

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, July 9, 2026, 5:40 p.m.

Committee Chair Kaul called the committee to order at 5:47 p.m.

PRESENT: 12 ALEXANDER, ATKINS, CASWELL, GILES, KAUL, METZGER,
MUNN, POLASEK, REDL, SHAH, VALDÉS SMITH, WINSBY

ABSENT: 0

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

Presentations and Reports

None.

Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items

None

Resolutions considered out of numerical order will be placed in numerical order for fluidity

2026111 Authorizing grant agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and amending the 2026 adopted County budget as it pertains to the Department of Planning & Development.

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Chair Kaul invited the Vice Chair of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council, Devin Riccolino, to address the Committee. Vice Chair Riccolino spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Legislator Lawler spoke in favor of the Resolution.

The Environmental Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution.

2026115 Establishing an annual housing accountability and implementation framework.

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Legislator Redl, author of the Resolution, spoke in favor of the Resolution, citing an anecdote about difficulty finding housing which is affordable and sustainable.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn thanked Legislator Redl for championing the Resolution and working with the Planning Department to put together a Resolution which will serve the Legislature well for the future.

Legislature Chair Valdes Smith praised Legislator Redl for the dedication and hard work needed to create this Resolution, which represents a key step in a roadmap for Dutchess County's housing plan for the future.

Legislator Lawler said that as a teacher, he sees that young people want to live and work in Dutchess County but so many of them can't afford it and move away after reaching adulthood. He further spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Legislator Johnson asked if the Planning Department is capable of absorbing the tracking of data within its existing framework. Commissioner Wrafter indicated that many of the data points already existed in disparate ways and that this would help create a dashboard which will be more comprehensive and unified.

Majority Leader Atkins thanked Legislator Redl for putting the Resolution together and for prioritizing the utilization of good data to create a plan for the future.

Legislator Shah echoed the sentiments of other speakers and added that the Resolution would add a layer of transparency which is always good in government.

Committee Chair Kaul spoke in favor of the Resolution and noted that in addition to young people, seniors also face housing affordability issues.

The Environmental Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Kaul adjourned the Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.