of employee relations and practices; quality of care of residents; record of retaining facilities subsequent to acquisition; willingness to agree to build a new facility at the site; willingness to continue to care for all existing residents at the time of acquisition (unless otherwise indicated by the NYS Department of Health criteria); financial stability; and willingness to consider existing staff as potential employees.

Generally most of the board members were present at most of these meetings. This raised a concern that was expressed more than once. While the directors acknowledged awareness that not everyone could be at every meeting due to other commitments, or might need to leave early, it appeared that attendance should be considered a priority.

Five of the directors are employed; two are retired. As a consequence it was suggested that discussion take place at the end of each meeting to ensure that the time of the next meeting be clear to everyone.

Coupled with the above concern was the expressed need to move forward as quickly as possible in order to avoid having the facility as part of the 2014 or 2015 budget process. This was viewed as another reason to make sure that the directors were present, particularly when the board commenced its interviews for potential consultants in selling the GHHCC.

During the time devoted to the regular business agendas of these meetings the members:

- reviewed and approved the minutes of the meetings;

- have been advised by the Public Authority (PA) office that the LDC did not have to file an annual report for 2011. This was due to not having conducted any material business or any financial business since being founded in 2011. At Legislator Provenzano's request a statement to that effect would be sent to the PA office;

- were advised about the development of the LDC website. It was noted that this was being done to be as transparent as possible with regards to the LDC process. This was being worked on by Mr. Hanson with the county finance office and is expected to be ready shortly: www.co.ulster.ny.us ;

-were advised that following work with the county finance office, a Tax ID # has been obtained and a bank account established for the LDC. It should be noted that the LDC does not have any money at this time, but it is incurring bills. Once the bonds are sold (\$8 million) and the amount for expenses (\$1.3 million) then the LDC can pay its obligations. (Note: the \$1.3 million was set aside in the 2012 county budget for the LDC expenses). Until the bonds are sold an Administrative Services Agreement between the county and the LDC is being drawn up since the LDC doesn't have any money. The LDC must repay the county;

-reviewed /discussed the requests for qualifications (RFQ) for those interested in assisting the board in the buyer selection process. Apparently the potential group of companies who specialize in this type of work is limited. Once the responses were received the group eventually discussed when to arrange the interviews, the type of questions to be asked. As the meetings progressed, the group developed the questions to be asked, how much time was to be allocated for each interview and established the times for interviews which were to take place during the last two meetings in April;

-discussed the county commitment to the present residents at GHHCC that none would lose their beds;

-reviewed and examined the property map of the facility, the land upon which it stands as well as the additional acreage which amounts to about 27 acres in all (includes the old jail and UCMH acreage as well). In keeping with this was the expressed expectation that a new nursing home would be built;

-reviewed the fact that the county would be surrendering its license to run the GHHCC as well as selling the land. The prospective buyer would be required to go through the certificated of need (CON) process with the NYS Department of Health and to obtain its own license to operate the GHHCC. It was noted that this CON process could take 20-24 months to complete. This was another reminder to the board of why a qualified buyer was being sought by September, 2012 so that the facility would not be part of the 2014 or 2015 budget; and

-were advised that there is mandatory training (as members of a Public Authority of which the LDC is) for the board members. It can be done on line (www.abc.state.ny.us/boardtraining); 15 people at a time; 9:30-12:30 is the time allotted by the authority; it is interactive: once must participate during the sessions.

-The board devoted the meetings of April 11, 18, and 24 to conducting interviews associated with its principal responsibility of handling the sale of the GHHCC.

The first set of interviews dealt with questions about who would be the general counsel and bond counsel to the LDC. The board spent considerable time discussing the proposal submitted by Harris Beach to perform both services. The following points were made:

-if the proposal is adopted a contract would have to be drawn up, the county attorney would "shepherd" the LDC through this process;

-Legislator Provenzano raised a question about having a separate bond counsel. While she had no problem having Harris Beach as general counsel, she noted there were some legislators who had spoken to her about having Harris Beach act as bond counsel as well and whether this was appropriate. Mr. Johnson, at Mr. Beckman's request explained that Harris Beach had one client, the LDC, there was no conflict of interest, therefore Harris Beach could handle both aspects. To a question raised later as to why some companies have two separate counsels, Mr. Johnson said this can occur if the general counsel does not have the expertise as a bond counsel. Mr. Beckman requested that the concerns of those who spoke to Legislator Provenzano be put in writing so LDC can address such directly with Harris Beach, this request was agreed to by the board.

Following some additional discussion, the Board voted to accept Harris Beach as general counsel. Additionally, the board voted to advise Harris Beach to submit a proposal as soon as possible noting what the costs would be for the LDC if Harris Beach acted as bond counsel as well.

At the April 18 meeting the above matter was again on the agenda. Justin Miller of Harris Beach was introduced by Mr. Johnson. He was attending the meeting as representative of Harris Beach as general counsel. Chairman Thompson asked Legislator Provenzano whether she had received any further information from those in the legislature who had questioned having the same person/company serve as bond counsel as well as general counsel. The response was no she had not received anything in writing as she had expected to.

The group then asked a variety of questions of Mr. Miller and discussed the various points. Legislator Provenzano had previously raised the point that Ulster County had always had a bond counsel in the past. The question here was what was the difference? Mr. Miller indicated that Harris Beach has the experience to handle both positions. He suggested that when there are two separate companies involved it most frequently is due to the general counsel not having the experience as a bond counsel. He suggested that what makes the bonds marketable is that there is a lease attached to them. The LDC will market the bonds. The county obtains a lease from the LDC to operate the facility and in turn pays dollars to the LDC.

Discussion on RFP and RFQ (Qualifications) followed. The latter could be done first and then the former. Legislator Provenzano stated that she wants to have all things that the LDC wants in a buyer to be included in the RFP.

The costs that would be involved that the LDC would be responsible for would include among other things: fees for professional services, items such as photocopying, delivery charges, long distance telephone calls, travel, etc.

Mr. Hanson pointed out that at present the LDC does not have any money and wont until the bonds are sold and the LDC has received such proceeds as it will.

The question was then asked about how long the bond process would take. Mr. Miller indicated 4-8 weeks. The LDC could submit a proposal to several banks if it wants to or to one bank that has county accounts. Here also were possible costs that the LDC would be responsible for: fees to pay for bonds, legal counsel: all fees/expenses incurred are reimbursable. Only the amount of bonds needed would be sold, ie. \$8 million plus expenses. He also pointed out that the Finance Committee of the board would lay out the procedure.

The board completed this portion of its agenda by adopting an amendment to the original motion which, in this instance, approved engaging Harris Beach as the bond counsel (in addition to being the general counsel to the LDC) at rates reflective of those for general counsel.

The final item on the agenda for April 18 was the interview with the representatives of Marcus and Millichap. This is one of the companies that responded to the LDC's request for qualifications to be provided by any company seeking to be hired as a consultant in the selection of the buyer for the Golden Hill Health Care Center.

This was very lengthy, detailed presentation followed by an extensive number of questions directed to the representatives. When the interview process was completed, the board moved into executive session at about 8 PM. This observer left at that point since it was an executive session.

Initially, Mr. Myers provided general background about the company, himself and his associate: he has had 18 years of experience, introduced his associate, Josh Jandris, who has 6 years of experience. He went on to describe the company: 70 plus offices nationwide, about 1000 representatives, in operation since 1970, and represent owners of property/business, have a fiduciary responsibility to the sellers.

For the next part of the presentation Mr. Myers used a power point presentation (material distributed to the board): among other areas that were noted:

- factors effecting owners and operators of skilled nursing facilities in NY State: from transition to regional pricing 6-1-11 to the introduction of managed care in 2-1-112;

- other factors effecting county owners and operators essentially a variety of fiscal considerations from the introduction of the hard property tax-cap -2011 to unsustainable employment agreements to above market salaries and automatic wage increases to double digit increases in legacy costs (same for health insurance premiums)to overstaffing;

Other points that were made:

- the company brings in prospective buyers from all over the country;

- a new union would become part of the picture; which, while it would have good benefits, will not be as high as what the county employees presently have;

- they will help "craft" the RFP; made a point that the LDC must be clear at the front end as to the restrictions that buyer must adhere to, as well as what restrictions will be placed on the sale, which will define what type of buyer responds;

- buyers must be properly vetted, such items as financial papers, bank statements, properties that are owned, qualities of the other facilities owned by the potential buyers;

- immediately following the selection of the buyer, the latter must put up 10% of the purchase price, which is not refundable.

Mr. Myers indicated what the process would be called: Proposed Marketing Timeline: He noted that the timeline assumed a hire date of Marcus and Millichap by the LDC of 4/20/12. The pace at which this process is run can be determined by the LDC. The date line that he provided moved from the April 20, 2012 hire date through April, 2013. During that 12 month period a variety of tasks would be undertaken and accomplished: creating market materials, distribution of such; development of a password-protected data room; calls for offers, deadlines for proposals, tours of potential buyer facilities, licensure submission by buyer to NYSDOH to approval of such and closing.

Mr. Hanson asked about the services that the company would provide during this period. Mr. Myers again provided an extensive list of items: assist the LDC in creating its RFP, notice of sale, asset purchase agreement (APA), will make 400-500 calls per week to potential buyers, answer any questions pertaining to the asset and sales process, coordinate tours in conjunction with the LDC, assist seller and winning bidder with all related matters to the sale and purchase of the facility and a number of other items as well.

If Marcus and Millichap is hired it would have to examine the facility and site to determine how the RFP would

be set up; would recommend putting out parameters in market places as to what the LDC is looking for.

When question raised about selling additional property at Golden Hill, Mr. Myers indicated he did not think anything beyond the facility and the land it occupied would be considered by a potential buyer.

As to Marcus and Millichap's fee: Mr. Jandris indicated that there are no retainers; the company works on contingency fee (in this instance 2.75% of sale price), and the company sees dollars only if the sale is actually completed.

Tours of the GHHCC: it was recommended that such should include the director and other management personnel from the Center; if more than one bidder involved at one time that they be kept separate and the LDC should ensure that the potential buyers are not questioned by staff.

As noted above when the interview was completed, the board moved into executive session at about 8 PM and this observer left.

At the meeting on April 24 the next interview, which was with Loeb & Troper (L &T), was held.

Mr. Sudlow introduced the two representatives of Loeb & Troper: Deborah Lynch and Gerry Adest. Ms. Lynch was the principal presenter.

To start Ms. Lynch described L & T: established in 1919; handles audit, tax and health care consulting; and strategic planning and over site. There are 20 partners, over 140 others who deal with the health care and not for profit businesses. The staff has been with the company for many years, i.e. at least 15 years (she has been a member for only 10 years); the company serves the tri-state area: New York, New Jersey and Connecticut; and according to the handout, the company has over 800 clients in that region.

L & T's main focus is mergers, acquisitions and sales; offers a broad spectrum of services, considerable experience in working with not for profits, public and county nursing facilities and the NYS Department of Health.

Commented on the most visible work which was noted in the handout: regular sale and three through bankruptcy process: former took about 9 months to finalize; and \$161,000 was the price per bed that was realized.

As they understood things the GHLDC wants to continue the service through a buyer who will provide quality care as well as obtaining the best possible price. They are also familiar with the CON process which the successful bidder must complete with the NYS DOH to eventually obtain its license.

As part of their service they evaluate the successful bidder's finances: what are its financial resources; will it be able to meet the financial demands going forward; how well is the bidder performing in their other facilities.

There were questions asked by the Board:

-it has been suggested that nursing homes know how to work surverys so they will get good grades. What has been L & T's experience with such? Ms. Lynch indicated it does occur, but it is not a major concern. Adest pointed out that having more people employed does not necessarily mean the residents will receive better care. Most operators they deal with are known to them and are operating very successfully.

How many nursing homes have they sold? It did not appear that there were any.

They contact known buyers and review L & T's data base as well to find additional potential buyers. L & T can arrange a RFEExpression of interest or RFP.

Has it been difficult to find any who wants to build? Mr. Adest noted no one really wants to build a new facility due most likely to the changes in reimbursement and the introduction of managed care. Apparently the situation is such that building a new facility will not get the money back any time soon to whoever borrows it.

For facilities needing renovation, the process of selling is going very slowly at this time. Mention was made that a sprinkler system has been mandated to be installed in all such facilities by April 2013 by law in New York State.

The question of whether L & T had experience dealing with situations where public sector unions have been transitioned into private ones was raised. The reference was that a situation like that, the union became a 1199: benefits wont be as "rich" as the county is providing at this time.

To the question what was L & T's billing arrangements, Ms. Lynch indicated 2.5 % of the sale price. Initially, if selected to handle the sale L & T would expect a retainer of \$25,000 and a monthly stipend to offset expenses.

Potential buyers would look at the facility to determine what needs to be done, what is found could lower the final sale price. Further on in the discussion, Ms. Lynch indicated that significant plant needs could "scare off potential buyers."

The LDC wants to meet the 2013 deadline. To do so Ms. Lynch pointed out that the process takes as long as it does through the CON process. Apparently it is up to the LDC how fast it is willing to move. As to the deadline above, Ms. Lynch felt it was apparently doable.

She and Mr. Adest had driven up to the Golden Hill Health Care Center and commented that it looked good from the outside.

What does the LDC need to take care of in selecting a consultant? Ms. Lynch enumerated the need to gather various data: appraisals financials, physical layouts of the plant, criteria desired from a potential buyer.

Ms. Lynch stated that while L & T would try to get potential buyers to look at the site, some are not interested, some do walk through without telling anyone and for those who do arrange to see the site L & T would stagger the appointments and work with the Director of GHHCC to make the arrangements.

Apparently L & T is known to the NYS DOH, has developed working relationships with Mark Kissinger the Deputy Commissioner, and Charles Abel and Keith McCarthy.

Once L & T's presentation was completed, the representatives left and the board resumed its regular meeting which had been suspended to accommodate the interview. Following the completion of the meeting, the board moved to executive session and this observer left.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Meeting of the UCRRA Board

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Meeting - April 16, 2012 - 3:30pm, Agency Office

Board Members present: Leon Smith, Catherine Nilsen, Al Teetsel, Charles Landi (new appointee)

Absent: Dennis Helm

Staff Members present: Tim Rose, Stephen Wing, Timothy DeGraff, Charlie Whittaker, Michelle Bergkamp

Guests: Terry Laibac & Martin Brand, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Chairman's Comments – Leon Smith

Mr. Smith commented on the passing of Robert A. Hanson, who was a past Board member & Chairman (1994-2001). The meeting will be adjourned in his memory.

Mr. Smith shared that the Board has received a letter from the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region requesting information on Board meetings be included on the website and additional packets of information be available for attendees. Mr. Smith agreed and said the Agency would follow the suggestions.

Mr. Smith explained that he and Tim Rose had gone upstate to investigate a waste to energy plant as a possible alternative to trucking to landfills. It is believed it would have the environmental benefit of reducing the carbon footprint of the trucking.

Minutes were approved.

There will be a new meeting date, May 14th, 3:30pm, so staff can attend a conference.

General Reports:

Recycling – Michelle Bergkamp

The Agency's annual Recycling Billboard Design, targeting schoolchildren, did not get enough participation to award several prizes. Instead, awards will be limited to one per age group. Announcements will be made for Earth Day. Ms. Bergkamp budgets to use billboard sites for a 3month timeframe.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Pharmaceuticals Collections will be held April 28th. There are already 380 registrations. The Agency can accommodate 500.

Ms. Bergkamp has visited many Town transfer stations and has identified the need for better signage. She has finished her annual "Recycling Report", which she sends to the DEC.

Terry Liabac & Martin Brand spoke in support of the Composting Pilot Project Ms. Bergkamp has received a grant for. Ms. Liabac explained that organics (food waste and plant material) make up 12% of the waste stream. "Beyond Waste", the DEC's new Solid Waste Management Plan focuses on "Organic Waste Diversion". Regional composting is not happening so the DEC wants to "decentralize" composting. Ulster County would take the lead in this process. "We feel really confident that this will succeed." said Ms. Liabac.

Mr. Rose explained that this would be a good alternative to using existing buildings on the Agency site.

Mr. Landis brought up his experience with composting in the prison system.

There was discussion about the turn around time for reimbursement from DEC (aprox. 3-4 years).

Ms. Bergkamp has produced a business plan and says she has money budgeted to begin. The Board agreed to put the Pilot Project on the next meeting agenda for a final vote.

MSW Tonnage Report & Recycling – Tim Rose

Tonnage is not quite up to target. Mr. Rose speculated that it may be because of the economy. Single Stream Recycling continues to have a negative impact on the amount of material being trucked to the Agency. There is a temporary situation that will bring in more material, but that is expected to only last a month or two.

Discussion in regard to duo stream versus single stream material.

Leachate Collection – Tim Rose

Material is going to the Kingston Waste Water Treatment Plant at 5 cents a gallon.

Treasurers Report – Timothy DeGraff

No vote was taken as Mr. DeGraff explained that additional information had to be added to bring up to date. Agreed to bring back to next meeting for acceptance.

Under Revenue, there was a discussion about the amount of material being diverted by Agency employees. Not only does this increase revenue but insures environmental safety.

There was also a lengthy discussion on recycling enforcement. Michelle has a plan designed similar to Westchester County, for enforcement. UCRRRA has the authority to enforce recycling. Mr. Smith requested that Tim Rose bring a plan back to the Agency at the next meeting.

The Board voted to approve the refunding of the Series 2012 Bonds.

Mr. Rose reminded the Board that the Agency is servicing the various Town's with the Grinder. A Town pays \$1,000 a day, plus \$300 for Agency employee and gas. The fees have remained the same as last year.

Discussion about fees for Solid Waste Self-Haulers.

Old Business:

Lechate at New Paltz continues to be monitored.

Landfill Slide – FEMA will help the Agency repair the slide at the Agency's landfill. There will be a reimbursement rate of 75% from Federal and 12% from State.

Tim Rose reported that the Agency continues to work with Towns in a "Shared Services" arrangement for upkeep at transfer stations & the landfills. He also shared that, of the 15 Towns whose contracts are up for renewal this year, 7 have said they are willing to sign a 1 year contract for services with the Agency.

New Business: None

Adjourned aprox 5pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Lanzetta

Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services

Date: April 3, 2012 Start Time: 5:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:20 p.m.

Chairman Wayne Harris called the meeting to order and the minutes of the March 12, 2012, were adopted.

Eve Madalengoitia & Linda Marston-Reid, Dutchess Arts Council, described the Ulster Arts Promotion Fund and the application process for organizations to meet the May 1 deadline. The program provides technical assistance and capacity building.

Mr. Harris asked about workshops: yes, 20 attendees. Legislator Donald Gregorius asked who are the jurors and who gets the benefits: Ulster County should get the "lions share" of the benefits. These points can be discussed in the current process and reviewed later.

John Miller, Stop DWI, reviewed the report to New York State, the Advisory Board, training, advertizing, networking, costs and revenues, contract management, Host Liability Law, T.I.P.S and program effectiveness. D.A.R.E. may be cut.

Ken Crannell, UC Deputy County Executive, and Lisa Cutten discussed proposed resolutions regarding public hearing on proposed local laws for three property tax exemption categories – committee discussion on rates across the county. Adopted.

Mark Komdat, UCCC Dean of Administration, reported good news from NYS: \$150/FTE. Enrollment down, but no increase in tuition and expect flat funding from Ulster County. The water project sits with the Ulster County Planning pending an environmental impact study. \$53,000 was needed for the phone computer system replacement. Negotiations with the unions are being held.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 4/28/12

Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Date: April 16, 2012 Start Time: 5:33 p.m. Finish Time: 6:08 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order and the minutes of March 19, 2012 and March 20, 2012 meetings were approved.

All proposed resolutions were approved.

All late resolutions were approved following a discussion. The late resolution on authorizing county-owned property was marked to expedite.

The late resolution amending the purchase price for the sale county's certified home health agency license and long-term home health care program license was discussed by the committee with Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive. Mr. Crannell discussed the regulations and license stating there has been a devaluation of the license due to a New York State action on Dec. 8, 2011 – a moratorium on licenses and a switch from "fee-

for-service” to “managed care” lowers value - \$400,000 to close deal vs. \$1.4 m original estimate. The \$1.4 m was not in the county budget. The county executive wants to close the deal and does not want to risk the possible results of a delay. The \$400,000 would be a plus to the county. Legislators Robert Parete, Deputy Chairman, and Legislator David Donaldson do not favor accepting this deal and they are standing on their principles regarding the licenses.

The committee discussed the charter revision commission. Mr. Ronk discussed the C-15 60% provision – he does not want it – and a one year provision. Bea Havranek, County Attorney, stated there is a tight timeline and the need to go to the committee by the May meeting. Mr. Roberts is concerned that an irrelevant document may go to the ballot for vote as it may have provisions that may not have support.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 4/28/12

Economic Development & Tourism Committee

Date: February 8, 2012 Start Time: 6:03 p.m. Finish Time: about 7:00 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order, took roll call and the minutes of the meeting on Jan. 11, 2012, were approved.

Carl Meyer, President and co-CEO, The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), presented and discussed the status of the solar industry and local companies. Overall, the industry is going through a shakeout, due to economic conditions and the supply-demand imbalances (which drive prices even lower) in which 75% of the companies are not expected to survive. The local companies are under stress leading to some downsizing and failures, with some notable exceptions (e.g. Fala Technologies) where companies are trying to build new markets through product innovations. The greatest local success is Linuo locating in a former IBM complex in East Fishkill – this venture will help the area including Ulster.

There was discussion of the economic and employment opportunities. A trip to China is planned. Even though the Ulster County high tech manufacturing center was not selected by the New York Regional Council, the proposal is still being developed.

About 100 companies are in TSEC, including 75-80 in Ulster County. Legislator Ken Wishnick asked how many local jobs: Mr. Meyer will try to find out. Mr. Wishnick also asked about the SUNY Ulster courses and if they aligned with the demand: most of the courses are for installation training and there is money available to support them.

Rick Remsnyder, Director Tourism, announced the Diamond Mills ribbon cutting to be held Thursday at the new venue in Saugerties. He reviewed recent and upcoming travel events: this is a busy season of attending travel shows and preparing the next travel guide and topical brochures. He is pleased with the Valentine's Day theme of Pop-the-Question at covered bridges photo contest initiated by Lisa Berger, Director of Marketing, on his staff. The current Travel Guide received a Gold Award.

A proposed resolution designating the Ulster County Tourism as the official tourism promotion agency of Ulster County was tabled and held for next month. This action was taken following discussion and comments from Legislative Counsel Langdon Chapman.

All other proposed resolutions on the agenda were adopted.

Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell addressed the committee regarding a grant application resolution that was not on the agenda. Mr. Crannell wants on record the proposed resolution was prepared and properly filed, and timely for the agenda.

Mr. Maloney circulated a document of a proposal for the Industrial Development Agency, Ulster County Development Corporation and the Ulster County Planning Department to be more efficient.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 2/24/12

Environmental Energy & Technology Committee

Date: April 5, 2012 Start Time: 5:47 p.m. Finish Time: 7:58 p.m.

Carl Belfiglio, Chairman, called the meeting to order, took attendance. The March 8 and March 20, 2012, meetings minutes were approved.

Summary observations of the UCRRA Discussion:

Mr. Belfiglio introduced the UCRRA board to the new EET committee. He emphasized the committee has an oversight responsibility, is concerned about net service fees and wants to know how UCRRA can work better. (Later indicating a sense of crisis.) That said, he asked what questions does the UCRRA Board have for the committee. There followed about an hour of give and take (sometimes tense) discussion about the issues.

Following that discussion, Mr. Belfiglio said there will be public meeting within 1 1/2 months. Leon Smith, UCRRA Board Chairman, asked what ideas, recommendations, etc. does the committee have for the Board? Mr. Smith invited the committee to attend the UCRRA regular meeting on Mon. Apr. 16 to share their input. Maybe this give and take will open up some constructive discussion.

Detailed Observer Notes on the UCRRA Discussion:

Leon Smith, UCRRA Board Chairman, introduced UCRRA Board members in attendance. Dennis Helm, UCRRA Board Vice Chair, was not in attendance. Tim Rose, UCRRA Executive Director also in attendance.

