

Broome County Environmental Management Council

Patrick J. Brennan, Broome County Executive



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**Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Natural Resources Committee
Notes from the meeting held Thursday, November 17, 2011
Broome County Public Library, 185 Court Street Binghamton, NY 13901**

Present: Bill Heaviside, Andre LaClair, Cindy Westerman, Magda Masquita Mckeller, and Beth Egitto

1. The meeting was **convened at 4:17 pm.**
2. **Announcements/Privilege of the Floor/ Member Items of Interest**

Bill makes motion to approve the minutes Andre seconds it. Everyone is in favor. The minutes are approved.

3. **Open Space Plan**

Beth informed that she and Magda met with Bryan, the GIS technician, and talked about the layers for the maps. She noted that there are layers that will need to be obtained or created at a later date. Beth circulated a copy of the base map to be used for the map book. Magda should be done with the maps by the next December meeting. Beth suggested that this be the focus of the December meeting.

4. **dSGEIS for Natural Gas Drilling Comments**

Beth circulated a copy of the most recent comments on the draft Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Natural Gas Drilling that Andre developed. There was a discussion about the comments. Some points brought up included formatting, impacts on mortgages, and methane migration. Bill suggested sending the document to the rest of the Council to for comments.

Other issues regarding the dSGEIS and the comments included: there is a lot about economics, when the focus should be on the environment; DEC; applications will have to go through SEQR process; setbacks should be based on several factors, not just water supply; funding for staffing, the DEC admitted they are understaffed; there are no assessment of the impacts of a full build out; and impacts on infrastructure from truck traffic. There were some comments about how farmers invest the money they receive from leasing.

Further discussion followed. Cindy and Beth will read the comments over and send any comments to Andre to be incorporated for the full Council meeting in December.

5. The meeting adjourned at **5:30 pm. Next meeting:** Thursday, December 15th

