

**Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)**  
**Notes from the meeting held Thursday, January 5, 2006**  
**United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY**

**Present:**

**Members-at-Large:** Terry Woodnorth, Mary Cronk, Tim Wolcott, Bill Heaviside, André LaClair and Lisa Hoffman

**C.A.C Reps.** Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

**Legislative Reps:** Ron Keibel (11<sup>th</sup> District)

**Associate Members:** Karen Ciatyk, Tony Lubzanski and Duke Holdsworth

**Staff/Intern:** Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

**Visitors:** Tom Tasber, John Tkach, Mary Jane Lombardo, Heidi Kowalchuk and Erin Heard

**Absent w/excuse:** Ruth Levin, Doug Garner, Bob Denz, Chip McElwee and Anndrea Starzak

1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **7:05 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from December were amended as follows: in Staff and Chairs Report (3<sup>rd</sup> bullet) change “*André* noted that the Nature Conservancy” to “*It was* noted that the Nature Conservancy”. Minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Tony seconded by Bill. Motion carried.
2. **Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest**
  - Stacy circulated info about Christmas tree recycling pick-ups and drop-offs. Free drop-off locations for County residents only: Grippen Park, Endicott (daylight hours); NYSDEC Sub-office, 1179 Route 11, Kirkwood (8am-4pm) December 27-January 31; Broome County Landfill, Knapp Road, Maine (during landfill hours, M-F, 7am-2:45pm, Sat. 7am-11:45am). Contact individual towns and villages for curbside pick-up information or staff for a copy of the Press & Sun Bulletin article outlining dates.
  - League of Women voter newsletter announced a program to address soil vapor exposure issues in the area. Featuring Mayor Joan Hickey Pulse (Endicott), Bob Denz (BC Health Dept.) and Denise Murray (American Cancer Society). Date: **Tuesday, January 24, 2006**, Time: **Refreshments @ 7pm, Program @ 7:30pm**, Place: **Vestal Public Library, Vestal Parkway E., Vestal**
  - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a Notice of Petition to Amend (filed by Millennium Pipeline and Columbia Gas Transmission) requesting authorization to amend the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued for the construction and operation of the Millennium Pipeline. One of the segments to be modified is a 5.5 mile section in Town of Maine. An Open House is tentatively scheduled for **January 26<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm**.
  - BMTS’s long range plan “Transportation Tomorrow: 2030, Placemaking for Prosperity” is complete. Copies were circulated.
  - The NYS DOT has released their draft long term plan “*Transportation Strategies for a New Age: New York’s Transportation Plan for 2030*”. Comments will be accepted until **February 24<sup>th</sup>**. The document can be accessed on the web at <http://www.dot.state.ny.us/tranplan/mp-intro.html> (the file takes a few minutes to load).
  - Stacy circulated a sign-up sheet for 2006 special events organized by the EMC (EarthFest, JKLS Photo Show, Book Fair and Riverbank). Members should volunteer for at least one of the events as scheduling permits. If possible there will be an EMC group assigned to a site for Riverbank Clean-Up.
  - A final draft of the “2006 EMC Meeting and Events Calendar” is available and will be posted to the EMC website soon.

### 3. **Special Presentation: Policy Analysis on Goose Management for the Environmental Management Council of Broome County, New York**

**Authors:** Cris Donovan, Heidi Kowalchyk, Mary Jane Lombardo, Jung Hyeon Ha and John Tkach

Increasing public nuisances and costs to manage damage from large Canada Goose populations revealed the need for a comprehensive goose management strategy in Broome County. Students from Binghamton University's MPA program presented their analysis of public policy options for Canada Goose management. Methods for goose management include humane options (i.e. visual/audio scaring devices, chemical repellants and habitat modification), many of which have been employed by Broome County, and lethal options (i.e. round up and euthanize the geese). There is much public controversy about lethal methods.

The students looked at three (3) strategies: the status quo involving no change to current management strategies; a community-based approach involving community-wide cooperation through public education and coordinated non-lethal approaches (addling, dogs, habitat modification and relocation); and a humane approach using outside consultation (Geese Peace) to integrate multiple humane mechanisms. They evaluated the short and long term costs of each approach and ranked them based on multiple evaluation criteria (developed from stakeholder input). The analysis showed that the community-based approach is their recommended strategy for goose management in Broome County. Discussion followed and main concerns included the effectiveness of a county wide depredation permit, the effectiveness of addling with volunteers and problems with enforcement. The EMC's Goose Mgmt Task Force will meet Jan. 11 to discuss the report in more detail.

4. There was a short break.

### 5. **Committee & Task Force Reports:**

Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Met December 15<sup>th</sup>. Reviewed the draft "Water Resources" section of the BC Open Space Plan, written by Beth with contributions from former Analyst, Jeremy Magliaro. Other topics: Report that J. Shepherd entered 40 of 150 unique natural areas into a database; he's willing to share; update on Headwaters River Trail group and upcoming meeting; and discussed the status of the Brownfields Committee.

Goose Management Task Force (GMTF): No report. Next meeting: Jan. 11, 4:30 pm, BCOB

Recycling & Waste Mgmt Committee (RWMC): No report. Next meeting: Jan. 23, 4:30 pm, BCOB. Duke expressed concern about possible disposal of cardboard as trash (as opposed to recycling) at construction sites. This topic will be further address by the RWMC.

Membership Committee: Melanie Feltmate, a BU student, submitted her application for EMC Student Rep. She will study abroad during the spring '06 semester but is available to begin membership when she returns in June/July.

### 6. **Conservation Advisory Committee/Commission (CAC) Reports:**

Vestal- No meeting in December. Next meeting: Jan 24, 7pm, Vestal Town Hall.

Union- No report.; Dickinson- No report.

### 7. **Staff & Chair Reports:**

- Currently there is no guest speaker planned for February. Some suggestions included the County Executive Barbara Fiala (already invited at her convenience), County Legislator Daniel Schofield and perhaps the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works/Solid Waste Management, David Donoghue.
- Terry reported that a Binghamton High School teacher (R. Oberg) has developed a cross-curriculum project, known the "Confluence Project", using local waterways as teaching tools and expanding students' awareness of the rivers and their influence on the community. The project encourages teachers to use the rivers as part of their instruction in subjects including science, English and the arts. Terry suggested integrating the project into the Joyce K.L. Smith Photo Show (i.e. a rivers category or a student category) in the future.

### 8. The meeting adjourned at **8:58 pm**

Beth Egitto, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor