

**Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)**  
**Notes from the meeting held Thursday, July 7, 2005**  
**United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY**

**Present:**

**Members-at-Large:** Terry Woodnorth, Bill Heaviside, Tony Lubzanski, Ken Kamlet, Ruth Levin, Tim Wolcott and Mary Cronk

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

**Legislative Reps:** Ron Keibel

**Associate Members:** Karen Ciatyk

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

**Visitors:** Joe Graney, Siddhartha Mitra, Stacie Rice, Steve Rice and Julann Rice

**Absent w/excuse:** Andre LaClair, Doug Garner, Bob Denz, Herman Roberson, Chip McElwee, and Rick Kumpon

1. Terry **convened** the meeting at **7:40 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from June were amended as follows: CAC reports- Second sentence, change "Vestal Town Hall meeting" to "meeting at Vestal Town Hall"; Staff and Chair Reports- First item, change spelling from "Wilcott" to "Wolcott". Minutes approved as amended on a motion by Bill, seconded by Ken. Motion carried.

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

- A State League of Women Voters newsletter containing information about the Bottle Bill was circulated.
- Division of Solid Waste Mgmt (DSWM) sponsored compost bin sale is Sat., July 9, Oakdale Mall Sears parking lot, 8am-4pm. Flyers circulated.
- Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District (BCSWCD) 2005 Fall Bulb Sale - variety of flower species available (e.g. iris, daffodil, tulip). Order by Aug 19; pickup Sept 9. Contact Chip McElwee.
- Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS) items:
  - New bike map printed for Broome/Tioga Counties. Available in the Planning Dept and local bike shops.
  - Two public meetings were held today about the Binghamton Intermodal Transit Terminal (BITT) project. The site will be the location of existing Greyhound/Shortline terminals. Four conceptual site plans were presented for public comment.
  - Volunteers are needed for the bike rodeo at the Chris Thater Memorial Bicycle Race Saturday, Aug 27 from 2-4pm. Volunteers will register participants, fit bike helmets, and instruct children about bike handling and safety. Interested parties should contact Scott Reigle of BMTS.
  - Public meetings scheduled for July 20, 7pm and July 21, 2pm and 7pm to discuss alternative scenarios for project selection for the final draft report *Transportation Tomorrow:2030*, BMTS long-range plan.
- Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) items:
  - Negative Declaration and Public Hearing- Town Board of the Town of Dickinson determined that the proposed adoption of the Town of Dickinson Comprehensive Plan Update will not have significant adverse environmental impacts. A public hearing set for July 11, 6pm, Dickinson Town Hall.
  - Positive Declaration and Public Scoping- The Town board of the Town of Triangle has determined that the proposed Dale Wells and Patricia Wells application for junkyard license may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared. A public scoping session will be held Aug 4, 8pm, Triangle Town Hall.

**3. Special Presentation: Pharmaceutical Derived Contamination of Natural Waters- Dr. Siddhartha Mitra and Stacy Rice**

The presentation began with council members' participation in an anonymous survey about personal use of medications. Our bodies process only 40 to 70% of the medications that we take, while the rest is excreted into the sewage system. Three thousand new chemicals are put on the market every year and sewage treatment facilities, designed without these chemicals in mind, are not equipped to treat this form of contamination. US Geological Survey looked at several small streams throughout the country and analyzed for certain active ingredients, including those found in birth control, detergents and antibacterial products (triclosan especially). A large number of ingredients found in human medications were discovered. While concentrations were on the order of less than 1 µg/L, these amounts can have impacts on smaller aquatic organisms and lead to increased antibiotic resistance. Dr. Mitra and Ms. Rice conduct their research in Dunkirk, NY a small coastal town on Lake Erie. They gave an overview of their methodology for collecting sediment and water, and analyzing them for these chemicals. Presently, they only have results from the sediment analysis which did not show the presence of these chemicals. However, without analysis of water samples it is inconclusive whether or not the chemicals are an issue in Dunkirk. Some methods that may help to prevent pharmaceutical derived contamination are refraining from disposal of unused medications down the drain and using techniques to denture the chemicals such as UV exposure or incineration. A question and answer period followed.

4. The council took a short break.

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

- Brownfields Committee (BFC): Stacy reported that in place of June a meeting, staff and BFC members presented the findings of the Inventory and Ranking Project Report to the Legislature's Economic Development and Planning Committee June 7. They were pleased with the actions and recommendations of the BFC. Next meeting: Wed., July 13, 3:30pm – vapor intrusion presentation from O'Brien and Gere Engineers. Notice will be sent to full council.
- Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Stacy reported that NRC met June 16 and received notice of SPDES (State Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit renewals for the Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant permits. NRC also discussed the proposed NYS Community Preservation Act, which would give municipalities the option to impose a tax on real estate purchases above the area's median value and devote those funds to local open space protection. NRC members liked the concept but decided that another tax in Broome County would probably not sit well with voters. The EMC purchased and received the video *Preserving Open Spaces with Conservation Subdivisions* from the Center for Community Environmental Management. Joyce K.L. Smith Memorial Funds were used for the purchase. Next meeting: Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm, BCOB (may be cancelled due to anticipated absences of NRC members).
- Goose Management Task Force: Did not meet in June, however, Karen reported seeing a lot of geese lately, but didn't think the problem was as bad this year as it was in 2004. Next meeting: TBD.
- Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC): Tim reported that RWMC met June 20 at the Library. Information about the variety of recycling symbol on materials was shared. John Kowalchuk is no longer Commissioner of DSWM. Public Works Deputy for Engineering, David Donoghue will assume John's responsibilities. John was appointed as BC Transit Commissioner. The Liverpool, NY materials recovery facility (MRF) that closed due to a fire will likely reopen in December. Broome sends recyclables to this facility for processing. There was extensive debate about bottle bill legislation, both pro and con. The committee did not take a formal position at this time. A letter to a local grocer, Giant Markets, about plastic bag recycling was approved by RWMC. It comes before the full council for approval.

**ACTION ITEM:** Plastic grocery bag recycling letter to Charles Hunt of Giant markets. The committee was concerned that the letter was too personal, but decided that this was appropriate due to prior personal communication between Tim and Mr. Hunt. There was further discussion about the wording of the letter. Ken called the question, Tim seconded. Motion to end debate and call for vote passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, and 1

abstention (R. Levin). Motion to approve the letter as written carried with 7 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention (R. Levin).

**6. CAC Reports:** No reports.

**7. Staff & Chair Reports:**

- EMC Chair, Andre LaClair, appointed Tim Wolcott as Chairperson of RWMC. A member is needed (for appointment) to represent the EMC on the Landfill CAC. Staff will send letters to residents within ½ mile of the landfill to solicit nominees for the voting resident representative seat on the LCAC.
- Stacy was appointed jointly by NYSDEC and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to fill a vacancy on the NYS Reg. 7 Open Space Advisory Committee.
- Stacy completed and submitted the EMC's proposed 2006 operating budget, which is just under \$100K. A budget hearing is set for July 11.
- The NYSAEMC Conference on the Environment dates (Oct 8, 9 & 10) conflict with Riverbank Clean Up (Oct 8). There are funds available for council members to attend.
- Stacy and Beth attended the annual NYSAEMCs/NYSDEC update meeting on June 27 at DEC headquarters in Albany. Topics addressed included gas drilling on state lands, air resources (RGGI), legislative initiatives and chronic wasting disease, among others.
- Stacy distributed updated rosters.

**8.** The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm

Beth Egitto, Recorder  
Stacy Merola, Editor.