

# Broome County Environmental Management Council

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



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**Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (NRC)  
Minutes from December 18, 2008  
Conference Room A, BC Health Department, 225 Front St, Binghamton, NY**

**Present:** Karen Ciatyk, Cindy Westerman, Rachael Cornick, Bill Heaviside, Julia Hoover, Beth Egitto, Andre LaClair, Cassarah Decker, and Stacy Merola. **AWE:** Mary Cronk and Erin Heard.

Karen called the meeting to order at **4:10pm**.

1. Minutes from November were not yet available for review and approval because of time and lack of EMC support staff. Minutes will be considered for adoption at the January 2009 meeting.

### 2. Open Space Plan

Chapter/Sections to date – The OSP status chart will be updated to reflect the most current situation so that members can track our progress. This can be put on the disk of sections for members. Maps created by Doug English might also be items to include on the disk.

Section III B. – Water Resources – Beth noted that areas of the section need updating including stormwater/MS4 details, Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) given that Chip is updating the plan, and in Table 1 – Threats to Water Quality, drilling and mining need to be included. In addition, the potential benefits to agricultural lands should be noted from a water quality perspective, because farmers will not want to sell off their land to developers due to the natural gas opportunities, which in turn could create less polluted water runoff because their lands are not being farmed.

Section III C. - Working Landscapes – numbers in charts need revision to account for the agricultural assessments from 2007. Mining for natural gas could also be considered part of the working landscapes section, which still needs lots of work. A recommendation should be included noting it is imperative for landowners to know the natural resources value of their land when negotiating leases.

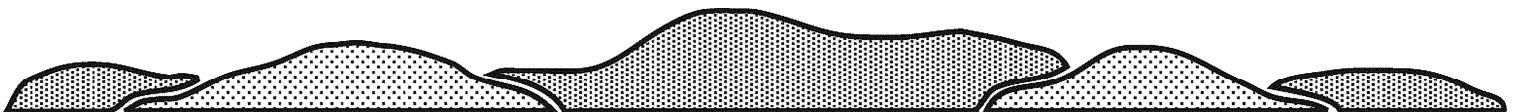
Section IV A. – County-wide Recommended Actions – Andre will incorporate Bill and Cindy's suggested edits and offer an amended version for consideration by the group.

### 3. Chenango Valley State Park - snowmobiles

The group discussed news articles and various opinion pieces that appeared recently in the Press & Sun-Bulletin about allowing snowmobiles into Chenango Valley State Park (CVSP). Discussion ensued. Members felt that snowmobiles would detract from the natural setting, create noise and air pollution, create a potential hazard for other users, displace wildlife, disrupt breeding patterns, and overall impact the outdoor experience that CVSP offers. Cindy moved, Julia seconded, to direct staff to draft a letter to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in opposition to allowing use of any motorized vehicles for recreational purposes in state parks, including CVSP. Motion carried. Question arose about a timeline for this letter, which was still uncertain.

### 4. Announcements/Privilege of the Floor/Member Items of Interest

- Karen offered to sit on the First Ward Brownfield Opportunity Area Steering Committee in Stacy's absence as needed. The next meeting has not been set. A few Steering Committee members will be reviewing consultant proposals for the study at the turn of the year.



- Circulated the Nov/Dec 2008 edition of *Rural Futures*, a publication of the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, that contains many articles and updates on wind, solar power, and biomass issues, natural gas, timber and forestry issues, tourism, etc.

- Outdoor Wood Boiler – The EMC received a renewed complaint from a Town of Fenton resident yesterday who has been dealing with a neighbor's outdoor wood burning unit for the last few years. The offending unit is again in operation after a judge dismissed "charges" of a violation brought against the operator of the unit by the Town – The Town denied a variance requests in late 2007 and ordered the operator to cease operation. On behalf of the complainant, the BC Health Dept. requested that the NYSDEC perform air quality monitoring of the unit, however, the NYSDEC denied this request citing that a medical doctor needs to state that an injury or condition is a direct consequence from operation of the OWB. The complainant bares the burden of proof by having to qualify the emissions that negatively impact him and his family.

Andre reported that he attended the Town's work session; they are proposing to amend the definition of OWB subject to a public hearing. He will keep the group posted on any developments.

**5. Next meeting:** Thurs. January 22, 2009, 4pm, mtg room A, BC Health Dept. 225 Front St., Binghamton.

The meeting **adjourned at 6:05 pm**

Stacy Merola, recorder