

The Legislature of Rockland County



ALDEN H. WOLFE
Vice Chairman
Legislator – District 6

Chair, Environmental Committee

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012
6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. A. Wolfe, Chair
Leg. N. Low-Hogan, Vice Chair
Leg. C. Carey
Leg. A. Wieder (arrive 6:30 PM)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Leg. Chairwoman H. Cornell
Leg. T. Earl
Leg. F. Sparaco

OTHERS PRESENT:

Leg. A. Paul
B. Atkins
P.T. Thomas
C. Buck
N. Morgan
A. Simon
S. Gaffin
L. Seeman
M. Golden
P. Kurtz
S. Braman, PhD
E. Yeger, Esq.
D. Miller PhD
S. Barclay
S. Xu
A. Mendez
M. von Mayrhauser
G. Potanovic
A. Quiroz
M. Granier
G. Pisher
A. Pinzow

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2012

MOTION TO ADOPT:
WIEDER/WOLFE

UNAN

1. REF. #4124 - **DISCUSSION ITEM:** (PRESENTATION) COLUMBIA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP – NON-EMERGENCY OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION CASE STUDIES
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

Chair Wolfe explained that a group of students from Columbia University's Sustainable Development Workshop spent the spring semester looking into possible water conservation efforts for Rockland County. The students gave a power point presentation to the Committee.

The group looked into seven potential water saving programs and the cost effectiveness of those programs. The following five programs were found to be cost effective:

- Single family high efficiency washer rebate program
- Single family high efficiency toilet rebate program
- Commercial high efficiency toilet rebate program
- Commercial pre-rinse spray valve replacement
- Single family water-waste ordinance

The students in the group were Clare Buck, Alex Mendez, Nikki Morgan, Aaron Simon, Melissa von Mayrhauser, Caitlin Watterson and Shelly Xu. They worked in consultation with Dan Miller, Rockland County Health Dept. and Stuart Braman, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. The group was asked to look into how the legislature can effectively implement non-emergency outdoor water ordinances that will conserve water.

Mr. Mendez noted that there were four lessons the group learned for Rockland during their work:

- Relationships (important for various parts of Governments to work together)
- Enforcement (education and incentives)
- Learning from the past (also monitoring the present and preparing for the future)
- Multi-faceted ordinances (establishing a family of regulations that are more complete)

Chair Wolfe stated that he was blown-away by the way the group dissected a very complicated issue and was very, very impressed.

Copies of the following papers are on file with the committee clerk.

1. In Pursuit of Conservation: A Study of Community Experiences with Outdoor Water Conservation Ordinances
2. In Pursuit of Conservation: A Sensitivity Analysis
3. Power Point Presentation: Outdoor Water Conservation Case Studies for the Rockland County Legislature

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:15 PM
WIEDER/LOW-HOGAN

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