

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**ALDEN H. WOLFE**  
Vice Chairman  
Legislator – District 6  
Chair, Environmental Committee

**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2013  
6:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

HON. A. WOLFE CHAIR  
HON. N. LOW-HOGAN VICE CHAIR  
HON. H. CORNELL, LEG CHAIR  
HON. C. CAREY  
HON. T. EARL  
HON. A. WIEDER (ARRIVED 6:15)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

HON. SPARACO

**OTHERS PRESENT**

HON. P, SOSKIN  
HON. D. JOBSON  
E.YEGER ESQ.  
J. HUNDERFUND  
J. TORMEY  
J. KEELTY  
D. CHURCH  
J.PENNELL  
M. PENNELL

D. HAUSNER  
L. TEGER  
D.HOLLAND  
C.GOLDSTEIN  
D. HANSEN  
B. MART  
C.SLAVIN  
B. HENRY  
G.POTANOVIC  
A. HIGGINS

**CHAIR WOLFE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:05 PM**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES- MEETING OF OCTOBER 09, 2013**

**MOTION TO ADOPT  
WOLFE/EARL**

**UNAN**

- 1. REF. # 8593 DISCUSSION (PRESENTATION)-TZHS SOLAR CLUB  
(HON. ALDEN WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)**

**DISCUSSED**

Chair Wolfe welcomed everyone attending the presentation of the TZHS Solar Club. The Students presented to the Members of the Environmental Committee were Ben Mart, Andrew Higgins, Brenna Henry and Cris Goldstein Ben Mart. They explained that the Solar Car is vehicle land transport. Solar Cars combine technology typically used in the aerospace, bicycle alternative energy and automotive industries. The design of a solar vehicle is severely limited by the amount of energy used by the car. Students talked about their journey to Texas and Arizona. Their participation in the classic division is a more achievable goal and an easier car to build, as there are no requirements on what can or cannot be done.

Chair Wolfe stated two passions of his sustainable energy technology and endurance driving, "What you have experienced shows it's about the journey and not about the finish. We are very proud of what you guys have accomplished and we know that you are going to excel and do better for yourself."

Please see attached

**2. REF. # 2867 DISCUSSION REVIEW AND POTENTIAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE  
MID-HUDSON REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN  
(HON. HARRIET D. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE)**

**DISCUSSED**

Leg. Chair Cornell stated she was very happy to introduce Mr. David Church the Commissioner of Planning of Orange County. Mr. Church was the co-chair of the Mid-Hudson regional sustainability plan that he talks about and gives us a little insight.

This plan was actually developed as part of Cleaner, Greener Communities Program and it was intended to empower the different regions of the State to take charge of sustainable development in their own communities by identifying and funding smart group practice

Leg Chair Cornell stated," the County Executives office and I don't think that there was as much participation throughout by Rockland County government as by other places and my assistant Suzanne Barclay called this to my attention so we thought it would be very important to ask Mr. Church to come and talk to us about what the plan is.

Mr. David Church started that about 2 years ago Governor Cuomo announced this Cleaner-Greener Communities Program with funding through NYSERDA

The Governor thought it would be useful to have a strategy of how to spend that money in this region. The State defines what is sustainability for us.

Please see Attached

**3. REF. # 7498 DISCUSSION INQUIRY INTO THE JUNE 2012 ELEVATED ARSENIC  
LEVELS IN UNITED WATER'S MONSEY WELL 31A  
(HON. ALDEN WOLFE, HON. TONEY EARL,  
HON. ILAN SCHOENBERGER, HON. PHILIP SOSKIN,  
AND HON. ARON WIEDER LEGISLATURES)**

**ACTION:**

Chair Wolfe requested from Judi Hunderfund, Director Environmental Public Health to provide the committee with information on all the different modification levels regarding the Water quality issue.

**ACTION**

Leg Soskin also requested from Judi Hunderfund Director Environmental Public Health to disclose the company name chosen for water testing, how often they're testing, and what are they testing for?

**DISCUSSED**

Chair Wolfe stated he did have some contact with Michael Pointing from United Water. He advised that he was not going to be here tonight and their water quality person is also not going to be here tonight, because they are out of town. He thanks Judi Hunderfund and John Tormey for coming,

Chair Wolfe stated Mr. Tormey has been a leader on a lot of issues particularly his review in documentation regarding the high levels of arsenic uncovered in a well in Monsey and another well that had some issues. Mr. Tormey was asked to give a brief introduction.

Mr. Tormey a local activist, was ringing alarm bells about elevated arsenic levels in one of United Water's Monsey wells. He explained there is an arsenic issue we don't know about and shouldn't be the first one to post the on Internet.

Chair Wolfe requested an explanation in reference from Judi Hunderfund or copy of email correspondence between United Water employees and NYS DEC that talks about a plan to flush the Monsey well and possibly another well to remove arsenic that was detected after the carbon filters were replaced.

Chair Wolfe asked it 26.6 ppb parts per billion is the level at which we get concerned?

Mrs. Hunderfund said the standard for arsenic is a running annual average and there is no single sample standard and unfortunately we're very aware of how to determine the running annual average, because of the previous issues we had with the Grand View wells when the rules first went to effect.

Chair Wolfe stated that back in 2007 there was an issue with arsenic in Clarkstown; my understanding is that the levels there were 4.7 ppb.

Mrs. Hunderfund replied the one she knows of is in Grand view; which is actually in the Ramapo area. Leg. Cornell stated United Water decided to drill a test well in West Nyack off Strawtown Road right across from the reservoir and arsenic was found. She happens to live there so my neighbors had contacted her and they had a number of meetings including bringing in scientists. 4.7 ppb was not a health risk.

Chair Wolfe stated his understanding is that the maximum contaminate level under the State Drinking Water Act is 10 ppb. He questioned the time period.

Mrs. Hunderfund said it is over one a year period of time

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Please see attached

**MOTION TO ADJOURN 8:25 PM  
LOW-HOGAN/EARL**

**UNAN**

Respectfully submitted,

Lesly Senatus, Committee Clerk

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ENV.MIN 11/13/13, LES