

Broome County Environmental Management Council

Patrick J. Brennan, Broome County Executive



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Notes from the meeting held Thursday, July 7, 2011 United Way of Broome County, Jenson Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: Andre LaClair, Marley Urdanick, and Bill Heaviside

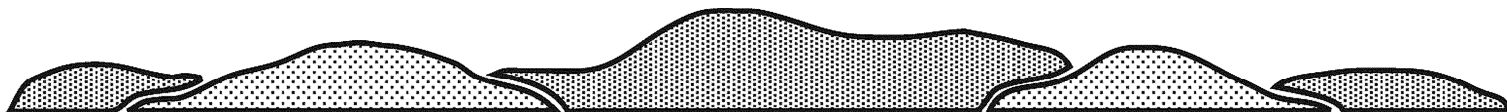
CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Staff: Beth Egitto, BC Planning

1. The meeting was **convened** at **7:10 pm**.

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

- County-wide LWRP – A meeting of the LWRP committee and public meetings were held to get feedback on the draft county-wide Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. Some of the issues that came up were branding and the prioritization of projects. The plan is posted on the Town of Vestal’s website for those who wish to review it.
- Municipal Training – There will be a Municipal Training, planned through cooperation between the Planning Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension, titled “Integrating Agriculture into the Comprehensive Plan” and “Farm Friendly Zoning: What Is It & Why Should I Care?”. The training is being held on July 14th from 4:30pm-8pm at the Town of Chenango Community Hall. An announcement was circulated.
- Beth attended the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation/NYS Association of EMC’s Update Meeting in Albany. Topics that were discussed included the updated SEQR forms, Emerald Ash Borer, Climate Smart Communities and Outdoor Burning, among others.
- The Livable Communities Alliance will be meeting on July 12th at 2pm at the Broome County Library. They will discuss the symposium that was held in May, next steps for the LCA and the Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan, among other things.
- Beth attended the Upper Susquehanna Coalition 2nd Annual Congressional Forum regarding the impacts of Chesapeake Bay TMDL on July 7th. The group discussed developments and issues related to the development of New York’s Watershed Implementation Plan. Some of the issues include the potential enforcement of backstops that may not be achievable and are extremely costly, the lack of consideration for New York’s already clean water and exceptional agricultural programs, and problems with the modeling used by the EPA in developing their nutrient limitations. The USC and DEC will continue efforts to ensure that the regulation related to the TMDL are effective environmentally and economically.
- Beth attended the Regional Nonpoint Source Strategy Meeting for NYSDEC’s Region 7 Division of Water on June 28th. Topics of discussion included Onondaga County’s Save the Rain Program, Upper Susquehanna Coalition’s Agriculture Program, and revisions to the NYS Stormwater Design Manual.
- Natural Gas Drilling Updates –
 - o Beth attended a meeting in Chenango county regarding Local Regulation of Natural Gas Development. Issues that were covered included the aspects which are under local control, crafting proper road use agreements, and legal issues regarding construction of pipelines and compressor stations.
 - o A draft of the dGSEIS for gas drilling was released. However, it is not complete and several sections are missing. The public comment period will not begin until all sections are complete. Beth suggested that members approach the most recent draft by assessing whether the comments that were previously submitted had been addressed, and any new sections as applicable. From this point the EMC can focus on what regulations are included and how the County/municipalities can prepare for



drilling under these regulations (i.e. mapping of areas where drilling is prohibited, applicable local ordinances, etc.). There was a brief discussion about some of the issues that have been seen in the new draft thus far. Some members feel that aspects of the dGSEIS are too vague. For example, several sections refer to Best Management Practices that are not listed out. Also, the need for guidance for local municipalities and the public at large about these issues was noted. These and other issues will be looked as the dGSEIS process continues. The issue will be discussed further at the Natural Resources Committee.

3. Committee and CAC items

- The Natural Resources Committee did not meet in May or June.
- Cindy reported that the Vestal CAC met on June 16th. They discussed several items including plans for tours related to Vestal Parks. Mittendorf Park has been under consideration for logging recently and Rock Road Glen is a location along an abandoned road that may be a potential location for a new park. The group also discussed a Upper Susquehanna Coalition wetlands project at Jones Park and recent developments in the Rivercrest area. The group also voted to extend terms for CAC members to 2 years.
- Andre reported about the Fenton CAC. The CAC made a presentation to the Town Board regarding the details about the boards status and bylaws. There are five people sitting on the CAC currently. The Town decided that the CAC would be called a commission as opposed to a board, but would have bylaws that afford them the same responsibilities as a board. The group plans to comment on environmental impacts of development proposals, with means for conflict of interest disclosure. The will use a checklist for assessing these impacts.

4. Membership and Administrative Items

- Andre asked if there had been a response to the letter regarding logging at Aqua-Terra Park. The letter was sent to the Executive Office and Parks Department. However, there was no response returned. Beth reported that the action is still on hold as they gather more information.
- Beth reported that she will submit recommendations for reappointments to the Executive before the next meeting.
- There are speakers lined up for meetings in September and October. At the September 8th meeting, the EMC will host Eric Johnston from Gleason Heating. He will be talking about the installation of geothermal energy system on local homes. In October Daniel Schofield, Department of Solid Waste, will attend to discuss recent developments in their recycling and solid waste programs.
- Beth had contacted Cathy Aingworth at the Binghamton-Johnson City Sewage Treatment Plant about setting up a tour and she was willing to set up a time with the EMC. However, due to recent construction issues, scheduling a tour will be postponed until a more convenient time.

5. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm. **Next meeting:** Thurs., September 8th @ 6:00pm, Broome County Public Library.