

## Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance

Rondout Municipal Center Room M15

Start time: 6:02pm

End time: 7:30pm

Notes

2/19/20

### Regular Business

1. Present at the RCWA meeting was Laura Finestone, Eric Stewart, Ben Ganon (UC Department of the Environment), Hank Bartosik (Warwarsing), Marie Perfect, Andrew Faust, Rebecca Martin (Riverkeeper) and Anna Palmer (TfT program intern).
2. Trees for Tribes is accepting applications that are due March 1st. 2,900 plants are available from the nursery. Andrew asked how they were distributed. Anna said through regional headquarters that do p/u and deliveries. They also have an auger to dig holes, buffers in a bag. Albany can provide that for larger sites that will plant 60+. Anna asked if we had volunteers to help the TfT plant trees. Laura said that they did and wanted to organize a planting meeting.
3. Hank spoke about septic and the group discussed EPA's Septic week and outreach toolkits. <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicsmart-week>  
<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-outreach-toolkit>
4. 1/29/20 notes passed along with Emily Vail's presentation were posted on the RCWA website.

### Upcoming Events

1. Eric spoke with the High Falls Conservancy. They are doing a river sweep on May 2nd. Sign up to be a part of that event.
2. In May, the Creekside Clean-up in High Falls w/ Marbletown ECC and Rondout School District (**either the 30/31**) **days that work for the school**. Eric has been in touch with Emma Markle (ECC student member/liason) and Diana Zuckerman (a teacher at Rondout Valley High School/RVHS). They discussed tentatively scheduling a joint clean-up of the Rondout Creek in High Falls on either Saturday or Sunday, May 30/31. This would be a joint effort of the Marbletown ECC, the Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance (RCWA) and students from the RVHS. They discussed removing plastic from trees and whether or not they could add trees. Laura said that there was still around 400 trees at the Coxing Kill that needed

plastic removed. Andrew said that John Messerschmidt had Andrew do a Grady Park report on edibles.

3. On March 5, the Ulster County Watershed Roundtable event will take place (RCWA is a sponsor). Cornell Cooperative Extensive ED (Jared) said that there was nothing the RCWA needed to do to prepare. There will be group discussions and possibly smaller break out groups opportunities. The organizers will go around the room for everyone to introduce their organization and work but nothing beyond that. Laura met with Mary McNamara and Jason West prior to the meeting. An organization is being formed with all county groups focused on water quality that include the Esopus Creek, Wallkill River and Rondout Creek. They decided to go to the Stockade for drinks following the roundtable event.

### **Old Business**

1. Project Committee/Communications have been working with Ben Ganon at the Ulster County Department of the Environment to create a Rondout Creek Watershed Map. RCWA will need a fiscal Sponsor to fundraise for Brochure. The group decided to use its mission as text and ask each of the municipalities within the watershed to provide a photo of their favorite spot on the creek. Eric said that there were great pictures from Jen Metzger and Pat Ryan. Laura wants to start an album. The group discussed a timeline. Laura will work on copy for the brochure. Marie asked if the brochure could be ready in time for Riverkeeper Sweep (May 2). Marbletown might be able to provide fiscal sponsorship. Laura and Eric will reach out. Marie asked if the Bistro at the Rondout Municipal Center might be a good place to host a fundraiser.

2. The group discussed policies for social media. Rebecca said that she could provide that and text for municipal letters, as it has been written.

3. Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance domain name is up 3/29/2020. We will need a new credit card in the future.

4. Other locations for a Riparian project or park space. Port Ben / Rondout Creek Recreational Use & Educational Park. How can we organize a conversation with owners (Dept. of Corrections). Andrew said that he could talk to Hank A. about how to broker a conversation with the ECC. Funding streams and approaches available for projects. Andrew asked about the 80 acquisitions that the County has made/property it owns and potential partnerships with to plant appropriate well suited parcels w/ demonstration and education Riparian Buffer plantings; An agroforestry mix approach of late stage succession natives w/ Nuts (Hickans,

Heartnut and Buartnut and domestic edibles, Juneberry, Cider apples, Paw Paw) that naturalize well. Ulster County has a map that shows its aquired parcels. Maybe the water division of UC could help?

### **New Business**

1. There was a recent inquiry from a community member in Lawrenceville, Rosendale asking for advice on what to do regarding dirt bikes on slopes that are damaging vegetation. Laura spoke to the community members directly to provide some guidance.