Mr. Belfiglio wants to introduce the UCRRA Board to the new EE&T Committee and further commented: EE&T has an oversight responsibility. He does not want to dwell on the past. Net service fee (NSF) is a concern. How can the RRA work better? What questions does the UCRRA Board have for the EE&T Committee?

Mr. Smith turned to Al Teetsel, UCRRA Board Treasurer. Mr. Teetsel said he had 40 years in banking. He sees all RRA expenditures over \$4,000.

Mr. Smith asked what is the objective of the EE&T Committee? Mr. Belfiglio responded the service fee and debt. There followed a discussion of the debt obligation: who is responsible for the debt? Apparently the county and the tax payers. Not clear to Mr. Belfiglio. Legislator Wishnick said Comptroller Elliott Auerback has looked at the bonding language. Apparently the bonding responsibility falls to county as it co-signed in order for the bonds to be offered. Mr. Smith commented: strange to have question. The \$2.5m bond payment cannot be paid fully from operations, so UCRRA requires a subsidy from the NSF.

From a recent change, there is currently a savings of about \$50,000 per year on the bonds. Mr. Belfiglio said UCRRA could raise revenues and cut costs. Mr. Wishnick said the \$50,000 savings is good, but the goal should be to work toward not funding by the county (taxpayers).

Legislator Craig Lopez spoke of the direct link of volume (tonnage) and revenue.

Flow Control was discussed: Mr. Belfiglio said one item will not fix the problem. Flow Control is the local law (not for recyclables and C&D) but it is not being enforced.

Mr. Wishnick said in coming months the EE&T Committee is to come up with recommendations.

Mr. Smith prepared four ideas for the UCRRA Board that he had not discussed with them. He had the ideas on a handout but he did not review them point by point.

Tracey Bartels, Deputy Chair, said the big picture is important: agreements with towns, future of recycling (re County Waste), debt – agency operations vs. past decision on restructuring debt - the clock is ticking. Mr. Belfiglio followed those comments to say the committee, agency, legislature presentation last year on Flow Control did not go well. There is now a crisis.

Mr. Smith commented that last year a 10-year projection was done (with and without Flow Control) at the request of the then committee and that effort was not acted on (by the committee/county).

Mr. Rose commented MSW produces better revenue than recycling. Regarding the contracts, the Waste Management contract would be a 1/3 (\$1m) loss, if lost. Mr. Wishnick discussed tipping fees (variable). Mr. Smith said there could be lost tonnage and revenue.

Legislator John Parete asked and discussed how did we get here: The rebonding issue. The NSF has not been calculated correctly. Could lower fees be used to get volume, then use NSF? 90% self sufficient now (good). Who are the stakeholders and what are the options? Could hold an informational meeting.

There followed a discussion on one of Mr. Smith's ideas (#3) regarding user fees. Maybe a separate tax on living units.

Mr. Teetsel indicated there would be an open ended and frank discussion in within the UCRRA Board and they would get back to the EE&T Committee or subcommittee. Mr. Smith asked what ideas, recommendations, etc. does the committee have for Board?

Mr. Belfiglio said Mr. Wishnick (or any other member) has the authority to speak to anyone. They discussed how much time Mr. Rose has spent responding to inquires. Mr. Smith emphasized Mr. Rose has a RRA job to do. Mr. Rose declined to comment on the use of his time and if it was interfering with his duties. There was obvious tension on these issues.

Mr. Belfiglio stated there would be a public meeting within 1 ½ months.

Legislator Ken Ronk, Jr. said must look at options including Flow Control. Currently have Flow Control (not enforced), amendment voted down. Mr. Lopez mentioned Flow Control experiences.

Mr. Smith concluded by mentioning the regular UCRRA Board meeting on Apr. 16, for further discussion.

[From March 2012 observer notes:

Legislator Ken Wishnick has been assigned by Mr. Belfiglio to explore the issues and options for the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency to become revenue neutral for the county. Mr. Wishnick reported on topics he's explored: funding and tax amounts, contracts, operations and waste tonnage, and alternative processes.

Following this discussion, some attendees spoke on some issues. This LWV observer asked to make a personal comment: that the county legislature and county executive embrace an independent body to address interests of the county and its citizens.]

**Ulster County
Board of
Health**

Other agenda items:

All proposed resolutions were discussed and adopted.

