

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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



Broome County Office Building • 44 Hawley Street • P.O. Box 1766 • Binghamton, New York 13902
(607) 778-2116 • Fax (607) 778-6051 • Website: www.gobroomecounty.com

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Minutes from the meeting held Thursday, December 4, 2008

Decker Community Room, Broome County Public Library, 185 Court St., Binghamton, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: André LaClair, Bill Heaviside, Karen Ciatyk, Tony Lubzanski, Mary Cronk and Chris Burger

CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Kris Lau

Associate Members: Ken Holmes

Visitors/Guests: Rachel Cornick and Alex Hill

Absent with Excuse: Kevin Mathers, Erin Heard, Julia Hoover and Josephine Chu, Bob Denz, and Terry Woodnorth

1. André **convened** the meeting at **6:07 pm**. Mary moved and Bill seconded to approve *November* (not December 2008) minutes as written. Motion carried.

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

- The local Sierra Club chapter meets Dec. 16, 7:30 pm at the United Methodist Church, Endicott and will feature a film by Josh Cox an activist from the Scenic Delaware area who shows what is happening in western states to those people living in areas with natural gas production. Cindy has '09 Calendars for sale.
- Karen noted that Rick Marsi will give a talk on the environment Dec. 5, 7 pm at Roberson Museum and Science Center as part of First Friday activities.
- Stacy shared news about a proposal to allow snowmobile access in a portion of Chenango Valley State Park. Discussion followed. The topic will be discussed further at the next Natural Resources Committee meeting.

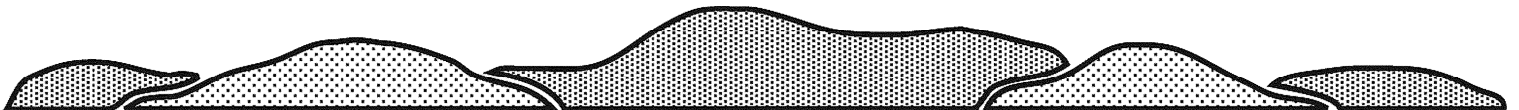
3. Holiday Party/Work Session: draft 2009 EMC Work Plan review

Council reviewed the 2009 draft work plan over pizza and snacks, and briefly discussed current/future EMC initiatives, projects and programs. Members asked to add language to address "website administration and maintenance" under "ADMIN 09-06 - Professional Development" and add "interview candidates" under new "ADMIN 09-08: Analyst Vacancy". Also add "Volunteers" to STAFF under "NRC-09-01 - Plan, Policy, and Development Reviews"; and qualify wildlife (i.e. resident Canada geese) under "NRC-09-06 - Plant & Wildlife Management". Dates of various public programs were noted along with the addition of other committee liaison assignments (BC Community Health Assessment Steering Committee and the First Ward Brownfield Opportunity Area Steering Committee, among others). **ACTION ITEM #1:** Chris moved, Mary seconded, to approve the 2009 Draft Work Plan with modifications. Motion carried.

4. The Council skipped the break.

5. Committee Reports

Natural Resources Committee (NRC) – Karen reported the NRC met Thursday Nov. 20 and heard report from Chip McElwee (BC Soil & Water Conservation District) about the latest revision of the BC Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plan, a five-year voluntary, incentive based program that helps farmers operate environmentally sound and economically viable businesses. Also discussed various testimonies that were given during mid October public hearing before the NYS Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation about the dSGEIS on the proposed regulatory revisions to the NYSDEC's Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program, etc. Discussed testimony heard at the public Scoping meeting from Nov 17. NRC



summarized items of major concerns to include in a comment response letter to NYSDEC. **Next meeting:** Thurs. Dec 17, 4pm, BC Health Dept, meeting room A.

Recycling and Waste Management Committee (RWMC) – Stacy reported that RWMC met Monday, Nov 24. at the BC Health Dept and received progress reports about the BC Landfill entrance progress and road abandonment at Knapp Rd. Received several other reports from DSWM. Discussed the NYS budget and the Governor's proposed reduction of Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) from the current 2008-2009 level of \$255 Million to \$205 million. The bad news is that the Secondary Materials Line of the EPF would be slashed by \$7 million from \$8.75 to \$1.75 million; the good news is that the Governor also proposed expansion of the Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill. Discussed EMC support strategies previously issued and whether to pursue again. Issue was tabled until January and until the NRC weighs in on the issues as well. **Next meeting:** Monday, Jan. 26, 4pm, BC Health Dept, meeting room A. Point of info: Per Chris, the BCC president called a meeting to discuss recycling issues at the campus. He will keep us posted.

Membership Committee – **ACTION ITEM #2:** results of the election for 2009 EMC officers and general memberships are as follows: Chairperson Andre LaClair; Vice-Chairs Karen Ciatyk and Cindy Westerman; Members-at-Large (MAL) Chris Burger (renewal), Mary Cronk (renewal), Andre LaClair (renewal), Karen Ciatyk (renewal), and Erin Heard (renewal); Student Representatives Alex Hill (Union-Endicott HS) and Rachael Cornick (BCC). The nominations for MAL renewals and Student Rep seats will be forwarded to the County Executive for approval and Legislative confirmation. The Council's nominee for Chairperson only requires only the appointment of the County Executive; the selection of Vice Chairs is final.

Andre was presented with a certificate of Appreciation for the EMC for his service as EMC Chair. Kris Lau, EMC fall intern, was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service this semester.

Executive Committee – **ACTION ITEM #3:** Cindy moved, Bill seconded, to adopt the draft 2009 EMC Meeting & Events Calendar as submitted. Motion carried.

6. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports

Vestal – Cindy reported the CAC did not meet in December. Next meeting: Jan. 27, 7pm, Vestal Town Hall.

7. Staff and Chairs Reports

- EMC Chair Appointments - Andre appointed Bill Heaviside as NRC Chairperson and Tony Lubzanski as RWMC Chairperson for 2009. The Membership Committee will be Erin, Julia, Karen and Andre.
- Draft letter to NYSDEC re: draft Scope for dSGEIS for Mining Regulatory Program – Andre generated a rough draft comment response letter to the DEC based on discussions and emails from EMC members. Stacy circulated a summary of the feedback thus far from members for reference. Most, but not all of member's concerns are incorporated into the draft. **NEW ACTION ITEM (#4):** After favorable review, on a motion from Cindy, seconded by Karen, the Council agreed to adopt the letter in concept (given the comment deadline is Dec 12), and directed staff to include points about unused fresh water disposal into other bodies of water, Julia's bonding and insurance issues, and Kevin Mather's comment that it would be reasonable to ask that brines be tested for other contaminants if used on roads, among other things. All in favor – motion carried. Stacy and Andre will further polish the letter and try to get another draft to at least the Executive Committee for final review before sending. Even though the DEC often stated their procedures in the old final GEIS of years ago, the Council wishes to ensure that their questions are reevaluated in the context of horizontal drilling in the Supplemental GEIS.
- EMC Environmental Analyst - No new report on the status of the Analyst vacancy.

The meeting **adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

Recorders, Kris Lau and Stacy Merola