

Broome County Environmental Management Council

Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive • Stacy Merola, Director



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Minutes from the meeting held Thursday, February 4, 2010 United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: André LaClair, Bill Heaviside, Julia Hoover, Karen Ciatyk, Tony Lubzanski, Erin Heard, and Mary Cronk

CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District)

Special Reps: Kevin Mathers (Cornell Coop. Ext.)

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Kathy Leone

Guests: Dylan Horvath and Josephine Chu

Absent with Excuse: Chris Burger, Barry Klipsch, Marley Urdanick and Jaime Welch

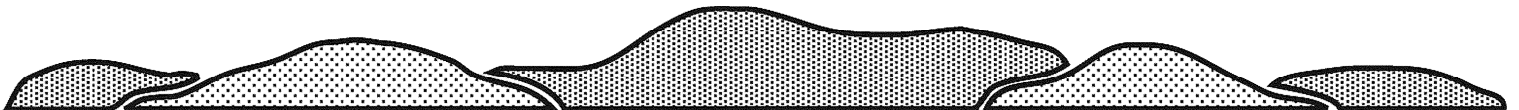
1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **7:04 pm**; introductions followed. January minutes are not yet available.

2. **Privilege of the Floor/Member Items of Interest/Announcements**

- Kathy Leone was introduced as the EMC's spring semester student intern. Kathy is a senior at Binghamton Univ. majoring in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Ecology. She'll assist with the Joyce Smith Environmental Photography Show and Competition, Earth Fest, administrative office tasks, and stormwater management.
- Earth Fest is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th, at MacArthur School & Park, Vestal Ave, Binghamton. EMC will promote membership and conduct stormwater and riverbank cleanup outreach.
- The chapter is closed on the County's Book Recycling Fair primarily due to the availability of existing outlets for recycling and reuse and the expense of the program.
- Call for entries: 2010 Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Show & Competition. Submission deadline is Wednesday, March 10. An opening reception will be Wednesday, May 12 at the County Library. Brochures and posters were circulated.
- The Center for Integrated Watershed Studies (CIWS) at Binghamton University will host an information session concerning the deployment of Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring systems by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) on Monday, February 15, 2010 at BU. For information contact Joe Graney at jgraney@binghamton.edu.
- Andre reported that the Town Board is contemplating a watershed study. The Town of Fenton Engineer wants to conduct a watershed study to better understand storm event run-off, and do this in conjunction with the Open Space Plan.
- Bill read a legal notice that a local municipality plans to hold a public hearing on Open Burning and Bonfires on February 9. Staff will research this issue.
- A final announcement was made about a public meeting to help complete the initial phase in Binghamton's First Ward Revitalization Plan (BOA). The community meeting is February 15, 6pm in the new Binghamton Boys and Girls Club facility on Clinton St, Binghamton.

3. **Committee Reports**

- Natural Resources Committee (NRC) – Andre reported the NRC met January 21. Three Union-Endicott High School students attended as part of their Participation in Government class. Their teacher, Jeff Rendi is engaging his students on natural gas drilling topics. NRC directed them to the Natural Gas Resources page on the County's website for more information and shared EMC comments on the DEC's dSGEIS. Other topics of discussion included Gov. Paterson's proposed 2010-2011 Executive Budget, including a proposal for a 3%



natural gas severance tax, reduction of the state's Environmental Protection Fund by \$69 million, and significant reduction of DEC and Parks staff. Work continues on the Recreation portion of the County Open Space Plan. Next meeting: Thursday, February 18th, 4:30pm at the Broome County Health Department.

- Recycling and Waste Management Committee (RWMC) – Tony reported there was no meeting in January. Next meeting: February 22nd, 4:30pm at the Broome County Health Department.

4. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports

- Town of Vestal - Cindy reported the CAC met January 26. No action was taken but discussion ensued about regulations and protections for local roads, and groundwater rights and drilling in the NYC watershed. Curt Pueschel is the new chair replacing Dick Pastore. In addition, the CAC seeks another member who is a resident of Vestal. Next meeting: February 23rd, 7:30pm at the Vestal Town Hall.

5. Staff and Chairs Items/Reports

- EMC membership appointments for Mary, Bill, and Tony (all Member-at-Large renewals), Cindy (Town of Vestal appointee), and Rachael (BCC Student Rep renewal) are awaiting Executive appointment as well as Erin's nomination for EMC Chair. Staff was informed that appointments requested in January would likely be on the February Legislative Committee's agenda. Jennifer Dickman withdrew her name from consideration.
- Minerals dSGEIS - The EMC Chair received a letter January 20 from County Executive Fiala regarding the EMC's comments submitted to the DEC on the dSGEIS for natural gas regulations. She expressed that although we agree on many issues, we do not agree on all issues. In particular, the County Executive said that because comments appear our letterhead features her name as well, some people now believe that she agrees with all the comments in the EMC letter, which she does not. She would have liked to review the letter before EMC sent it so that a clarification could set forth in our letter.

The EMC Executive Committee coordinated a response for EMC approval, which was circulated to members. The response states that EMC will emphasize that EMC positions do not necessarily reflect the views of the County Executive, the administration, the Legislature, or of any particular department. After deliberation, Bill moved, Mary seconded to send the letter to the County Executive. Motion carried.

- Staff prepared the EMC's 2009 Annual Report that was circulated for review and adoption. After noting minor grammatical corrections, Mary moved and Julia seconded to approve the report with these corrections. Motion carried.

6. Next meeting: Thursday, March 4th at 7:00pm, United Way Board Room, Vestal.

The meeting **adjourned at 8:34 pm.**

Kathy Leone, recorder
Stacy Merola, editor