

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**ALDEN H. WOLFE**  
**Vice Chairman**  
Legislator – District 6

Chair, Environmental Committee

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012  
6:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. N. Low-Hogan Vice Chair  
Leg. Chairwoman Cornell  
Leg. C. Carey  
Leg. T. Earl  
Leg. A. Wiener

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Leg. A. Wolfe, Chair  
Leg. F. Sparaco

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

E. Yeger, Esq.  
Leg. Soskin  
B. Dillon  
P. Bosco  
L. Seeman  
J. Christensen  
M. Quinn

:

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES, MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 28, 2011 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2012

**MOTION TO ADOPT:**  
**CORNELL/EARL**

**UNAN**

REF. #4124 - REQUESTING THAT THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE  
PASS BILLS A.2922, S.425, A.2890, AND A.2924 – ACTS TO  
AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW WITH  
RESPECT TO HYDROFRACKING ISSUES  
(**HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE**)

Legislative Chairwoman Cornell stated that this resolution was not about whether to prevent hydrofracking but to provide greater oversight of natural gas drilling.

Leg. Carey commented that he was interested in having further discussion regarding hydrofracking and the potential for jobs. He suggested having representatives from the various groups involved to a future meeting.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:**  
**CORNELL/LOW-HOGAN**

**UNAN**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. LOW-HOGAN, CORNELL, CARY, EARL, WIEDER, SOSKIN,**

**ACTIONS:**

- **THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED THE COMMITTEE CLERK INVITE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEC, EPA, AND LAMONT DOHERTY FOR AN INFORMATIONAL HEARING**

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REF. #6394 - REQUESTING THAT THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, IN ITS REVIEW OF UNITED WATER'S PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT IN HAVERSTRAW, EXTEND THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO SIX MONTHS, HOLD MULTIPLE PUBLIC HEARINGS IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS TO FACILITATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AND RECOMMEND THAT UNITED WATER PROVIDE INTERVENOR FUNDING TO ENABLE MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIZEN GROUPS TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN EXPERT REVIEW OF THE DESALINATION PROPOSAL  
**(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)**

Legislative Chairwoman Cornell thanked the Coalition for Sustainable Water for all their hard work in bringing information to the public. Chairwoman Cornell recommended that the Legislators support this resolution.

Leg. Carey said he was not in favor of intervenor funding and would therefore be voting no.

Laurie Seeman stated that in the interest of protecting the character of Rockland County, we need to slow this project down. The 4000 page DEIS document was submitted the third week of January. This is not sufficient time to review all the complex issues involved.

Bob Dillon submitted background information regarding historical releases from Lake DeForest (see attached).

Leg. Soskin wondered if there were legal grounds in regards to the release of water to New Jersey.

Leg. Wolfe introduced this legislation that requests the NYS DEC consider issues raised by the Rockland Coalition for Sustainable Water concerning the timeline established for the public comment and review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIC) for United Water's proposed desalination plant. Leg. Wolfe stated that given the complexity of this project, it's impossible for members of the public to conduct their own independent analysis of the DEIS in the time allotted. The public should be granted the courtesy of sufficient time and opportunity to review the DEIS and provide their comment. United Water should also commit funding to allow the public to review its data and comment appropriately.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:**  
**CORNELL/LOW-HOGAN**

**4 AYES/1 NAY**

**4 AYES: LOW-HOGAN/CORNELL/EARL/WIEDER**  
**1 NAY: CAREY**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. LOW-HOGAN, CORNELL, EARL, WIEDER, SOSKIN**

**ACTION:**

- **COMMITTEE REQUESTS THE LAW DEPT. RESEARCH THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE ENTIRE DESALINATION PLANT PROJECT MAY VIOLATE THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION ON SENDING WATER OUT OF STATE THROUGH ARTIFICIAL MEANS, AS IT WILL ARTIFICIALLY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF WATER BEING SENT TO NEW JERSEY**

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REF. #8896 - *DISCUSSION ITEM*: ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV'S) AND  
HYBRIDS IN PUBLIC FLEETS – ESTAR ELECTRIC TRUCK  
(HON. JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)

**PULLED AT THE REQUEST OF THE SPONSOR**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:50 PM**  
**EARL/CAREY**

**UNAN**

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