

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from the meeting held Thursday, March 9, 2006
United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Mary Cronk, Bill Heaviside, Ruth Levin, Karen Ciatyk and Doug Garner
C.A.C Reps. Cindy Westerman (Vestal)
Special Reps: Chip McElwee (BC Soil & Water)
Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto
Associates: André LaClair
Absent w/excuse: Tony Lubzanski, Tim Wolcott, Bob Denz and Lisa Hoffman

1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **7:05 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from February were approved as written on a motion by Ruth seconded by Mary. Motion carried.
2. **Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest**
 - Joyce KL Smith Environmental Photography Show & Competition: entry deadline was March 8th; judging will take place Friday, March 10th.
 - Riverbank Clean-Up: date proposed to change from October 14th to October 7th to avoid conflict with the NYS Association of EMC's Conference on the Environment. The conference will take place the weekend of October 13-15 at the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua County, NY.
 - BC Planning hosted a NYS Dept of State (DOS) Planning and Zoning Training Seminar on Outdoor Wood Boilers and Storage Containers. Leftover informational materials are available for those interested.
3. **Committee & Task Force Reports:**
 - Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Cindy reported that the NRC met Feb 16. Bill Smith, resident of Fenton, spoke about his concerns regarding the need for an extension of the effluent pipe from the Chenango Sewage Treatment Plant to the Chenango River. Margaret Turna, Chenango Supervisor, shared information about the Town's plans to extend the pipe later this year. There was also continued discussion regarding the Open Space Plan. Next meeting: Thursday, March 16, 4:30 pm BCOB.
 - Recycling & Waste Mgmt Committee (RWMC): Stacy reported that there was no February meeting. DSWM created a Construction & Demolition Recycling Guide that was distributed to committee members for review – discuss further in March. Next meeting: Monday, March 20, 4:30 pm BCOB.
 - Goose Management Task Force (GMTF): Andre reported that the GMTF met Feb 14 with BC Park Dept. and Maryanne Krause from Take Flight Goose Management (TFGM). Received details about the cost-effectiveness of contracting for safe canine harassment versus buying or leasing a dog(s). Discussed contract scenarios for 2006 and other things such as egg addling. André continues work on a final report.
 - Executive Committee: Proposed amendments to the 2006 EMC Work Plan come moved and seconded from Executive Committee. **ACTION ITEM:** GEN-06-09 change Riverbank Clean-Up date to October 7; GEN-06-03 insert the dates for the NYSAEMC's Conference on the Environment, October 13-15 at the Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua County; move item RWMC 06-09 (Outdoor Wood Boilers) to NRC as item NRC 06. All in favor. Amendments passed.

- Brownfields update: The County and the NYSDEC held a public meeting Feb 9 at UEHS for the 312 Maple St. Environmental Restoration project (under the Brownfields Assessment Pilot (BAP)). The work plan calls for beginning air testing of nearby structures for vapor intrusion before conclusion of the heating season, and removing a contaminated soil (TCE) hot spot between railroad tracks and the building. Investigative activities will continue proceed through 2006. See Stacy for a Fact Sheet. The County was invited by the EPA to present the Site Ranking Methodology created by the EMC Brownfields Committee at the November 2006 Brownfields conference in Boston. Stacy will keep EMC informed as information unfolds.

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

Vestal- Cindy reported that the CAC met Feb 28 and discussed concerns about development along the Vestal Parkway which is altering the side of Pierce Hill. The CAC wishes to express the importance of hillside preservation with the new Town Supervisor. There are two vacancies on the CAC; the Town will issue a call for resumes from interested residents.

Union- No report.

Dickinson- No word if the CAC will continue.

Other: Stacy reported that the NYS Association of Conservation (Advisory) Commissions (NYSACC) created a website: www.nyaccny.org. The site lists all of the CACs and Conservation Boards (CBs) across the state, explains the statute authorizing creation of CACs and CBs and explains their powers and responsibilities, , provides info on how to affiliate with the NYSACC, and shares links of interest and other things, like newsletters, awards, conferences, etc. Stacy will send the link to local CAC reps for their information.

5. Staff & Chair Reports:

- Due to inclement weather March 2, Stacy could not attend the NYS Region 7 Open Space Advisory Committee meeting to review public comments for the 2005 draft NYS Open Space Conservation Plan.
- Newly appointed members should have received their appointment letters from the County Executive's office. Congratulations to all!
- Earth Fest (April 22nd): We will focus on membership recruitment. Doug offered to make a video spool using Photo Competition winners from the last few years. Terry suggested that members submit their energy saving ideas to be incorporated into educational materials, such as a tip strip. Any additional ideas should be forwarded to staff.
- Stacy spoke to a science class at Chenango Forks High School about SEQR and land use issues. The students will perform a mock environmental review. A student later contacted Stacy expressing interest in the EMC. Staff will provide her with membership information.
- EMC received a membership application from Tian Xie, a graduate student at Binghamton University, who has expressed much interest in the EMC.

6. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Beth Egitto, Recorder
Stacy Merola, Editor