



# Broome County Environmental Management Council

Debra A. Preston, County Executive

## Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Natural Resources Committee

Notes from meeting held on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 4:30pm  
Decker Room, Broome County Library  
185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY

**Present:** Julia Hoover, Bill Heaviside, Marley Urdanick, Andre LaClair, Dylan Horvath, Cindy Westerman, Lee Shepherd and Julian Shepherd.

1. The meeting was **convened at 4:30pm.**
  - Previous minutes are reviewed. Bill moves to approve minutes. Julia seconds, all are in favor, February minutes are approved.
  
2. **Julian Shepherd Presentation**
  - Over the past 10 or so years, Julian has been visiting and recording all of the unique natural areas through-out Broome County that he believes are biologically or geologically important. So far he has 216 places, some of which are subdivided. His interested started when the IBM glen was going to be sold and logged. IBM was convinced to turn the 200 acre area into a conservation area; they did not know they had such valuable land.
  - Julian had criteria and characteristics which he recorded at each site and entered into a Microsoft database (ex: plant and animal species, geological features). Using this database, you can search for specific places that have unique features. For example, searching "Tanager Bird" would show you all the places where you can expect to find it.
  - He has come up with a way to value the data he has recorded so that we can see which sites have the most value. He listed each site and within each category he gave points based on what was found at that site. For example, locations that had rare plant or animal species got higher points than places where common species were found. The idea is that more points will go to the areas where there are special/unique features. Categories included endangered species, rare plants, overall value, heritage value and rarity value which were the sum of all. His results showed that the BU Nature Preserve is the most valuable area (probably because it has been studied most). Pickerel Pond was #2, Boland Park was #3, IBM Glen is #4 and Sky Lake is #5. Julian would like to see this database used by the County; incorporate this information into their planning process/decisions.
  - Questions/comments followed. Andre expressed an interest in documenting the fauna, plant and animal species in Fenton and would be willing to work with Julian and the Town of Fenton to get it started. Natalie has worked with

Julian to make a GIS map of the 216 locations in Broome County. They did this by using the degree, minutes and seconds coordinates.

### **3. Announcements/ Privilege of the Floor/Item of Interest**

- Julia shares information about an article in the newspaper about a Hydrofracking class being taught at Mansfield University through the Geology department. The article hinted that the class was promoting it.
- Vestal CAC- currently working on a list of concerns about fracking to give to the town. They did not vote in favor of banning fracking.
- Fenton CAC- working on their own Open Space Plan.
- Open space plan- Bill wants to omit reference to the 1974 Town of Vestal Open Space Plan inventory because it is outdated.
- Chip McElwee is coming to speak about the flood at the EMC general meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30pm.
- Meeting is **adjourned at 5:50pm**. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.