

# 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, June 7, 2007 United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

### Present:

**Members-at-Large:** Bill Heaviside, André LaClair, Tony Lubzanski, Doug Garner, Mary Cronk, and Karen Ciatyk

**Special Reps:** Chip McElwee (BCSWCD)

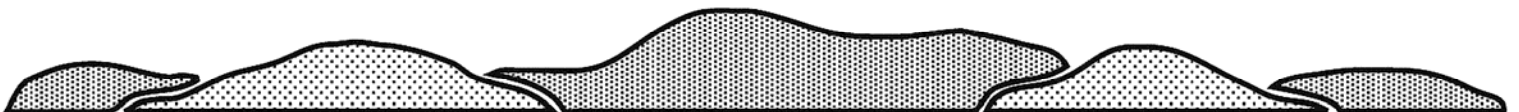
**Staff/Intern:** Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

**Associate Members:** Julia Hoover

**Visitors/Guests:** Chris Burger, James Bryden, Chris Petraske, and Helena Garan

**Absent with Excuse:** Kevin Mathers, Cindy Westerman, Ron Keibel, Tim Cleary, Bob Denz, Erin Heard, and Terry Woodnorth.

1. Following introductions, Andre **convened** the meeting at **7:05 pm**. Bill moved to approve the minutes from May as written. The motion was seconded by Doug and approved by all.
2. **Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest**
  - Stacy and Beth will attend the NYS Association of EMC's annual update meeting all day Monday, July 11 at NYSDEC Albany headquarters. EMC members are welcome and invited to attend.
  - As part of a memorandum of understanding between states in the Susquehanna and Chemung River Watershed, the NYSDEC in partnership with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, completed the New York Strategy for Chesapeake Bay Restoration describing how nutrients and sediments delivered to the Chesapeake Bay from New York can be reduced. The Strategy includes reduction considerations for each source category including agriculture, forest/other open spaces, wastewater, urban stormwater and septic systems. The DEC will accept comments until July 9; the document can be found on the DEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/33279.html>.
  - Stacy thanked everyone who volunteered to help with the Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Show & Competition opening reception May 9. The event was very successful. Winners and honorable mentions are on display at the BC Library until June 29<sup>th</sup>. Library visitors can also view through mid June the neighboring *Preservation and You!* exhibit in honor of National Preservation month (May).
  - The City of Binghamton will hold a Binghamton Sustainable Development meeting and potluck dinner on Thursday, June 14 from 6-8pm at the BC Public Library.
  - Chip noted that the DEC is accepting applications for their annual Environmental Excellence Awards.
  - Chip also noted that there will be a Natural Stream Dynamics workshop in the near future at Belden Brook in Colesville. Dave Derrick is organizing the workshop; there are still a few openings. In addition there will be a workshop targeting highway superintendents in July/August.
  - Empire State Wind Energy will give an informal presentation about the feasibility of wind power in Broome County at the next Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting of the Legislature June 12. Legislator Jason Garnar is proposing the creation/reinstitution of a County Energy Advisory Commission. Stacy read an email and resolution regarding this effort. The EMC suggested extending an invitation to Mr. Garnar to briefly address the Council in July about this endeavor.
  - There will be a 5.5-mile Historic Bridge Pedal Sunday, July 8, beginning and ending at the S. Washington St. Bridge from 9-11am. Pre-registration and a \$2 fee are required. For info, visit [www.bmtsonline.com](http://www.bmtsonline.com).



### **3. Guest Speaker: James Bryden, Southern NY Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)**

The AIA is 150 years old this year, and in celebration and in honor National Historic Preservation month (May), each AIA chapter decided on a project to benefit the local community. The Southern New York component decided to focus their project on the preservation of natural and manmade landmarks.

Jim explained the chapter's initiative – the Landmarks Survey Project - to document important landmarks. The first part of the Project was funding for development of a website, [www.NYSlandmarks.com](http://www.NYSlandmarks.com) that highlights landmarks in need of preservation as part of the Survey. Volunteers access data about important landmarks from the National Register of Historic Places and transcribe that data to the Landmarks Survey Project pages. The second Project component is an exhibit at the BC Library (through mid-June) entitled *Preservation and You* that highlights local history and significant landmarks. Mr. Bryden emphasized that preservation has many environmental benefits including saving energy and materials that go into demolishing an old building to put up a new one in its place. The website highlights not only manmade landmarks, but also natural landmarks that are viewed as significant in the community. Jim showed examples of important local landmarks and explained how to navigate the website to enter data. The goal of the Project is to engage the community to learn about historic resources. EMC members were encouraged to partake in the Survey. Questions and discussion followed.

### **4. Committee Reports:**

Natural Resources Committee (NRC) - Met Thurs., May 17. Main topics of discussion included the NYSDEC bobcat, fisher and otter reporting program, the proposed mercury TMDL and the support for the NYS Community Preservation Act (CPA). **ACTION ITEM:** The NYS CPA would provide municipalities with authority to voluntarily establish, through local referendum, a fund to preserve open space by enacting a fee of no more than two percent on real estate transfers above the median price for that particular county. The bill passed the Assembly, but not the Senate. The EMC wrote a letter in support of the bill to Senator Libous in 2006. He didn't support it because he felt that it will impose additional tax on his constituents. Beth distributed a support letter, modified from last year's, to address this concern. A modified support letter comes moved and seconded from NRC. All in favor; motion passed. Next meeting: Thurs., June 21, 3:30 pm, BCOB.

Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC) – There was no May meeting. However, members attended a tour of the Delaware County Composting Facility May 23. A public hearing for the Draft Landfill Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be Wed. June 20, 7pm, Chenango Town Hall. Next meeting: Mon., June 25, 3:30 pm, BCOB.

Membership Committee - The resolution nominating Josephine Chu to fill the BU Student Rep seat will be before the Legislature in June. **ACTION ITEM:** Chris Burger's nomination for Member-at-Large comes moved and seconded from the Membership Committee. All in favor; motion passed.

### **5. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports:**

Vestal – Stacy reported in Cindy's absence that four members attended the BC SEQR training in May. A special meeting was called May 29 to discuss development of recommendations for town streams and creeks. The report is moving forward and will include five sections. Next meeting: Tues., June 26?, Vestal Town Hall.

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

a) The BC Stormwater Management Plan Annual Report ('06-'07) is now online: [http://www.gobroomecounty.com/planning/\\_pdf/Year04BCStormwaterAnnualReport.pdf](http://www.gobroomecounty.com/planning/_pdf/Year04BCStormwaterAnnualReport.pdf). The County is obligated to have the full program implemented by January 2008. b) EMC received responses from Assemblyman Crouch and Gov. Spitzer about our letter suggesting a compromise to expansion of the bottle bill. c) Staff obtained details about NYSDOT's Adopt-a-Highway Program. Groups are recognized with a blue sign at their location and are required to do four clean-ups per year.

**7. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm. Next meeting: Thurs., July 12 @ 7pm, United Way, Vestal.**

Beth Egitto, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor