

**BROOME COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (EMC)**  
**Notes from the meeting held Thursday, May 5, 2005**  
**Board Room, United Way Building, Vestal, NY**

**PRESENT**

**Members-at-Large:** Andre LaClair, Terry Woodnorth, Bill Heaviside, Tim Wolcott, Herman Roberson, David Weitzman, Ruth Levin, Mary Cronk

**Ex-officio Members:** Bob Denz

**Associate Members:** Doug Garner and Karen Ciatyk

**Legislative Reps:** Brain Brunza and Ron Keibel

**C.A.C Reps.** Cindy Westerman

**Staff/Intern:** Stacy Merola

**Visitors:** Mary Jane Lombardo

**Absent w/excuse:** Marion Percik, Kevin Mathers, Chip McElwee, Tony Lubzanski, Rick Kumpon, Duke Holdsworth, Ken Kamlet

1. The meeting **convened** at **7:40 p.m.** Introductions followed. On a motion made by David, seconded by Mary, the Council unanimously approved minutes from April with minor spelling amendments.

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

- The County Office Building will observe summer hours: 7:30am – 4:00 pm beginning May 31<sup>st</sup> through Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. EMC committees will decide when and where to meet.
- A card was circulated for Marion Percik; she recently has back surgery. A note addressed to the EMC from Susan Cowing was shared.
- NYSERDA is sponsoring (with Broome Co. Solid Waste Mgmt) a free air conditioner take-back to encourage proper disposal of outdated household ACs. This will take place during regular household hazardous waste collection times on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the BC Landfill on Knapp Rd. If someone wants to dispose of an AC another time, they will have to pay the disposal fee. Other upcoming hazardous waste collection dates at the landfill, which are always free, include Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>, Wed. June 1<sup>st</sup>, and Sat. June 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 am until 11 am.
- On Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a PC recycling event at Lockheed in Owego, IBM in Endicott, and Universal Instruments in Kirkwood from 7am until 12pm.
- There will be a Peregrine Falcon presentation at the Broome County Library on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am until 12 pm given by Finch Hollow Nature Center and the NYSDEC. The program will conclude with falcon watching at the Security Mutual Building.
- Notice circulated from the NYSDEC asking interested experts to sit on a Black bear Stakeholder input group for Broome and Tioga counties. Some members noted that the DEC might be contemplating starting a bear-hunting season.
- The NY State Association of EMCs will hold their annual update meeting at NYSDEC headquarters all day Monday June 27<sup>th</sup>. They are taking suggestions for presentation topics.

- There will be a Bike Rodeo Train the Trainer event May 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at the Johnson City High School. There will be a Walk & Roll 2005 Walkable Communities workshop at the Owego Treadway Inn, Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. The events are free but participants are asked to pre-register.
- The EMC sponsored Joyce KL Smith Environmental Photography Show will remain on exhibit at the Broome County Library through June 29<sup>th</sup>. Stacy thanked volunteers for their assistance with the opening reception Wed., May 4. The Honorable Barbara Fiala presented first place certificates to the five first place winners at the opening.
- Stacy thanked members for their volunteer assistance at the Earth Fest held Sat., April 30 at the BCC Ice Center. Attendance was good.
- Tim will organize a guest speaker for July: Dr. Sid Mitra and his student could present their research about prescription drugs in water supplies. Discussion ensued about drug take-backs.
- Ruth had a news article that stated that the EPA's mercury pollution estimates contradict the results in a report issued by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, which was commissioned by the EPA. The article stressed that the south could benefit by decreased mercury emissions.
- Andre showed the group his 1 ½ inch stack of credit offers he has received in the last month. He plans to send back the mail in the postage paid envelopes provided in the offers.
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### **3. Video Presentation - Suburban Goose Management: Searching for Balance**

The Canada goose has adapted to suburban landscapes creating nuisance situations and perceived health hazards. In the video, Cornell researchers and communities demonstrate various methods that can be used to control nuisance goose populations. Techniques range from habitat modification, to the use of scaring devices and repellents, to reproductive control and removal. What management strategies are best for communities varies greatly and can be a highly debated topic. An effective management plan may require a combination of techniques depending on the severity of a problem.

The Broome County Parks Department has a permit to addle eggs and use humane harassment (w/ border collies) in several area parks. BC Parks' Permanent geese management control methods include discouragement of feeding geese by park visitors, landscape modifications such as letting the grass grow taller, visual scaring techniques such as flapping devices and decoys, and noisemakers. Brian Brunza believes the EMC can take a stand in goose population reduction. Members say the EMC needs to assess the costs of goose management vs. doing nothing. Discussion ensued. Stacy invited all to participate in the EMC Task Force on the topic.

4. The Council skipped the break.

### **5. Committee Reports and Action Items**

Most committees did not meet in April.

Brownfields Committee - Next meeting: Wed., May 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, B.C. Office Bldg.

Natural Resources Committee – Next meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, B.C. Office Bldg.

Goose Management Task Force - Met April 18<sup>th</sup> and distributed notebooks containing the 2004 USDA Environmental Assessment entitled "Assessing Canada Goose Damage in NYS" and the Cornell publication "Managing Goose in Suburban Environments". Next meeting: Tues. May 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, BCOB.

Recycling & Waste Management - Next meeting: Wed., May 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, B.C. Office Bldg.

## 6) Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports

Town of Union: no report, however, Stacy reported that Roger McVannan's membership as Town of Union CAC Rep passed the BC Legislature (April session). Welcome Roger!

Town of Vestal: Cindy reported that the planning board is against conservation zoning. The CAC also discussed the Rte 26 senior living development. Concerns were aired about the project expanding into green spaces. Also, there is a proposal to rezone the parcel next to Evergreen St. on the Vestal Parkway to C-2. The Town Board would like to see that zoned Transitional, but they'd need a super majority vote for that to pass. There are talks about expanding the Rail Trail west. Many favor this plan, but if it were to occur a bridge would need to be built and this cost may be too high. Smaller homes on smaller lots are being proposed for the Sbarra development on Fuller Hollow Rd., which is consistent with the zoning. The CAC feels that the Sbarra Development would benefit from conservation zoning. Next meeting: Tues, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Vestal Town Hall.

## 7) Staff and Chair Reports

- Hawkins Pond update: Ron Keibel suggests selling the caretaker parcel as one lot with deed covenants restricting further subdivision and annexing the swapped parcel to the Park.
- **NYS Clean Water Protection and Flood Prevention Act:** EMC supported this same legislation in June 2004. Cindy explained that the bill reduces the threshold of DEC regulated wetlands from 12.4 acres to 1.0 acre. This was done in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling that isolated wetlands of 1.0 acre or greater no longer need regulation by the Army Corps of Engineers. Cindy moved, Ruth seconded, to adopt the resolution and letter to our senator in support of bill A2048, S2081. Motion carried. Stacy will resurrect last year's resolution and letter, modify items to reflect the current situation, and circulate to NRC before sending.
- Environmental Analyst update - search closes 5/6; close to twenty applications were received so far. Chairs will get application materials to review and suggest one or more candidates for interview.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.

Mary Jane Lombardo and Stacy Merola, recorders