

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Notes from the meeting held Thursday, April 6, 2006 United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Tim Wolcott, Mary Cronk, Bill Heaviside, Ruth Levin, Karen Ciatyk and Doug Garner

C.A.C Reps. Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District)

Associates: André LaClair and Tony Lubzanski

Visitors: Dave Riehlman, Dylan Horvath, Jacob Thompson, Jeanmarie LaRuffa and Jung Hyeon Ha

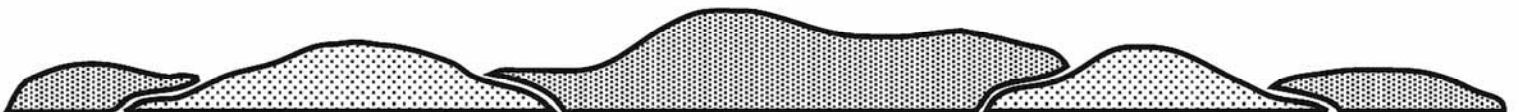
Absent w/excuse: Bob Denz, Kevin Mathers and Anndrea Starzak

1. Terry **convened** the meeting at **7:05 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from March were approved as written on a motion by Bill seconded by Ruth. Motion carried.
2. **Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest**
 - Earth Fest- April 22 @ 10am, staff will begin set-up @ 9:30am. A confirmation letter will be sent to those who volunteered. Stacy circulated the volunteer sign-up sheet for EMC special events noting the Riverbank Clean-Up and orientation date changes. Riverbank will be held on October 7 with orientation on October 4.
 - Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photo Show- Opening Reception May 3, 5:30-7:30pm. Invitations have been sent to all entrants.
 - Broome County Soil & Water Conservation Fish Program – order forms available from Chip.
 - Household Hazardous Waste collection days- April 22 and May 3, 6 and 20. On May 6 Solid Waste and NYSERDA will be cosponsoring a free air conditioner take-back at the BC Hazardous Waste Facility during regular hours of operation (7:30-11:30am).
 - Karen circulated an article listing tips on how not to receive junk mail.
 - Staff circulated potential questions for a quiz to be made available at Earth Fest.
 - André announced the passing of long time EMC member, Sue Cowing. A donation will be made in the name of the EMC to one of the charities requested by her family, either the Cornell Plantations or The American Cancer Society.
 - Ron announced plans to develop a new campground next to Whitney Point Lake. The planned location does not have existing utilities. He would like to see the campground placed at a location that already has access to utilities.

3. **Special Presentation: Chronic Wasting Disease**

David Riehlman, Wildlife Biologist with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Bureau of Wildlife, spoke about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and its implications in New York State. CWD is a transmissible neurological disease found in members of the deer family that attacks the brain of infected deer and elk, causing emaciation, abnormal behavior and death of the infected animal. CWD is thought to be caused by abnormal, proteinaceous, infectious particles called prions. The mode of transmission has not yet been fully identified and research is ongoing to explore possibilities of transmission to other species. However, evidence has shown that the disease can pass by direct contact through saliva, urine, and feces, and by indirect contact through environmental contamination with infective substances. Currently there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk for humans or domestic animals.

The state Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Ag and Markets (DAM), and Health (DOH), and the USDA are cooperating to develop a comprehensive response to the threat of CWD. When the potential CWD threat



was identified in 2002, New York responded with regulations restricting activities that could introduce or spread CWD. The CWD regulation restricts importation of live deer and elk, deer feeding, importation and possession of certain animal parts and carcasses, the liberation of wild or captive deer and elk and transportation of deer and elk carcasses and parts through New York. The DEC implemented a statewide surveillance program to test wild white-tailed deer for the presence of CWD. When CWD was discovered in two captive herds DEC implemented a program of intensive sampling in the area surrounding those facilities. To determine if CWD exists within the wild deer population in the area surrounding the known CWD positive location, the DEC initiated an intensive sampling program around the affected area. Results of this site-specific sampling will provide a better understanding of CWD dispersal within the deer herd. More information can be found on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/currentcwd.html>. A question and answer period followed.

4. Committee & Task Force Reports:

- Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Cindy reported that the NRC met March 16. Discussed Broome County Open Space Plan and calls for legislative support.
 - **ACTION ITEM #1**: Community Preservation Act (A.6450/S.3153)- Support letter to Sen. Libous in favor of the Bill comes moved and seconded by the NRC. The bill would amend the Town Law, authorizing towns to voluntarily establish, through local referendum, a fund to preserve open space, financed by a real estate transfer fee. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - **ACTION ITEM #2**: Clean Water Protection and Flood Prevention Act (A.2048/S.2081)- The bill would extend wetlands protection down to a size of one acre, thus protecting small, isolated wetlands regardless of federal protection. EMC advisory resolution calling for support of the Bill, support letters to Sen. Libous and Sen. Bruno, and thank you letter to Sen. Marcellino for his support of the Bill come moved and seconded by the NRC. All in favor. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 18, 4:30 pm BCOB.

- Recycling & Waste Mgmt Committee (RWMC): Tim reported that the RWMC met March 27. Discussed Tioga County's new plastic bag recycling program, the feasibility of curbside plastic bag collection in Broome, discussed the DSWM's draft Guide to Construction and Demolition Recycling, and in general, composting. Next meeting: Monday, May 20, 4:30 pm BCOB.
- Goose Management Task Force (GTMF): The Draft Comprehensive Plan for Managing Broome County's Resident Goose Population is almost complete. Members may review the draft plan and offer comments until May 22. Next meeting: Will meet in May to incorporate members' comments about the draft plan, date to be determined. Present report to full EMC in June.

5. Conservation Advisory Committee/Commission (CAC) Reports:

Vestal- Cindy reported that the CAC met with the town historian, Margaret Hedsell. Discussed and decided not to support the Community Preservation Act. Next meeting: April 25.

6. Staff & Chair Reports:

- Beth passed the Environmental Analyst test and will receive permanent status after a probationary period.
- A Binghamton University student has accepted the offer for an internship and will begin to work with the EMC during the fall semester.
- Several EMC members have contacted staff with their energy conservation tips. These will be organized for distribution at Earth Fest.
- An updated EMC roster is available upon request.

7. The meeting adjourned at **9:07 pm**

Beth Egitto, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor