

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Notes from the meeting held Thursday, July 6, 2006

United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Cindy Westerman, Tim Wolcott, Mary Cronk, Bill Heaviside, Ruth Levin and Karen Ciatyk

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

Ex-Officio: Bob Denz (BCHD)

Associates: André LaClair and Duke Holdsworth

Visitors: Jon Mackay (Enviro Testing) and Melanie Feltmate

Absent w/excuse: Kevin Mathers, Chip McElwee, Doug Garner and Ron Keibel

1. Terry **convened** the meeting at **7:07 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from June were approved with the following amendment on a motion by Bill seconded by Terry; reword incomplete sentence beginning in the 6th line of the Goose Presentation summary. Motion carried.

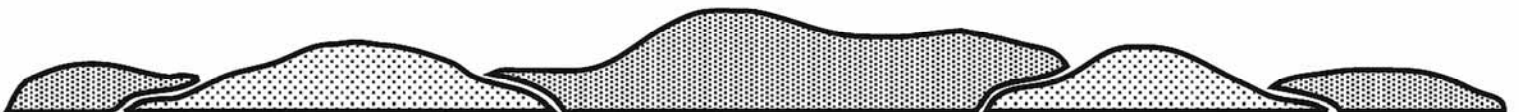
2. Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest

- This year's Book Recycling Fair will take place Sept 14-16 for dropping off books and 22-23 for the book give away, from 9am-3pm each day. Volunteers are needed. The Volunteer Assignment Descriptions and brochure are available on the EMC and Solid Waste websites. Those that have volunteered in the past or have already signed up will receive a letter and brochure in the mail.
- Riverbank Cleanup will be held on October 7th. Tim will be captain for the EMC team to clean William "Billy" H. Hill Park in Union (near JC Waterworks and AES plant).
- The NYS Association of EMCs will hold the annual Conference on the Environment October 13-15 at the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, NY. Stacy and Beth will attend and Tim, Cindy and Terry have expressed interest. Informational materials will be forwarded to everyone when they arrive.
- Cortland County SWCD will sponsor a workshop "Leasing Your Oil and Gas Rights" on Friday, July 7 at the NYS Grange Headquarters in Cortland from 1:30-3pm to provide information to better understand the impacts of oil and gas leases.
- The EMC has obtained a disc with the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Millennium Pipeline project. It is available for review at the EMC offices.
- Ruth announced that she is looking to give away a piano. Melanie mentioned that Binghamton University will likely be willing to take it and she will find the appropriate contact.
- Tim has organized for Ellen Pratt, Tioga County EMC and Solid Waste, to speak about the curbside plastic bag recycling program in Tioga at the October EMC General meeting. [Editors note: changed to September].
- NYRI Power line update (Mary) - Senators Schumer and Clinton have questioned the NYRI Power Line project and claim that they have doubts and there are too many unanswered questions. The NYS House and Senate both passed a bill to prevent transportation companies from using eminent domain. It is now up to Pataki to sign or veto the bill.

3. Guest Speaker: Jon Mackay, Enviro Testing

Jon Mackay is a Communications and Electrical Engineer for Enviro Testing and a NYS Licensed Home Inspector. During inspection Enviro Testing looks at various hazards such as lead paint, mold, asbestos, radon, soil vapor and well and septic issues. Due to moisture in many homes from the recent flooding, mold is a topic of concern. It is most important to find the source of moisture that is causing the mold to prevent a larger problem, then use a bleach solution to clean topical mold and rip out any finished areas that are irreparable.

Lead paint is another issue of concern. Problems arise when lead paint is disturbed and becomes airborne making it easy to be ingested by breathing or getting it into the mouth. People should take care if they are working with paint



or varnishes produced before lead paint was banned in 1978. Enviro Testing provides testing for lead paint at a cost of \$100-500.

With regard to vapor intrusion issues, the only available testing is expensive. It is cheaper to put in a mitigation system than to get the testing done. When doing surveys of property (usually commercial) Enviro Testing performs Phase 1 (background check of property and surrounding properties) through Phase 3 (includes maps of the area and spills) environmental audits. These take from 3-6 hours and costs range from about \$300-600 depending on the conditions.

After other questions and answers, Jon was thanked for addressing the Council on such timely topics.

4. Due to her upcoming move to Arizona, Ruth Levin submitted her resignation effective at the end of July. There was an extended break to celebrate Ruth's 18 years of service with the EMC and members presented her with a cake, card and gifts.

5. Committee & Task Force Reports:

- Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Met June 15th. Discussed Draft Conklin Open Space and Connectivity Plan, Vestal and Windsor rail trail projects, Organic Farm Tour, NYRI power line project update, a gravel mine proposal in Barker and a proposed biodiesel manufacturer. Next meeting: July 20th @ 3:30pm, BCOB.
- Recycling & Waste Mgmt Committee (RWMC): In lieu of the regular meeting, RWMC, along with the impacted residents, attended the pre-scoping session for the Landfill Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). A brief presentation was given by Shumaker Consulting Engineering & Land Surveying followed by an opportunity for residents to express their views verbally and/or by drawing ideas on maps. Next meeting: July 24th @ 3:30pm, BCOB.
- Membership: EMC received a student membership application from Melanie Feltmate, a Binghamton University Student, in December. She studied abroad for the spring semester and is currently working on invasive weed management. **ACTION ITEM 1A**: Melanie's nomination for student rep from BU comes moved and seconded from Membership Committee. All in favor. Motion passed to submit her name to the County Executive for endorsement. **ACTION ITEM 1B**: In addition, Andre and Tony have been Associate Members for over 6 months, making them eligible to be considered for Members-at-Large (MAL). Terry suggested that they should fill vacant seats to allow them to continue into new terms when they expire. Ruth motioned and Bill seconded to nominate Andre and Tony as MALs for consideration by the County Executive. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

- Vestal- No meeting. Have two new members, but no names to report.

7. Staff & Chair Reports:

- Stacy submitted the 2007 EMC budget at the end of June. The budget totals \$114K with \$10K anticipated to come from contract work with the Division of Solid Waste. The majority provides for staff salaries.
- Beth was permanently placed into the title of Environmental Analyst in mid-June.

8. The meeting adjourned at **9:38 pm**.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 7th @ 7pm at United Way, Vestal;

Beth Egitto, Recorder;
Stacy Merola, Editor