

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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



Broome County Office Building • 44 Hawley Street • P.O. Box 1766 • Binghamton, New York 13902
(607) 778-2116 • Fax (607) 778-6051 • Website: www.gobroomecounty.com

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Notes from the meeting held Thursday, June 8, 2006

United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

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

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

Special Reps: Kevin Mathers

Ex-Officio: Bob Denz (BCHD)

Associates: André LaClair and Tony Lubzanski

Visitors: Dylan Horvath, Susan Sherwood and Michael Wilson

Absent w/excuse: Cindy Westerman, Doug Garner and Ron Keibel

1. Terry **convened** the meeting at **7:05 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from April were approved as written on a motion by Mary seconded by Ruth. Motion carried.

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

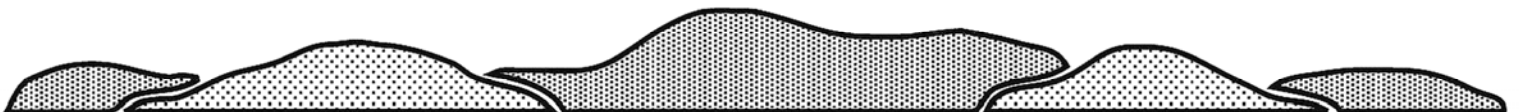
- The New York State Association of EMC's will hold their annual NYSDEC update meeting on June 19th from 9:30am-4pm in Albany. All EMC members are invited to attend.
- Pre-scoping meeting for the Landfill Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)- June 26 at 7pm at BC Cornell Cooperative Extension in Binghamton. An informal presentation will be followed by small group sessions to gain input and identify significant areas of concern. In place of the regular RWMC meeting committee members are asked to attend.
- BC Health has a new brochure focusing on Bird Flu, the first in a series, available on their website.
- Stacy circulated a press release regarding the Bicentennial Photography Contest. The contest was modeled after the annual Joyce KL Smith Photo Competition run by the EMC.
- Andre noted that the Town of Fenton continues work on its Comprehensive Plan with the assistance of Frank Evangelisti (BC Planning). As part of this effort Andre is pushing for the creation of a CAC in Fenton.
- Fenton has passed a moratorium on Outdoor Wood Boilers. Considering the uncertainty surrounding the regulation of these devices the moratorium is intended to minimize future costs.

3. Comprehensive Plan for Managing Broome County's Resident Goose Population

Andre presented the findings of the Plan, written by Andre with contributions from members of the Goose Management Task Force and BC Parks. High population growth rates for Resident Canada Geese, as a result of human land use practices, have caused negative impacts, such as high fecal deposition. At the current growth rate, the population will likely exceed the County's carrying capacity in about ten years degrading the quality of recreational open spaces valued by the community. Lack of predation in urban/suburban habitats has contributed to the growth rate. Analysis showed that to prevent further population growth addling or hunting alone, these activities would need to increase dramatically, but incorporating both tactics at slightly higher levels could lead to a gradual population decrease. Through mathematical analyses, viability and cost effectiveness of management techniques were determined and ranked.

Based on these findings the Plan offers the following recommendations: choose the best methods based on the ranking analyses (dog harassment, habitat modification, egg addling and hunting); create a central oversight committee, and; have a contingency plan in the event that these efforts fail or are not carried out for full effectiveness.

ACTION ITEM #1: There was brief discussion about the details behind some of the analyses and graphs. Mary expressed her apprehension about the inclusion of lethal removal as an option. Andre expressed that the intention was to show extreme measures that would be necessary as a last resort and the language would be changed to better express this intent. Terry moved and Bill seconded to adopt the plan with minor edits, 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Mary). Motion passed.



4. Committee & Task Force Reports:

- Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Met May 18th. Stacy and Jeremy Evans (BC Planning) presented summary of BC Stormwater Annual Report. Julian Shepherd presented his progress thus far with the Unique Natural Areas computer database (has completed about 1/3rd of 150 sites). Also discussed proposed Outdoor Wood Boiler legislation, but took no action.

Committee members voted to direct staff to draft a letter and resolution in opposition of the proposed New York Regional Interconnect HVDC Power Line that will run 200 mi. from the Utica area to the Rock Tavern Substation in Orange County. A portion of the line crosses Broome County for both the preferred and alternate routes. Subsequent to the NRC meeting, at the request of the County Executive, the Law Department drafted a resolution in opposition to the proposed power line to be introduced to the County Administration Committee. Staff drafted additional points of opposition to be included in a resolution in support of the County's resolution, for consideration by members of the legislature.

- **ACTION ITEM #2A**: Tim motioned, Ruth seconded that the EMC endorse the Resolution of Opposition to the New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. Proposed Power Transmission Line Project. All in favor, motion passed.
- **ACTION ITEM #2B**: Members discussed the additional points of opposition to the project. Andre felt that these should include noise impacts and stronger language should be used to describe the impacts of electromagnetic fields. Ruth motioned and Mary seconded to adopt all additional points with some wording modifications, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Bill). Motion passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 15, 3:30 pm BCOB.

- Recycling & Waste Mgmt Committee (RWMC): Met May 22nd. Stacy gave an overview of the BC Stormwater Annual Report, highlighting waste management and pollution prevention elements. There was also a brief update from Solid Waste and an update on the timeline for the SEIS scoping. Next meeting: Pre-Scoping Meeting for the SEIS regarding the entrance and scalehouse placement for the landfill expansion, June 26 @ 7pm, Cornell Cooperative Extension

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

- Vestal- In Cindy's absence, Stacy reported that the CAC met on May 23. Topics of discussion included a letter to the new supervisor regarding CEAs and sensitive areas, archeological opportunities, Vestal Rail to Trail extension, new Town Board liaison, candidates for 2 open positions on CAC and Phase II sediment and erosion control meeting. Next meeting: July 25 @ 7:30pm, probably Town Board room.

6. Staff & Chair Reports:

- The EMC received a letter from Senator Libous in response to the requests for support of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and the Clean Water Protection and Flood Prevention Act (adopted at the April 6, 2006 EMC General meeting). He stated that he will consider the EMC's position when considering this matter. However, in regard to the CPA, he is hesitant to support legislation that may increase property taxes.
- Letter from Delaware Otsego Audubon Society- While the group supports the development of wind power, they have serious concerns over the potential impact on birds and other wildlife. They would like municipalities to consider these impacts for local regulations regarding towers and turbines.
- As part of the Transportation Enhancement Program, BMTS is recruiting members for the Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee to review and rank potential projects that have applied for funding from the NYS Department of Transportation through the program. Beth will be participating and Steve Gayle has also invited an interested EMC member to sit on the committee. Stacy will send out an email seeking interest. [Editors Note: Bill Heaviside will also participate on the review committee].
- The EMC received a letter of acknowledgement from Cornell Plantations regarding the donation made in memory of Sue Cowing. EMC members were thanked for their contributions.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Beth Egitto, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor