

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from the meeting held Thursday, June 2, 2005
United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

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

Special Reps: Chip McElwee (BCS&WCD)

C.A.C Reps. Marion Percik (Dickinson), Cindy Westerman (Vestal), and Roger McVannan (Union)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel

Associate Members: Doug Garner, Karen Ciatyk, Rick Kumpon

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola

Visitors: Mary Jane Lombardo, Joe Graney, and Filiberto Fiori

Absent w/excuse: Andre LaClair, David Weitzman, Tim Wolcott, Kevin Mathers, Anndrea Starzak, Rita Petkash and Henry Weissmann

1. Terry **convened** the meeting at **7:40 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from May were amended as follows: item #6, Vestal CAC Report - first sentence, replace “against” with “not enthusiastic”; third sentence, change to read “. . . the project eventually expanding into green spaces”; fourth sentence, replace “next to” with “near”; and correct one minor typo. Minutes approved as amended on a motion by Bill, seconded by Mary. Motioned carried.

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

- June/July EMC Calendar corrections **a)** in place of the June 8 Brownfield Committee (BFC) meeting, staff and committee members will present the BFC’s Inventory & Ranking Summary Report to the County Legislature’s Economic Development Committee Tuesday, June 7. **b)** The River Trail dedication ceremony set for June 3 is cancelled.
- City of Binghamton residents can drop off unwanted tires Sat, Jun 4 from 9am to 3 pm at the City’s Central garage, 26 Brandywine Highway Ave (corner of Brandywine & Robinson). Info circulated.
- Upcoming household hazardous waste collection days at BC Landfill: Sat, June 4 and Sat., June 18.
- The Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photo Show on display through Wed., June 29, BC Library.

3. Special Presentation - Low-Impact Development (LID)

Chip and Stacy shared information created by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) about stormwater conscious development practices. The USC is a consortium of 14 counties (11 NY, 3 PA) that encompass the 7,300+ square miles of the Upper Susquehanna River Basin. The group formed to address non-point source water pollution issues like stormwater management through a multi-disciplinary approach. The USC received funding for the EPA’s Watershed Initiative to encourage and promote conservation practices across the watershed. This initiative is also being used to help New York State develop (under mandate) its Tributary Strategy for the Chesapeake Bay.

Integrating small scale stormwater management, pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into site and building planning/design can create a multifunctional landscape that makes use of natural features, helps reduce erosion and filter urban runoff. Examples of LID practices include,

- pollution prevention and good housekeeping on construction sites,
- rooftop gardens that reduce impervious surface and energy uses,
- rain barrels for water recycling,

- bioretention and rain gardens for water infiltration and pollutant filtering that also reduce impervious surface and provide aesthetics,
- vegetated swales, strips and buffers that filter and slow water velocity,
- permeable pavement that traps rainwater,
- use of soil amendments to increase soil's ability to hold water and nutrients, increase aeration and infiltration.

Practices can have climate dependant limitations, however. Bioretention is widely used in the south as are permeable pavers, because there is less frost heavy and salt use, for example. Soil amendments are widely used where clay soils persist. Vegetative buffers are widely used all over the country. Using simple LID practices are more of a preventative approach rather than a mitigative approach to storm water and management. The presentation can be found, along with the annotated bibliography of LID resources, at: <http://www.u-s-c.org> (click on side-bar "Watershed Initiative" then "Resources"). Questions and answers followed.

4. Council took a short break.

5. Committee/ Task Force Reports:

Brownfields Committee (BFC): Cindy reported the BFC met May 9th. They learned about the County's proposal to the NYS Dept of State for a \$150,000 grant to fund a nomination study (similar to a mini master plan) for a Binghamton Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) in the Brandywine highway corridor area. The County (Planning Dept) received funding for a nomination study of a Johnson City BOA in the Corliss Ave and Willow Street area. Brownfield Assessment Pilot (BAP) update: Cindy noted the EPA authorized the County to pursue environmental assessments at 312 Maple St., Endicott (which is also being addressed under the NYS municipal brownfield clean up program), 114 Oak Hill Ave, Endicott, and 46 Corliss Ave, JC. She also reported that the BFC did not offer comments on the state's draft vapor intrusion guidance documents. Staff and committee members will present the BFC's Inventory & Ranking Summary Report to the County Legislature's Economic Development Committee Tuesday, June 7 in place of the June 8 meeting. The BFC will hear a presentation about vapor intrusion at their July 13 meeting, BC Office Bldg. (BCOB).

Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Met May 19 and reviewed draft outline of the Recreation section for the County Open Space Plan. The NRC gave one final review of the resolution and letter to Sen. Libous regarding support for the Clean Water Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 2005 (A.2048, 2081), which was approved at the May EMC meeting. Next meeting: Thursday, June 16th at 3:30pm, BCOB.

Goose Management Task Force: Met May 24th. Stacy reported that the informational video tape was shared with BCC, and they would like to be included in a depredation permit to addle eggs. Other members provided observed head counts at a variety of locations, both public and private. Naturalists say that the April/May floods won't significantly change population numbers, just the location where they nest. Filiberto noted that he's surveyed Broome and Tioga counties over the years and observed the goose populations doubling, if not tripling. He says the geese are enjoying people's back yards along creeks since the floods. Stacy shared information about a non-profit organization called Geese Peace that trains pairs of volunteers to addle eggs with oil; Hempstead, Long Island is using the training. Task Force members were given additional info for their binders. Members will review Andre's introduction and will meet as time allows. Next meeting: Not set.

Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC): Met May 23rd. Stacy reported that David resigned as Chairman of RWMC due to increased work-related responsibilities. Tim Wolcott expressed willingness to be Chair. There was follow up the on plastic bag issue, updates from the Division of Solid Waste Mgmt about the Solid Waste Assoc. of North America's recent conference, and continued debate about expanding the state's bottle bill to include non-carbonated beverage bottles. Tony will extend an invitation to a can redemption business to get their feedback on the bottle bill. Stacy shared the County's description of the action to evaluate

an entrance to Section IV of the BC Landfill. Next meeting: Mon., June 20 at 4:15 pm, BC Library 2nd floor Exhibit Room.

6. CAC Reports:

Union: No report.

Vestal: Cindy said the group discussed a \$100,000 grant to make a mixed-use area of Front St in Vestal. On June 9th at 10am there will be a Vestal Town Hall meeting; all are invited. The applicant who's requesting a rezone of the Vestal Parkway parcel between the UPS and the Montana Mills Bakery stores will complete a long environmental assessment form. The Town is awaiting the County's 239 review for this rezone. The round house will be moved to the Vestal Rail Trail and will include lavatory facilities. Gary Campo, Town Engineer was appointed to the NYSDEC Bear Mgmt Task Force. An illegal dumping study is anticipated in relation to dumping on Glenwood Road near the Town's Highway Garage and Choconut Creek. Next meeting: Tues, June 28, Vestal Town Hall.

7. Staff & Chair Reports:

- Tim Wilcott will accept an appointment from the EMC Chair to be Chairperson of Recycling and Waste Management Committee.
- The EMC approved letter supporting the NYS Clean Waters Protection and Flood Prevention Act was sent to Senator Libous, the Broome County Executive and members of the BC Legislature.
- The Environmental Analyst search is closed; 23 applications were received; interviews are complete; decision and offer expected by tomorrow or early next week.
- July Guest Speaker – BU Professor Sid Mitra and pharmaceuticals in water. There are no August EMC or Committee meetings. September guest speaker – Assemblywoman, Donna Lupardo. November –the effects of urban development and storm water response on the Fuller Hollow Creek watershed.
- Staff circulated information about a bill sponsored by Governor Pataki called the Community Preservation Act, which if adopted would give authority to communities impose a transfer tax on real estate transactions of up to 2% for the purpose of establishing a community preservation fund to be used for land conservation. The NRC will discuss at their next meeting.

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

Mary Jane Lombardo and Stacy Merola,
Recorders.