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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 16 1998

Valerie S. Kilmer, Village Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Rhinebeck
76 East Market Street
Rhinebeck, New York 12572-1697

Dear Ms. Kilmer:

This is in response to your letter of February 10, 1998 to EPA Administrator Carol Browner regarding the Hudson River PCBs Site. Your letter forwards a copy of a recent Resolution by the Village of Rhinebeck in which the Village expresses its support for the Hudson River PCBs Site Reassessment being conducted by EPA.

EPA appreciates the support from members of the Hudson River community with respect to the Reassessment study that we are currently conducting. As you know, the Reassessment, when completed, will include a detailed characterization of the PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River, calculation of the human health and ecological risks associated with the contamination, and the evaluation of remedial alternatives to address the contamination. EPA is committed to completing the Reassessment in an expeditious manner.

Your support is particularly appreciated because "community acceptance" is an important factor to be considered when the Agency ultimately makes a remedial decision for the Upper Hudson River sediments. EPA will keep the public informed of its findings regarding the Reassessment. For further information with respect to this site, please contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Caspe".

Richard L. Caspe, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

INCORPORATED



APRIL 23, 1834

VILLAGE OF RHINEBECK
76 EAST MARKET STREET
RHINEBECK, NEW YORK 12572-1697

914-876-7015

February 10, 1998

Hon Carol Browner, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
401 M. Street
SW, Washington, DC 20460

Re: Reassess Hudson River PCB's Resolution

Dear Hon. Browner;

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the Village of Rhinebeck Village Board of Trustees that include the resolution passed by the Board regarding the reassessment of the Hudson River.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Kilmer
Clerk-Treas.

ENC.

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Trustee Mike Frazier made a motion that the Village Board of Trustees pass a resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the New York Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for bonding of the Water Upgrade Project and the relocation of the chemical storage area at the Water Plant. Trustee Richard Cunningham seconded this motion and all the Board was in favor. The motion in its entirety is attached and a part of these minutes.

The Board received a letter from the Village of Croton-on Hudson, New York regarding The Hudson River PCB's and the reassessment of the quality of the water in the Hudson River. Trustee Richard Cunningham stated that dredging the Hudson River could stir up a lot of problems - just time and nature may take care of the PCB problem. The PCB issue has not been proven to be a threat, but any dredging of the river could make it a problem. The letter is stressing that the river be evaluated. Trustee Richard Cunningham made a motion that the Village Board of Trustees pass a resolution as follows: WHEREAS, the health and beauty of the Hudson River is critical to the economic vitality of our community and the Hudson River is a treasured asset; and WHEREAS, nearly 200 miles of the Hudson River - from Hudson Falls to New York City - is a federal Superfund site due to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination and; WHEREAS, PCBs are the most significant contaminant limiting full use and enjoyment of the Hudson River; and WHEREAS, PCB's were banned in 1976 because of a variety of known and suspected impacts on humans and wildlife; and WHEREAS, PCB's remain in the Hudson River exposing humans and wildlife to their effects; and WHEREAS, an estimated \$40 million annually has been lost over the last twenty years because of the closure of Hudson River commercial fisheries and restrictions on recreationally caught fish. As a result, the Hudson Valley has lost an important cultural heritage and way of life and the economic vitality of the Hudson River region continues to be hampered by the limitations on recreational use of the River and the stigma of PCB contamination' and WHEREAS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund officials determined in February 1997 that PCB "hot spots" in the sediment of the upper Hudson are the dominant source of PCB contamination to the River, and that microbial breakdown will not rid the River of PCB's; and WHEREAS, the EPA's Hudson River Reassessment has determined that without remediation, present levels of contamination will continue indefinitely, and THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Village of Rhinebeck hereby expresses its support for the Hudson River Reassessment being conducted by the U.S. EPA under the Superfund, including evaluation of the feasibility of potential remedial action that can most effectively restore the Hudson River, including the evaluation of traditional disposal methods as well as innovative technologies that can be used to destroy PCB's. Further, the Village of Rhinebeck urges that the U.S. EPA complete the Hudson River Reassessment as expeditiously as possible. Trustee Virgil Macro seconded this motion and all the Board was in favor.

Mayor Costa informed the Board that he wrote to Pres. Clinton about designating the Hudson River as an American Heritage River as discussed at the last Board meeting. Trustee Richard Cunningham made a motion that the Village Board of Trustees pass a resolution as follows: WHEREAS, THE American Rivers Heritage Initiative was announced by President Clinton on February 4, 1997 and WHEREAS, the Hudson River has held a pre-eminent role in the development of the heritage of the United States influencing the settlement patterns of Native Americans, serving as a corridor of exploration, fortifying America during the Revolution, giving rise to the Age of Steam, inspiring the Hudson River School of Painting, facilitating the economic rise of New York and serving as a catalyst in the creation of the modern environmental movement, and WHEREAS, the designation of the Hudson River as an American Heritage River will provide for the coordinated delivery of Federal services, enhanced opportunities for waterfront redevelopment, improved water quality, and further the goals and strategies already utilized by the Hudson Valley Greenway, and WHEREAS, Governor George E. Pataki, on behalf of the State of New York is seeking designation of the Hudson River as an American Heritage River THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village of Rhinebeck supports the application and urges the President to designate the Hudson River an American Heritage River. This resolution was seconded by Mayor John J. Costa and all the Board was in favor.

The Board discussed the State Law 485-B and the Local law of the Dutchess County Legislature establishing the Industrial Commercial Incentive Board. The Village Board discussed that they do not feel that the Village of Rhinebeck should offer this business tax abatement program at this time. Trustee Richard Cunningham made a motion that the Village Board of Trustees pass a resolution to opt out of the 485 B Program (property tax abatement program for certain businesses) at this time. Trustee Virgil Macro seconded this motion and all the Board was in favor. A copy of this resolution will be sent to Tivoli Mayor Marc Molinaro so he is aware of the Village's decision.

The Board discussed that another street light was needed at the Intersection of Astor Drive and Montgomery street. Mayor John Costa made a motion that the Village Board of Trustees pass a resolution to add a Street Light to Pole #CH 1 located at the Stone Gate coming out of Astor Drive. Trustee Ellen Hubbert seconded and all the Board was in favor. The Clerk will call Central Hudson to get this new light installed.