The April Abstract L39-3 regarding using telephone services money from collect calls met with strong comments from Tracey Bartles, Deputy Chair. She strongly objects to collect calls charges as a funding source.

The proposed local law on "Hydraulic Fracturing Brine Prohibition Act" was discussed and the proposed resolution will go back to the Laws and Rules Committee after the April 17 public hearing.

Mr. Belfiglio distributed a document on social media policy that Legislator Chairwoman Terry Bernardo had asked to be distributed for discussion.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 4/28/12

The Board 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 results of the summer programs, Dr. Hasbrouck indicated such matters can be handled by those involved; cross training has been done, summer aides will be employed. Additionally, the Regional Office has been very supportive of the procedure. So far they have not considered contacting Kevin DuMond for 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 package 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 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 Ulster
County
Association
of Town
Supervisors**

The meeting was convened by President, Town of Shawangunk Supervisor John Valk at 8:33 AM on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 and adjourned at 10:01. The next meeting is May 15, 2012.

Present: Town representatives: Denning, Shawangunk, Rosendale, Ulster, Woodstock, Rochester, Shandakan, T/Kingston, New Paltz, Saugerties, Wawarsing, and Marbletown.

First on the agenda was County Executive Hein. He stated that he wanted to acknowledge the things that government and its representatives have done that often go unmentioned. He particularly referenced the time period, the places, and the people who did so much in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and the months since. Also noted was the money that has been received from the state (to cover the 12 ½ % match) and FEMA to use in repairing the damages that the towns have sustained. The supervisor of Denning noted also that the DEP, through its stream management program, had helped the town.

On other items Mr. Hein stated that he hoped to come to positive conclusions regarding the Safety Net costs.

Dennis Doyle, Director of the Ulster County Planning Board distributed forms for the towns to complete regarding the county's request to have 30 days to review zoning requests.

His second item dealt with the Planning Board's problem in having a quorum at its meetings. The Planning Board, under its by-laws, can request that the county legislature remove any member who has missed three meetings. The Planning Board does not wish to do this. He asked that the supervisors talk to their representatives, they should know who is attending; possibly consider appointing an alternate.

His last point was a follow up to Mr. Hein's comments on the problems from the weather disasters: Planning Board is issuing checks to farmers; a second round of checks is being prepared for businesses particularly in Shandaken, Olive, Denning and one in Marlboro. RUPCO will be checking on the ground work already done.

The next item on the agenda dealt with a report from the UC Transportation office. Presented by Robert DiBella, the report outlined that bus signs would be posted county wide, on poles owned by that office, indicating where the county buses would stop. There would also be a sign noting the times when the bus would stop along the route. The actual signs and aerial views in pictures were shown. He also noted that installation of the poles/signs had been approved by NY State. The information will also be sent to the towns and apparently will appear on the county web site.

Next, Bill Lang of Poughkeepsie was introduced. His topic was "abatement of excessive motorcycle noise." He was interested in knowing if the towns had rules regarding such, were interested in enforcing such with their local law enforcement groups, etc. If so, he would like to exchange business cards with them.

He noted that there would be a workshop in NYC for anyone who was interested that would provide tools to develop such rules and procedures, etc. No dates or times were given.

The group then approved the minutes of the March meeting. Mr. Valk noted that Mr. Leifeld, the treasurer (not present) had advised him that the association had not spent any money during the last month.

The supervisors then discussed a variety of topics:

- hydro-fracking: what bill to use to support a moratorium until other matters were clarified (apparently there is more than one version, depends upon the wording), whether to do as an individual town or as a group; and how to handle the concerns associated with brining materials used on the roads;

- elections: this discussion was primarily about costs, which have gone up for the towns; questions raised about the county absorbing such which could lead to taxes going up to cover such which could lead to the taxes in the towns going up to pay their share; to that a suggestion was raised that each town should approach its elected county legislator and lobby that person to deal with the matter;

- discussion regarding taxes (need for/reason for), safety net costs, accountability, sales tax distribution, need for discussion with the mayor of Kingston; and what the relationship was that the towns had with Time-Warner regarding franchise obligations and having calls returned by this company's front office personnel.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp